



PSIA
Private Schools
Interscholastic
Association

FINAL SCORE: _____

(Please do not open test until the signal is given to begin.)

Vocabulary Contest

DISTRICT - 2017

Sentence Completion Instructions: In the sentences below, one or two words or groups of words have been omitted. For each question, select the answer choice, labeled A through D, which best fits into the meaning of the sentence.

1. Although the storm left the family _____, it could not _____ their spirits.
A. discordant . . . raise
B. indolent . . . inhibit
C. destitute . . . dampen
D. moribund . . . drench
2. Nineteenth-century advances in women's rights were gradual and _____; years might separate one advance from another.
A. reticent
B. docile
C. odious
D. sporadic
3. Chicago film critic Roger Ebert won a Pulitzer Prize for exceptional writing but found it a(n) _____ that he couldn't win the *New Yorker* cartoon caption contest.
A. dilemma
B. enigma
C. impetus
D. asperity
4. The police received a(n) _____ call giving them valuable information, but the caller would not give his name out of fear of _____.
A. private . . . impunity
B. anonymous . . . reprisals
C. enigmatic . . . refusal
D. professional . . . dissention
5. Although they came from _____ social backgrounds, the newly married couple shared numerous interests and feelings.
A. obsolete
B. deleterious
C. disparate
D. malleable
6. His remarks were so _____ that we could not decide which of the possible meanings was correct.
A. ambiguous
B. impalpable
C. facetious
D. congruent
7. During a campaign, politicians often engage in _____ debate, attacking each other's proposals in a torrent of _____ words.
A. acerbic . . . amiable
B. acrimonious . . . angry
C. garrulous . . . vapid
D. ambiguous . . . effulgent
8. Concerned for his children's safety, the father tried to _____ in the a(n) _____ attitude toward strangers.
A. obviate . . . hospitable
B. ingratiate . . . assiduous
C. insinuate . . . sagacious
D. inculcate . . . wary
9. A long illness can _____ even the strongest constitution.
A. obviate
B. disparage
C. enervate
D. bolster
10. The _____ was a _____ of gastronomic delights.
A. internist . . . progeny
B. pizza . . . plethora
C. ascension . . . vision
D. effulgence . . . exigency
11. The Supreme Court's reversal of its previous ruling on the issue of States' rights _____ its reputation for _____.
A. dispelled . . . vacillation
B. sustained . . . infallibility
C. compromised . . . consistency
D. bolstered . . . doggedness
12. Unprecedented turmoil in the usually thriving nation has made the formerly _____ investors leery of any further involvement.
A. sanguine
B. surreptitious
C. cautious
D. reticent

• ANALOGY VERBAL REASONING

INSTRUCTIONS: The analogy questions that follow present a pair of related words or groups of words. From the four answer choices, select the pair that best illustrates a relationship most similar to that of the original pair.

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13. MELLIFLUOUS : HEARD ::
A. mislaid : recovered
B. pictorial : illustrated
C. wizen : smart
D. savory : eaten
14. ABRIDGEMENT : SYNOPSIS ::
A. apogee : base
B. complaisant : child
C. progeny : offspring
D. negligence : naughty
15. MUNIFICENT : DONOR ::
A. litigious : jalousie
B. perfunctory : panoply
C. puissant : warrior
D. invaluable : useless
16. LETHARGY : ENERGY ::
A. nonchalance : interest
B. factious : tyrant
C. odious : hateful
D. pantheism : beauty
17. INTREPID : DAUNTLESS ::
A. sedulous : tendril
B. sinuous : lithe
C. wizen : tree
D. vacuous : innuendo
18. RECIDIVIST : CRIMINAL ::
A. panacea : orthogonal
B. havoc : enraptured
C. evanesce : conjecture
D. annunciation : proclamation

READING COMPREHENSION

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the passage below, and then answer the questions that follow. Questions may refer to what is stated or implied, or to any introductory information that may be included.

*The passage is adapted from an excerpt from an article in **Peterson's Master the SAT**, 2014.*

About the 25th of April the hummingbird usually arrives in Pennsylvania; and about the 10th of May begins to build its nest. This is generally fixed on the upper side of a horizontal branch, not among the twigs, but on the body of the branch itself. Yet I have know of instances where it was appended by the side to an old moss-grown trunk; and others where it has fastened on a strong, eminent stalk, or weed, in the garden; but these cases are rare. In the woods it very often chooses a white oak sapling to build on; and in the orchard, or garden, selects a pear tree for that purpose. The branch is seldom more than 10 feet from the ground.

The nest is about an inch in diameter, and as much in depth. A very engrossing one is now lying before me, and the materials of which it is composed are as follows: The outward coat is formed of small pieces of bluish grey lichen that vegetates on old trees and fences, thickly glued on with the saliva of the bird, giving firmness and consistency to the whole, as well as keeping out moisture. Within this are thick matted layers of fine wings of certain flying seeds, closely laid in apposition to each other; and lastly, the downy substance of the great mullein, and from the stalks of a common fern, lines the whole.

The base of the nest is continued round the stem of the branch, to which it closely adheres; and when viewed from below, appears a mere mossy knot or accidental protuberance. The eggs are two, pure white, and of equal thickness at both ends.

