

Word in Context

Question 1

Literary critic Maeve Henderson, in her analysis of Toni Morrison's *Beloved* (1987), examines how the novel's pervasive water imagery functions. Henderson contends that this recurring motif doesn't merely represent past trauma but actively serves to _____ Sethe's already-present feelings of suffocation and dread, immersing the reader in the psychological intensity of her experiences.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A mitigate
- B delineate
- C obscure
- D exacerbate

Question 2

Virginia Woolf's narrative technique in *To the Lighthouse* (1927) is often analyzed for its departure from traditional storytelling. Rather than focusing on external events, Woolf delves into the inner lives of her characters. This approach, known as stream of consciousness, presents the unedited and often fragmented flow of thoughts, feelings, and memories, creating a highly _____ portrayal of subjective experience.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A internalized
- B objective
- C generalized
- D verifiable

Question 3

In his influential 1967 essay, *The Death of the Author*, Roland Barthes challenged the prevailing notion that a literary text's meaning is intrinsically tied to its creator's biography and intentions. Barthes instead argued for the reader's active role in constructing meaning, positing the text as a dynamic constellation of signs. This reorientation contrasted sharply with earlier critical frameworks, which largely regarded the author's voice as the sole arbiter of truth, making the author's creative output seem almost _____ and unassailable.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A peripheral
- B malleable
- C nascent
- D incontrovertible

Question 4

In his seminal work *What Is History?* (1961), E.H. Carr challenges the notion of historical objectivity. Carr argues that historians do not simply report facts but actively shape historical narratives through their selection and interpretation of sources. He contends that the historian's own context and biases are inherently woven into their work, making a truly neutral account impossible. Therefore, the historian must critically _____ the sources they use.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A compile
- B evaluate
- C extrapolate
- D accept

Question 5

W.E.B. Du Bois, a prominent figure in the Pan-Africanism movement, was a strong _____ of unity among people of African descent worldwide. His efforts included organizing several Pan-African Congresses, demonstrating his belief in the need for global Black solidarity and liberation. He consistently promoted the idea that people of African descent shared common interests and should work together.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A critic
- B opponent
- C observer
- D advocate

Question 6

The bacterium *Vibrio fischeri* utilizes a sophisticated cell-to-cell communication system known as quorum sensing to regulate gene expression in accordance with population density. This process relies on the synthesis and release of signaling molecules called autoinducers into the surrounding environment. As the bacterial population grows, the concentration of these autoinducers in the extracellular milieu increases. Once a threshold concentration is reached, the autoinducers bind to cognate receptors, triggering a cascade of events that leads to the coordinated activation of target genes, such as those responsible for bioluminescence. This allows the population to exhibit a _____ behavior, ensuring that processes like light production are only initiated when the cell density is sufficient.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A collective
- B autonomous
- C sporadic
- D fundamental

Question 7

In *Plato's Symposium*, the various speeches delivered in praise of Eros present a challenge to interpretation. While some scholars focus on the philosophical arguments, James Arieti, in *Interpreting Plato: The Dialogues as Drama* (1991), suggests viewing the *Symposium* less as a treatise and more as a dramatic work where each speaker, like a character in a play, shapes their depiction of Eros according to their own nature and interests. This approach requires a close examination of character and action, suggesting that Plato is not merely presenting a unified doctrine but rather showcasing diverse perspectives through a kind of philosophical _____.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A mimesis
- B critique
- C summarization
- D exegesis

Question 8

Research by Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky (1974), notably in their seminal paper *Judgment Under Uncertainty: Heuristics and Biases*, challenged the prevailing view of human rationality. They demonstrated that individuals often rely on cognitive shortcuts, or *heuristics*, rather than exhaustive logical analysis, leading to predictable deviations from optimal decision-making. Their work underscored the idea that human judgment, rather than being perfectly objective and purely calculated, is often _____ by these inherent mental processes.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A bolstered
- B amplified
- C compromised
- D refined

Question 9

E.O. Wilson's foundational work on ant communication revealed the central role of chemical signals, or pheromones, in coordinating colony behavior. While initial models often simplified these interactions, assuming a direct, one-to-one relationship between a specific pheromone and a single behavioral response, later research uncovered a more _____ system. Ants exhibit varied responses to chemical cues depending on factors like concentration, context, and the presence of other chemical compounds, indicating a complex interplay of signals guiding their actions.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A rigid
- B overt
- C nuanced
- D uniform

