

PSAT Reading and Writing Exam

1. In general, new breakthroughs in scientific and biological research allow us to identify origins of many viruses of formerly _____ origins.

A. escapable

B. mysterious

C. abstract

D. useful

E. memorable

Answer(s): B

2. Hitherto impossible research has been made _____ by the new technology recently engineered by her company with greatly enhanced scope and depth of mapping the core of the earth.

A. commonplace

B. controversial

C. problematic

D. feasible

E. resolute

Answer(s): D

3. The dissimilarities are absolutely striking; even though she is _____, she has few friends, and even though she is a _____ stylist, few customers ask for her when booking.

A. cute. . .fair

B. amiable. . .consummate

C. professional. . .haphazard

D. nice. . .radical

E. magnificent. . .futuristic

Answer(s): B

4. Sales literature that provide excessively complex and irrelevant numbers tend to _____ the real facts and generate sales by causing buyers to accept _____ data in lieu of the real and truthful information so hidden.

A. obscure. . .spurious

B. hide. . .rational

C. confuse. . .representational

D. elucidate. . .faulty

E. define. . .questionable

Answer(s): A

5. Only his truest and most _____ fans remained faithful followers following the news of his steroid use.

A. reticent

B. vocal

C. demonstrative

D. boisterous

E. ardent

Answer(s): E

6. It was her need to _____ that caused her to become an _____; the belief that the government was corrupt and the constant censorship being the two principal causes for move.

A. express. . .outcast

B. release. . .icon

C. expose. . .outsider

D. expatiate. . .expatriate

E. control. . .anarchist

Answer(s): D

7. Not desirous of meeting his Maker in the middle of a poker game, Doc Holiday _____ placed an ace inside his vest as Bat Masterson shuffled the remaining cards.

A. suspiciously

B. coyly

C. overtly

D. furtively

E. brazenly

Answer(s): D

8. Given _____ politicians can generally raise campaign financing easier than challengers, Lt. Governor James should have the advantage.

A. honest

B. incumbent

C. entrepreneurial

D. opulent

E. gregarious

Answer(s): B

9. Following the completion of an unusually arduous day at the office, Sue happily enjoyed the _____ experience of relaxing in the hot tub while watching television learning that she just won the state lottery.

A. erratic

B. superfluous

C. halcyon

D. untoward

E. geriatric

Answer(s): C

10. I trust a proposal for matrimony would seem more _____ were it written in the sky, or written on a scoreboard, or written in a test question for the SAT prep; which is what I am formally doing now in asking Teresa for her hand in marriage.

A. aggrandized

B. sincere

C. appreciated

D. honorable

E. cherished

Answer(s): A

11. Friends of the theater have long decried the _____ of the New York drama critics, whose reviews can determine the fate of a play in a single night.

A. insensitivity

B. provinciality

C. intelligence

D. power

E. inaccuracy

Answer(s): D

12. The _____ manner in which the teacher candidate addressed the school board was a key factor in his rejection; the school board members agreed that enthusiasm is an essential quality in a teacher.

A. pretentious

B. solicitous

C. superficial

D. perfunctory

E. combative

Answer(s): D

13. Her _____ writing style made it difficult to follow her thought processes--no surprise to her colleagues, who were familiar with her _____ manner of speech.

A. precise . . . arcane

B. laborious . . . tedious

C. trite . . . flippant

D. convoluted . . . circumlocutory

E. ambiguous . . . affected

Answer(s): D

14. The giant squid is still _____ marine biologists, as it has never been seen alive, making it impossible to study in its natural habitat.

A. fascinating to

B. enigmatic to

C. dangerous to

D. exploited by

E. famous among

Answer(s): B

15. Advertising can increase sales of a _____ product, but it cannot create demand for a bad one; consumers may buy a _____ item because of advertising--but only once.

A. good..new

B. reliable . . costly

C. useful . . valuable

D. needless . . single

E. well-made . . badly made

Answer(s): E

16. Like Truman, who was never considered a major national figure until Roosevelt's death made him president, Ford attained national prominence only after _____ thrust him into the presidency.

A. personal ambition

B. outside circumstances

C. popular acclaim

D. political intrigue

E. public demand

Answer(s): B

17. Thus far, predictions that global _____ would lead to mass starvation have proven false; however, in the years to come, population _____ may yet prove to be one of the world's greatest problems.

A. pollution . . expansion

B. overcrowding . . growth

C. poverty . . density

D. deforestation . . control

E. warfare . . stabilization

Answer(s): B

18. Amelia Earhart's hope of being the first woman to fly around the globe was _____ when she disappeared in the middle of her _____ journey.

A. thwarted . . ill-fated

B. realized . . triumphant

C. fulfilled . . historic

D. controversial . . hazardous

E. postponed . . famous

Answer(s): A

19. The idea of "children's literature" _____ in the late eighteenth century, when educators first decided that children needed special _____ of their own.

A. emerged . . . books

B. changed . . . reading

C. grew . . . treatment

D. developed . . . training

E. receded . . . teaching

Answer(s): A

20. In some of the poorest neighborhoods of New York City, community gardens are springing up as _____ the filth and desolation of their urban surroundings.

A. an affirmation of

B. a validation of

C. a reaction to

D. an amplification of

E. a celebration of

Answer(s): C