On a person's approaching their nest, the little proprietors dart around with a humming sound, passing frequently within a few inches of one's head; and should the young be newly hatched, the female will resume her place on the nest, even while you stand a yard or two of the spot. The precise period of incubation, I am unable to give; but the young are in the habit a short time before they leave the nest,

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of thrusting their bills into the mouths of their parents and sucking what they have brought them. I never could discern that they carried them any animal food; though, from the circumstances that will presently be mentioned, I think it highly probable that they do. As I have found their nest with eggs so late as the 12th of July, I do not doubt that they frequently, and perhaps usually, raise two broods in the same season.

19. The word "fixed" in the fourth line of this passage most clearly means . . .
 - A. ascribed
 - B. found
 - C. understood
 - D. imputed
20. According to the author, all of the following are places where one could find a hummingbird except . . .
 - A. on the upper side of a branch.
 - B. on a moss-grown trunk.
 - C. in the meadow.
 - D. on a white oak sapling.
21. Why does Wilson mention the "old moss-grown trunk" and "strong rank stalk"?
 - A. To illustrate non-typical nesting behaviors.
 - B. To attest to the birds' eating patterns.
 - C. To delineate plant life in Pennsylvania.
 - D. To complete a list of efflorescent plants.
22. When the author remarks that the birds' nests resemble an "accidental protuberance," he implies that . . .
 - A. nests may be annihilated accidentally.
 - B. the nests are usually invisible
 - C. the nests are designed to blend into their surroundings.
 - D. the nests are messily constructed.
23. The phrase "little proprietors" in paragraph 4 refers to . . .
 - A. shop owners.
 - B. children in the orchard.
 - C. the eminence of the creatures.
 - D. nesting pairs of birds.
24. When Wilson remarks that he "never could discern" hummingbirds feeding their nestlings animal food, he is suggesting . . .
 - A. his limitations as an observer.
 - B. that animal food may be eaten.
 - C. the birds eat only at night.
 - D. that his eyesight is failing.
25. The fact that Wilson has found nests with eggs "so late as the twelfth of July" indicates that . . .
 - A. birds do not lay eggs before June.
 - B. most eggs are found earlier than July 12.
 - C. the eggs are not likely to hatch.
 - D. some birds abandon their nests.
26. The hummingbirds' nest is composed of all of the following, except . . .
 - A. lichen.
 - B. wings of flying seeds.
 - C. saliva.
 - D. moss.
27. How does Wilson reconstruct the makeup of the nest?
 - A. By taking apart the nest that hangs in the orchard.
 - B. By inspecting the nest that lies on his desk.
 - C. By making a copy of a nest he has observed.
 - D. By watching a hummingbird build a nest in the stable.

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28. Which of the following can be inferred about the hummingbirds' habits?
- A. They migrate in the spring.
 - B. They flourish only in Pennsylvania.
 - C. They spend the winter in Pennsylvania.
 - D. They always raise two broods in a season.
29. The main purpose of this passage is to describe . . .
- A. the mating behavior of the hummingbird.
 - B. hummingbirds in Pennsylvania.
 - C. young hummingbird fledglings.
 - D. the nesting behavior of the hummingbird.
30. If Wilson were to study crows, he would be likely to . . .
- A. dissect them.
 - B. observe them in the wild.
 - C. classify them in a laboratory studies.
 - D. stuff and mount them.

PSIA Vocabulary Contest
STATE Contestant Answer Sheet - 2016

CONTESTANT ID#: _____

GRADE LEVEL: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Place the PRINTED CAPITAL letter of each answer choice (A, B, C, or D) in the blank corresponding to the test item number. For True/False items, place a T or F, or "True" or "False" in the blank provided. **SCORING:** +5 for each correct answer; -2 for each incorrect answer; no deduction is taken for skipped or unanswered items. Visible erasures and mark-outs constitute a 2-point deduction ONLY if a correct answer is not written in the answer space.

1. _____

16. _____

2. _____

17. _____

3. _____

18. _____

4. _____

19. _____

5. _____

20. _____

6. _____

21. _____

7. _____

22. _____

8. _____

23. _____

9. _____

24. _____

10. _____

25. _____

11. _____

26. _____

Score: **Initials**

12. _____

27. _____

Grader 1: _____

13. _____

28. _____

Grader 2: _____

14. _____

29. _____

Grader 3: _____

15. _____

30. _____

SCORE: _____

Contest Director ONLY: Match school/student name AFTER tests are scored: _____

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Answer Key

The 2014 © or newer *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Edition* is the official source for words. Answers must be in CAPITAL PRINTED letter format. **Scoring:** +5 for each correct answer; -2 for each incorrect answer; no points are deducted for skipped or unanswered items. Erasers and mark-outs that do not result in a correct answer constitute a 2-point deduction.

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 16. A |
| 2. D | 17. B |
| 3. B | 18. D |
| 4. B | 19. B |
| 5. C | 20. C |
| 6. A | 21. A |
| 7. B | 22. C |
| 8. D | 23. D |
| 9. C | 24. B |
| 10. B | 25. B |
| 11. C | 26. D |
| 12. A | 27. B |
| 13. D | 28. A |
| 14. C | 29. D |
| 15. C | 30. B |