Question 10

Research by M. Otsuka et al. (2023) indicates that cells utilize sophisticated mechanisms to *actively control* the dimensions of the nucleolus, a vital component within the nucleus. This *precise dimensional stability*, crucial for cellular health and function, is achieved via a molecular feedback system. This system *continuously adjusts protein levels* within the nucleolus to ensure its size is _____, highlighting a fundamental principle of cellular organization that prevents excessive growth or shrinkage.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A maintained
- B assessed
- C differentiated
- D initiated

Question 11

In their seminal 1974 paper, Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky explored cognitive biases, particularly the anchoring effect. This phenomenon describes how individuals tend to rely heavily on the initial piece of information they receive (the "anchor") when making subsequent judgments, even if that initial information is irrelevant. This reliance often leads to adjustments that are _____ toward the initial anchor, resulting in estimations that deviate from objective values.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A insufficient
- B conclusive
- C impartial
- D unpredictable

Question 12

Plant hydraulic capacitance, the ability of tissues to store and release water, is increasingly recognized as a crucial mechanism for drought resilience in arboreal species. Research, including insights from the *TREE CAPACITANCE* project (2015), highlights how this internal water storage allows plants to buffer significant fluctuations in xylem tension and diminish the risk of embolism, thereby playing a _____ role against severe desiccation.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A auxiliary
- B inhibitory
- C ameliorative
- D foundational

Question 13

In their seminal work on decision-making under risk, Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky (1979) extensively documented the *framing effect*. They demonstrated that individuals' choices were often not solely based on the objective value of options but were profoundly influenced by how these options were presented. This phenomenon revealed that human judgments can be significantly _____ by linguistic and contextual cues.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A corroborated
- B bifurcated
- C mitigated
- D modulated

Question 14

The *Mimosa pudica* plant, commonly known as the touch-me-not, exhibits rapid leaf folding when touched. This quick physiological movement, studied by researchers like Monica Gagliano (2014), is a protective strategy. By collapsing its foliage, the plant appears wilted and less appealing, a _____ response designed to deter potential herbivores.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A intrinsic
- B complex
- C aesthetic
- D deterrent

Question 15

Giorgio Vasari's *Lives of the Most Excellent Painters, Sculptors, and Architects*, first published in 1550, is considered a foundational text in art history. In this work, Vasari provided biographical accounts of Italian artists. However, the book is notable for its strong bias towards Florentine artists, often attributing major artistic developments to them while systematically ignoring or downplaying the contributions of artists from other regions, particularly Venice. This favoritism makes the *Lives* a source that is not entirely _____.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A subjective
- B objective
- C thorough
- D modern

Question 16

Biofilms, intricate microbial communities encased in an extracellular polymeric substance (*EPS*) matrix, possess a unique architectural resilience. This complex polymeric shield provides robust structural integrity and effectively acts as a formidable barrier, rendering these communities largely _____ to common antimicrobial interventions. This characteristic, thoroughly documented by researchers like P. Stoodley and colleagues in their 2002 review on biofilm structure, poses significant challenges for clinical and industrial eradication efforts.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A mutable
- B impervious
- C diffuse
- D amenable

Question 17

In studying plant defense mechanisms, researchers have focused on how plants respond to herbivory. One key aspect is the production of secondary metabolites that deter or poison attackers. Studies on *Arabidopsis thaliana*, for instance, have shown that damage from insect feeding can specifically _____ the synthesis of glucosinolates, a class of compounds known for their defensive properties. This response is part of the plant's induced defense system, contrasting with constitutive defenses that are always present.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A induce
- B suppress
- C negate
- D standardize

Question 18

In *The Anxiety of Influence* (1973), Harold Bloom argues that poets do not simply build upon or imitate their predecessors. Instead, they engage in a psychological struggle involving misinterpretation and revision, a defensive maneuver against overwhelming influence. This makes the relationship between a poet and tradition fundamentally _____.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A synchronous
- B didactic
- C transparent
- D oblique

Question 19

In a seminal series of experiments in the 1950s, psychologist Solomon Asch investigated the extent to which social pressure influences individual judgment. Participants were asked to match the length of lines, a task with an obvious correct answer. However, when confederates in the group unanimously gave an incorrect answer, a significant percentage of participants yielded to this pressure, publicly stating an answer they knew to be wrong. Asch's work compellingly demonstrated how individuals can _____ to group norms, even when those norms contradict clear sensory evidence.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A conform
- B diverge
- C fluctuate
- D resist

