

[illegible]**FINAL SCORE:** \_\_\_\_\_

# 2017

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



## Vocabulary Contest

### STATE - 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.

- Unlike her sister, who sought solitude, Sabrina was extremely . . .  
A. congenial                      C. gregarious  
B. avaricious                      D. awry
- Many people find Adele's music not only entertaining, but also \_\_\_\_\_; listening to it helps to relax and to \_\_\_\_\_ the tensions they feel at the end of a writhing day.  
A. effete . . . relieve  
B. therapeutic . . . alleviate  
C. effulgent . . . degenerate  
D. divertible . . . lessen
- Two anomalies regarding his character are apparent: he is unfailingly \_\_\_\_\_, yet bursting with ambition, and he is truly \_\_\_\_\_, but unable to evoke reciprocal warmth in those with whom he works.  
A. humble . . . beneficent  
B. impecunious . . . dolorous  
C. infallible . . . incompatible  
D. apathetic . . . invective
- Despite its apparent \_\_\_\_\_, much of early Greek philosophical thought was actually marked by a kind of unconscious dogmatism that led to \_\_\_\_\_ assertions.  
A. fundamentalism . . . arrogant  
B. liberality . . . logical  
C. legitimacy . . . ambiguous  
D. proficiency . . . precarious
- Even those who do not \_\_\_\_\_ Mike's views \_\_\_\_\_ him as a candidate who has courageously refused to compromise his convictions.  
A. shrink from . . . condemn  
B. embroil in . . . envision  
C. concur with . . . recognize  
D. disagree . . . dismiss
- The Impressionist painter, Mary Cassatt, was the epitome of the \_\_\_\_\_ American: a native of Philadelphia who lived most of her life in Paris.  
A. benevolent                      C. improvident  
B. conservative                      D. expatriate
- Like a parasitic organism, the most aversive and reprehensible character in the play depended on others for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ nothing.  
A. diversion . . . spared  
B. sustenance . . . reciprocated  
C. benevolence . . . carped  
D. rectitude . . . relinquished
- Despite the essay's nebulous and convoluted language, the author's underlying message was surprisingly \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. imperceptible                      C. disconcerting  
B. lucid                      D. improvident
- Casual acquaintances were deceived by his \_\_\_\_\_ appearance and failed to recognize his fundamental \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. genteel, furtiveness  
B. virtuoso, uniqueness  
C. savant, intelligence  
D. impecunious, invectiveness
- Customers tend to dislike restaurants where the service is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. vacuous, supercilious  
B. latent, rudimentary  
C. bad, sporadic  
D. sedulous, servile
- Malcolm was the embodiment of amorality, capable of committing the most odious acts without ever \_\_\_\_\_ even a hint of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. inspiring . . . malice  
B. alluding . . . altruism  
C. animadvert . . . animosity  
D. evincing . . . compunction

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12. At the beginning of the course, we were \_\_\_\_\_ novices at the mercy of an \_\_\_\_\_ subject, but by the end of the semester, we had mastered the rigors of trigonometry.
- A. insipid . . . abstruse
  - B. diligent . . . enigmatic
  - C. perfidious . . . exacting
  - D. uncomprehending . . . inscrutable

#### • 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.

13. PLACID : SERENE ::  
A. precarious : cautious  
B. puerile : childish  
C. salient : orchard  
D. insidious : odious
14. EPISTOLARY : LETTERS ::  
A. counterfeit : original  
B. courageous : brave  
C. cosmic : universe  
D. efficient : speech
15. TRANSLUCENT : DIAPHANOUS ::  
A. opaque : transparent  
B. warm : hot  
C. repudiate : rescind  
D. disparage : belittle
16. INCESSANT : CEASING ::  
A. exonerate : impute  
B. incompatible : discordant  
C. infringe : trespass  
D. sedulous : endeavor
17. TENACIOUS : PERSISTENT ::  
A. sycophant : flatterer  
B. termagant : woman  
C. demeanor : derelict  
D. factious : turbulent
18. ALTRUISM : BENEVOLENCE ::  
A. encomium : tirade  
B. impugn : incipient  
C. concord : harmony  
D. dauntless : fearful
19. PERAPATETIC : STROLL ::  
A. munificent : recidivist  
B. litigious : quarrel  
C. vacuous : sagacious  
D. tirade : harangue
20. REASON : PLAUSIBLE ::  
A. welcome : cordial  
B. argument : coherent  
C. pursuit : vain  
D. tendril : specious
21. BEGUILE : TRICKERY ::  
A. discern : ambiguity  
B. accuse : offense  
C. expunge : eraser  
D. exemplar : euphemism
22. INCARCERATE : FREEDOM ::  
A. restrain : mobility  
B. remunerate : service  
C. vilify : opposition  
D. wizen : intellect