Question 20

In a series of experiments in the 1950s, social psychologist Solomon Asch investigated the extent to which individuals would abandon their own judgment to align with a majority group. Participants were asked to match the length of lines, a task with an obvious correct answer. However, when confederates (actors) unanimously provided an incorrect answer, a significant number of participants would _____ to the group pressure, despite the clear sensory evidence to the contrary.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A object
- B yield
- C demur
- D deviate

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: D. exacerbate

The passage states that the water imagery "actively serves to _____ Sethe's already-present feelings of suffocation and dread" and leads to "immersing the reader in the psychological intensity of her experiences." This means the imagery makes her negative feelings stronger or worse, increasing their intensity. We need a word that means to make a negative feeling or situation worse.

- (A) Mitigate means to make less severe or painful. This is the opposite of the intended meaning.
- (B) Delineate means to describe or portray something precisely. While the imagery might help delineate the feelings, the passage says it "actively serves to" impact them, and the result is increased "psychological intensity," suggesting more than just description.
- (C) Obscure means to hide or make something unclear. This is the opposite of making feelings more intense or clear to the reader.
- (D) Exacerbate means to make a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling worse or more severe. This matches the idea that the imagery actively makes Sethe's feelings of suffocation and dread more intense, contributing to the "psychological intensity" for the reader.

Question 2

Correct Answer: A. internalized

The passage describes Virginia Woolf's narrative technique as focusing on the "inner lives of her characters" and presenting the "flow of thoughts, feelings, and memories." This technique, stream of consciousness, creates a "subjective experience." The blank modifies "portrayal of subjective experience," suggesting a word that aligns with the idea of inner thoughts

and personal feelings.

Let's look at the choices. (A) "internalized" means relating to inner thoughts and feelings, which fits the description. (B) "objective" means based on facts and not influenced by personal feelings, which is the opposite of subjective experience. (C) "generalized" means made into a general statement, which doesn't fit the context of individual thoughts. (D) "verifiable" means able to be proven true, which is not relevant to the subjective nature of stream of consciousness.

Therefore, the most logical and precise word to complete the text is "internalized."

Question 3

Correct Answer: D. incontrovertible

The passage describes how Roland Barthes's theory contrasted with earlier critical frameworks. These earlier frameworks "largely regarded the author's voice as the sole arbiter of truth," and the author's creative output was seen as "unassailable." The blank word should therefore mean something that is absolute, undeniable, or beyond dispute.

(A) "Peripheral" means relating to or situated on the edge or periphery of something. This contradicts the idea that the author's voice was "the sole arbiter of truth."

(B) "Malleable" means easily influenced or adaptable. This also contradicts the idea that the author's output was "unassailable" and the "sole arbiter of truth."

(C) "Nascent" means just coming into existence and beginning to display signs of future potential. This doesn't fit the context of established critical frameworks viewing the author's work as definitive.

(D) "Incontrovertible" means not able to be denied or disputed. This meaning aligns perfectly with "unassailable" and the idea that the author's voice was the "sole arbiter of truth," making their output seem

unquestionably true.

Question 4

Correct Answer: B. evaluate

The passage explains that historians select and interpret sources and that their own biases are part of their work, making a neutral account impossible. Therefore, historians must examine their sources carefully to understand their limitations and perspectives.

(A) Compile means to gather information. While historians do compile sources, the passage emphasizes the need to go beyond simple collection due to inherent biases.

(B) Evaluate means to assess something critically, considering its worth or validity. This aligns with the passage's argument that historians must critically examine sources due to the lack of pure objectivity. The passage implies that because sources are not purely objective, a historian must judge their reliability and perspective.

(C) Extrapolate means to infer or predict something based on known information. This is not the primary task described in relation to handling sources in this context.

(D) Accept means to agree to receive or undertake something. Simply accepting sources would contradict the passage's main point about the necessity of critical engagement due to bias.

Question 5

Correct Answer: D. advocate

The passage states that W.E.B. Du Bois "was a strong _____ of unity among people of African descent worldwide" and that he "consistently promoted the idea that people of African descent shared common interests and should work together." This indicates that the blank should be filled with a word that means someone who supports or promotes an idea.

(A) critic means someone who expresses disapproval. This contradicts the passage.

(B) opponent means someone who is against something. This contradicts the passage.

(C) observer means someone who watches something. While Du Bois observed the need for unity, the passage emphasizes his active promotion of it.

(D) advocate means someone who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy. This matches the description of Du Bois promoting unity and organizing congresses to support this idea.

Question 6

Correct Answer: A. collective

The passage describes how autoinducers coordinate gene expression across the entire bacterial population, leading to actions like bioluminescence that are only effective when undertaken by the group. This indicates that the behavior exhibited is one performed by the cells acting together. The word "coordinated" also supports this idea. Therefore, the blank should be filled with a word that means related to a group or acting together. Looking at the answer choices, (A) collective means relating to a group. (B) autonomous means acting independently, which is the opposite of what is described. (C) sporadic means happening irregularly, which is not supported by the text. (D) fundamental means forming a necessary base or core, which doesn't fit the context of a group behavior. Thus, collective is the most logical and precise word.

Question 7

Correct Answer: A. mimesis

The passage discusses Arieti's view that the speakers in Plato's *Symposium* present different perspectives on Eros based on their own characters, much like actors in a play. This is contrasted with the idea of Plato presenting a unified philosophical doctrine. The blank describes this method of showcasing diverse perspectives through character.

Let's look at the options:

(A) Mimesis is the imitation of life in art or literature, reflecting the idea of the speakers imitating different perspectives.

(B) Critique is a critical evaluation or analysis of something. The passage doesn't focus on criticism.

(C) Summarization is a brief restatement of main points. The passage is about diverse perspectives being presented, not condensed.

(D) Exegesis is a critical explanation or interpretation of a text, often religious scripture. While interpretation is involved in studying *Symposium*, the blank describes the method Plato uses to present ideas, not the scholarly act of interpreting the text itself.

The context, which emphasizes the dramatic nature and how each speaker shapes their view based on their own nature, strongly suggests a word related to imitation or representation through character. Mimesis fits this description.

Question 8

Correct Answer: C. compromised

The passage states that human judgment "deviates from optimal decision-making" and is not "perfectly objective and purely calculated" due to reliance on *heuristics*. This implies that these mental processes negatively

affect or impair human judgment. Therefore, the blank should describe this negative impact.

(A) "bolstered" means supported or strengthened. This contradicts the idea that judgment deviates from optimal decision-making.

(B) "amplified" means increased or made stronger. This also contradicts the negative impact described.

(C) "compromised" means made vulnerable, impaired, or weakened. This aligns perfectly with the idea that judgment deviates from optimal and is not purely objective because of inherent mental processes.

(D) "refined" means improved or made more precise. This also contradicts the passage, as the judgment is shown to be less than optimal.

Question 9

Correct Answer: C. nuanced

The passage states that initial models simplified ant communication, assuming a direct relationship between a pheromone and a response. It then contrasts this with later research that found ants exhibit varied responses based on several factors, indicating a complex interplay of signals. The blank requires a word that describes a system that is not simple or direct but instead involves subtle variations and complexity.

Let's look at the choices:

(A) rigid means inflexible or not changing, which contradicts the idea of varied responses.

(B) overt means easily seen or obvious, which doesn't fit the description of complex chemical interactions.

(C) nuanced means having subtle differences in meaning or expression.

This aligns with the idea of varied responses based on multiple factors and a complex interplay of signals.

(D) uniform means remaining the same in all cases and at all times, which contradicts the idea of varied responses.

Therefore, "nuanced" is the word that most logically and precisely completes the text.

Question 10

Correct Answer: A. maintained

The passage describes how cells actively control and adjust protein levels to keep the nucleolus size stable and prevent excessive growth or shrinkage. This indicates that the cell is ensuring the size is kept within a specific range over time. The phrase "precise dimensional stability" also supports this idea. Therefore, the blank needs a word that means kept stable or continued in a certain state.

Look at the answer choices:

(A) "maintained" means kept in an existing state or condition. This matches the idea of keeping the nucleolus size stable and preventing change.

(B) "assessed" means evaluated or measured. While cells might involve some form of assessment to control size, the blank is about the outcome of the control mechanism (the size being kept), not the measurement process itself.