#### 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 **REAL SATs**, College Entrance Examination Board, 1995. Below is a discussion of an approach to history.*

A history writer can sometimes defraud the reader or just outright lie about the past. Or one can omit facts that might lead to deleterious or unacceptable conclusions. In his historical works, Samuel Eliot Morison

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does neither. He refuses to lie about Columbus and other European explorers who followed him. He does not omit the story of derisible mass murder; indeed he describes it with the harshest word one can use: genocide. But he mentions the truth quickly and then goes on to other things more important to him.

The treatment of such figures and their victims - the discreet acceptance of conquest and murder in the name of progress - is only one aspect of a certain approach to history, in which the past is told from the point of view of governments, conquerors, diplomats, and bellwethers. It is as if they, like Columbus, deserve universal acceptance, as if they actually represent some all-encompassing, larger, clandestine collective.

"History is the memory of states," wrote Henry Kissinger in *A World Restored*, a book recounting the "restored peace" in nineteenth-century Europe from the viewpoint of the leaders of Austria and England. But the factory workers in England, farmers in France, mediocre people in Asia and Africa, women and children everywhere, except in the upper classes, it was a world of conquest, violence, disconsolate hunger, disjunctive exploitation - a world not restored, but disintegrated.

My viewpoint for telling history is different. Nations are not homogeneous, integrated social communities and never have been, so we must not accept the memory of political states as our own. But neither do I want to invent vicarious victories for people's movements. If history is to be creative, to anticipate and advocate a possible future without denying the past, it should, I believe, emphasize the new possibilities by disclosing those hidden but salient episodes of the past when, even if in brief flashes, people showed their ability to resist, unite, congregate, and occasionally to win. I am supposing, or perhaps only hoping, that our future may be found in the past's fugitive moments of

compassion, rather than in its solid centuries of warfare.

That, being as blunt as I can, is my approach to the history of the United States.

23. The author of this passage is critical of both Morison and Kissinger chiefly for . . .
- A. concentrating only on the history of the Western world.
  - B. taking an isochronous approach to history.
  - C. telling history only from the point of view of a powerful elite.
  - D. being dishonest in their accounts of warfare.
24. The best meaning of the word "fugitive" near the end of paragraph four is . . .
- A. hunted
  - B. potentate
  - C. rapacious
  - D. fleeting
25. The best meaning of the word "discreet" as used near the beginning of paragraph two is . . .
- A. placid
  - B. quiet
  - C. invective
  - D. obvious
26. The author of the passage would most probably believe that . . .
- A. historical writings cannot be creative.
  - B. the best way to study history is to assay systematically recurring themes and exemplar.
  - C. historians should focus mostly on political events.
  - D. it is important to understand the particular bias of a historian.
27. The author believes that if history is to be creative, a historian must . . .
- A. include all wars that took place.
  - B. tell more about the people's accomplishments.
  - C. be succinct and exhibit verity.
  - D. none of the above.

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28. What is the best meaning of "vicarious" in paragraph four?
- A. done in place of another
  - B. mean-spirited comments
  - C. suffering for a fellow historian
  - D. vicious rumor
29. The author's mention of "salient" episodes refers to . . .
- A. exciting times.
  - B. standing out prominently.
  - C. silent happenings.
  - D. none of these.
30. The end of the passage suggests that the author's history of the United States will emphasize the . . .
- A. principles on which the nation was founded.
  - B. events that marked social, political, or economic collaboration among the common people.
  - C. political institutions that have safeguarded the freedoms enjoyed by citizens of the United States.
  - D. real reasons for the wars in which the nation has been involved.

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**PSIA Vocabulary Contest**  
**STATE —2017**  
**Answer Key**

The 2014 © or newer *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

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