(C) "differentiated" means specialized or distinguished from others. This term is used in biology for cell specialization, but it doesn't fit the context of controlling the size of a structure within a cell.

(D) "initiated" means started or begun. The passage describes a continuous process ("continuously adjusts") to *ensure* the size is kept stable, not just started.

The word that best fits the context of keeping the size stable and preventing change is "maintained".

Question 11

Correct Answer: A. insufficient

The passage states that the reliance on the initial anchor leads to "adjustments that are _____ toward the initial anchor". This means the adjustments made after the initial anchor are not enough to move the final judgment significantly away from the anchor. Therefore, the adjustments are described as inadequate or not enough. Looking at the choices, (A) insufficient means not enough, which matches the context. (B) conclusive means settling an issue, which doesn't fit. (C) impartial means unbiased, which is the opposite of being skewed toward the anchor. (D) unpredictable means not able to be predicted, which isn't supported by the description of the bias. Thus, insufficient is the most logical and precise word.

Question 12

Correct Answer: C. ameliorative

The passage describes how plant hydraulic capacitance helps plants deal with drought. It states that capacitance allows plants to "buffer significant fluctuations in xylem tension" and "diminish the risk of embolism," acting "against severe desiccation." These phrases indicate that the capacitance plays a role in lessening the negative effects of drought or making the situation better for the plant.

(A) "Auxiliary" means providing supplementary or additional help. While capacitance does help, "auxiliary" doesn't capture the specific way it *mitigates* a negative condition.

(B) "Inhibitory" means tending to restrict or prevent. This contradicts the passage, as capacitance *helps* the plant, it doesn't inhibit its ability to survive drought.

(C) "Ameliorative" means having the effect of making something better or less painful. This perfectly matches the context clues, as capacitance lessens the severity of drought

effects like xylem tension and embolism, improving the plant's condition.

(D) "Foundational" means providing a basis or groundwork. While capacitance is important, the passage focuses on its active role in *mitigating* stress, rather than simply being a basic component. The text emphasizes its function in buffering and diminishing risk, which aligns with an ameliorative effect.

Question 13

Correct Answer: D. modulated

The passage states that "individuals' choices were often not solely based on the objective value of options but were profoundly influenced by how these options were presented." This indicates that human judgments are affected or changed by the way information is communicated. The blank needs a word that means "influenced" or "adjusted" by these cues. (D) "modulated" means to adjust or vary something, often in response to an input, which perfectly fits the idea that judgments are significantly influenced or adjusted by linguistic and contextual cues.

(A) "Corroborated" means confirmed or supported, which doesn't fit the context of judgments being *affected* by cues, but rather, forming based on cues. (B) "Bifurcated" means divided into two branches or parts, which is unrelated to the influence of cues on judgment. (C) "Mitigated" means made less severe, serious, or painful. While judgments might be affected, the context implies a general shaping or influencing, not necessarily a reduction in severity.

Question 14

Correct Answer: D. deterrent

The passage describes the plant's leaf folding as a "protective strategy" that makes the plant "appear wilted and less appealing" and is "designed to deter potential herbivores." The blank needs a word that means "serving to

deter or discourage."

(A) "Intrinsic" means belonging naturally or essential, but the context emphasizes the *purpose* of the response (to deter), not just its inherent nature.

(B) "Complex" means having many parts or difficult to understand. While the plant's mechanism might be complex, the passage focuses on its *function* or *effect*, not its intricacy.

(C) "Aesthetic" means concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty. This contradicts the passage, as the response makes the plant "less appealing" to deter herbivores, not more beautiful.

(D) "Deterrent" means serving to deter or discourage. This perfectly matches the description that the response is "designed to deter potential herbivores."

Question 15

Correct Answer: B. objective

The passage states that Vasari's book has a "strong bias towards Florentine artists" and "systematically ignor[es] or downplay[s]" others. This means the book is not balanced or neutral. The blank needs a word that means balanced or neutral. Looking at the choices, (A) subjective means based on personal feelings, which aligns with bias, so this is the opposite of what's needed. (C) thorough means complete, but the passage focuses on bias, not completeness. (D) modern refers to the time period, which is not the main point about the book's bias. (B) objective means not influenced by personal feelings or opinions, which is the opposite of biased and fits the meaning needed in the blank.

Question 16

Correct Answer: B. impervious

The passage describes how the *EPS* matrix of biofilms acts as a "formidable barrier" that provides "robust structural integrity," making the communities difficult to treat with "antimicrobial interventions" and posing "significant challenges for eradication efforts." This indicates that the blank word should mean "unaffected by" or "resistant to" these interventions.

(A) "Mutable" means prone to change or capable of change. This contradicts the idea that the barrier makes them resistant to change or effect.

(B) "Impervious" means not allowing passage through or penetration; unable to be affected by. This precisely matches the context that the barrier makes them resistant to antimicrobial interventions.

(C) "Diffuse" means spread out over a large area; not concentrated. This does not fit the context of a barrier providing resistance.

(D) "Amenable" means open and responsive to suggestion; easily persuaded or controlled. This is the opposite of what the passage implies, as the biofilms are described as posing "challenges for eradication."

Question 17

Correct Answer: A. induce

The passage states that the plant's production of glucosinolates is a response to damage from insect feeding and that this response is part of the plant's "induced defense system". The blank describes what the insect feeding does to the synthesis of glucosinolates within this induced system. Since it's an "induced" defense, the feeding must cause or stimulate the synthesis of these compounds. Therefore, the word that means to cause or stimulate is needed.

Looking at the options, (A) "induce" means to bring about or cause, which fits the context of stimulating a defense mechanism. (B) "suppress" means to stop or inhibit, which is the opposite of what the passage implies about an induced defense. (C) "negate" means to make ineffective or void, which doesn't fit the idea of initiating a defense. (D) "standardize" means to make

consistent or uniform, which is irrelevant to the triggering of a defense response. The context clues "response to herbivory," "induced defense system," and the contrast with "constitutive defenses" all point to the feeding *causing* the defense, making "induce" the logical and precise choice.

Question 18

Correct Answer: D. oblique

The passage describes the relationship between a poet and tradition, according to Harold Bloom, as involving a "psychological struggle involving misinterpretation and revision," a "defensive maneuver," and something that does not involve simply building upon or imitating predecessors. This strongly suggests that the relationship is not straightforward, direct, or easily understood. It is characterized by indirectness and distortion ("misinterpretation," "revision"). We need a word that means indirect or not straightforward.

Let's look at the choices:

(A) synchronous means happening at the same time. This doesn't fit the context of a struggle against predecessors from the past.

(B) didactic means intended to teach. The passage describes a psychological struggle, not an educational process.

(C) transparent means easy to see through or understand; clear. This contradicts the description of misinterpretation, revision, and psychological struggle, which suggests the relationship is complex and not clear.

(D) oblique means not expressed directly; indirect. This matches the idea that the relationship is characterized by misinterpretation and revision, rather than straightforward imitation or continuation. Therefore, the poetic response to tradition is indirect or oblique.

Question 19

Correct Answer: A. conform

The passage describes how participants in Asch's experiments changed their answers to match the incorrect answers given by the group, despite knowing the correct answer. This behavior is a direct result of yielding to group pressure and aligning one's actions with the group. The blank needs a word that means to align with or act in accordance with a group or set of norms.

(A) "Conform" means to comply with rules, standards, or laws, or to behave in accordance with socially accepted conventions or standards. This aligns perfectly with the passage's description of participants changing their answers to fit in with the group's incorrect answers.

(B) "Diverge" means to separate from another route, especially a main one, or to differ or vary. This is the opposite of what the participants did; they did not differ from the group but aligned with it.

(C) "Fluctuate" means to rise and fall irregularly in number or amount, or to waver between different ideas or opinions. While the participants' behavior might have varied across trials, the core phenomenon described is the act of aligning with the group, not simply changing unpredictably.

(D) "Resist" means to withstand the action or effect of something, or to try to prevent something by action or argument. This is the opposite of yielding to pressure; the participants did not resist the group pressure but gave in to it.

Therefore, "conform" is the word that most logically and precisely completes the text.

Question 20

Correct Answer: B. yield

The passage describes participants changing their correct answers to match the incorrect answers of the group. This means they were giving in to the group's influence. The blank needs a word that means "give in to

pressure." Looking at the choices, (A) object means to disagree, which is the opposite of what the participants did. (C) demur also means to object or show reluctance. (D) deviate means to depart from a standard or expected course, which doesn't specifically capture the idea of giving in to pressure from others. (B) yield means to give way to pressure or influence. This accurately describes the participants' actions.