

GRE Prep

Sentence Completion 3



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Inspirus **“RIPE”** strategy

Step 1: Read through the sentence/passage to get an *overall sense* of it.

Step 2: Identify the *linking words* and the *key words* and understand the central idea of the sentence/passage.

Step 3: Predict an answer that can fit in the blank and look for a *similar word* among the options.

Step 4: Eliminate the options that *do not match* with the predicted answer.

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Practice Exercise 1

1. Demosthenes made several speeches warning the Greeks against Philip of Macedon; since these _____ were abusive and personal in nature, a new word, “philippic” has been coined in the language.

A. paeans
B. harangues
C. neologisms
D. declamations
E. orations



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2. Unlike the elected branches of the United States government, where making personal connection with citizens is (i) _____ and almost (ii) _____ political efficacy, the United States Supreme Court continues to maintain that its members should communicate with the public almost exclusively through formal opinions - and even then through ceremonial rituals that date back to the nineteenth century.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. rampant	D. a requirement for
B. frowned upon	E. a detriment to
C. disregarded	F. an irrelevance to



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3. Fifty pages of footnotes, some of them presenting quite lengthy bibliographies, suggest that very few pertinent sources on the Black Arts movement in literature have (i) _____ Thompson's search; (ii) _____, the text makes it clear that the author's examination of these sources has been similarly (iii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. eluded	D. moreover	G. valuable
B. characterized	E. however	H. timely
C. motivated	F. consequently	I. exhaustive



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4. Firebaugh and Beck contend that economic development improves the overall well-being of people within developing countries. However, other scholars emphasize the (i) _____ of this view, empirically demonstrating that while economic development does in fact contribute to the well-being of the population of developing countries, the magnitude of development's positive effects on well-being has (ii) _____. In other words, these scholars suggest that (iii) _____ economic development and human well-being is taking place in developing countries.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. falsity	D. been greatly underestimated	G. a decoupling of
B. arbitrariness	E. not yet been measured	H. an inversion of
C. limitation	F. decreased over time	I. a decline in



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5. _____ behavior never has the effect its practitioners hope for; the attempt to hide only draws attention to what is hidden.

A. Misogynistic
B. Puritanical
C. Covert
D. Miserly
E. Prudish
F. Pragmatic



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6. The study's _____ conclusion is that during the first half of the 20th Century, improved standards of personal hygiene reduced the risk of an individual's contracting poliomyelitis yet tended to make the disease more lethal to communities.

A. exciting
B. unwarranted
C. paradoxical
D. anomalous
E. long-awaited
F. interim



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Practice Exercise 2

7. Given the existence of so many factions in the field, it was unrealistic of Anna Freud to expect any kind of _____ of opinion.

A. freedom
B. homogeneity
C. reassessment
D. expression
E. formation



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8. Nonviolent demonstrations often create such tensions that a community that has constantly refused to
(i) _____ its injustices is forced to correct them: the injustices can no longer be
(ii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. acknowledge	D. ignored
B. decrease	E. verified
C. explain	F. accepted



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9. Literature is inevitably a (i) _____ rather than (ii) _____ medium for the simple reason that writers interpose their own vision between the reader and reality.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. transparent	D. a drab
B. colorful	E. an opaque
C. distorting	F. a neutral



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10. A transformative scientific idea that emerged in the eighteenth century was the realization that slow, inexorable geological processes follow the basic laws of physics and chemistry. This seems (i) _____ conclusion in hindsight, but its implication - that geological processes in the distant past must have (ii) _____ these very same laws - was (iii) _____ geologists in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. an obvious	D. followed	G. evident to
B. a significant	E. preceded	H. overlooked by
C. a controversial	F. entailed	I. revolutionary for



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11. Putting a cash value on the ecological services provided by nature - such as the water filtration “service” provided by a forested watershed - has, historically, been a (i) _____ process. Early attempts at such valuation resulted in impressive but (ii) _____ figures that were seized on by environmental advocates, and then, when these figures were later (iii) _____, they were used by opponents to tar the whole idea.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. dispassionate	D. redundant	G. ignored
B. problematic	E. unsound	H. discredited
C. straightforward	F. understated	I. confirmed



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12. Her attempts to wrest fiction free from traditional constraints like plot and character were never entirely popular with readers; nonetheless, her fiction has had _____ influence on critical theory, novel, cinema, and even psychology.

A. a studied
B. a negligible
C. a decisive
D. an unmistakable
E. an insignificant
F. a restorative



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13. The physics graveyard is strewn with the skeletons of failed theories, unexplained effects, and anomalous particles that briefly _____ the research spotlight, then rapidly fade from view.

A. douse
B. intensify
C. perpetuate
D. capture
E. secure
F. extinguish



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Practice Exercise 3

14. Burke is often on slippery ground when it comes to her primary sources; especially _____ is the mode by which she gathered her oral evidence.

A. crucial
B. passable
C. ingenuous
D. laudable
E. dubious



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15. The reclusive clergyman may have lived and died in melancholy, but this doesn't seem to have (i) _____ his genius in any way. On the contrary, we find ourselves wondering whether his genius wasn't (ii) _____ in some mysterious way by his mood.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. influenced	D. served
B. hampered	E. controlled
C. triggered	F. identified



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16. The idealized paintings of nature produced in the eighteenth century are evidence that the medieval (i) _____ natural settings had been (ii) _____ and that the outdoors now could be enjoyed without trepidation.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. fear of	D. confronted
B. concerns about	E. accentuated
C. enthusiasm for	F. exorcised



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17. It is possible for human to go 40 or more hours without sleep and still be able to (i) _____ information acquired at the beginning of the sleepless period. Thus, when we are considering a role for sleep in human memory consolidation, we are referring to a possible role in the (ii) _____ encoding of information and optimizing of recall, not a (iii) _____ of sleep for recalling events of the prior day.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. disgorge	D. longer-term	G. requirement
B. augment	E. acute	H. Surplus
C. legitimize	F. qualitative	I. facet



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18. In 1884, Sewall and Dow agreed to join Roosevelt in the Dakota territory for reasons that appear to have been _____: Sewall later recalled that Roosevelt guaranteed them a share of anything made in his cattle business.

A. pecuniary
B. straightforward
C. economic
D. selfless
E. quixotic
F. altruistic



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19. Contrary to certain recent analyses that paint a dire portrait of soil loss from farmland, a new study of surveying data reaching back to the 1930s shows that erosion rates have been steadily

A. intensifying
B. waning
C. accelerating
D. worsening
E. declining
F. deteriorating



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Practice Exercise 4

20. While it is tempting to think that artists like Picasso literally see the world in a markedly different way, examination of the artist's creative process reveals _____ movement from roughly realist sketches toward his famous Cubist style through a series of ever more abstract steps.

A. an obsessive
B. an iterative
C. a random
D. a historical
E. a dicey



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21. Consolidating memory is not instantaneous or even _____: every memory must be encoded and moved from short-term to long-term storage, and some of these memories are, for whatever reason, more vividly imprinted than others.

A. salutary
B. deliberate
C. sequential
D. momentary
E. inevitable



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22. Despite the typical characterization of art forgery as the realm of the (i) _____, some recent papers have underscored the artistry present in counterfeit pieces and ignored or made light of the inherent criminality. Needless to say, many critics have (ii) _____ these papers, saying their authors lack the ethics and good sense to be taken seriously.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. craven	D. inundated
B. reprobate	E. extolled
C. covetous	F. lambasted



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23. Improvement in the quality of basic demographic data and the care with which it is managed may yield more (i) _____ information as time moves forward, which will greatly enhance the ability to prove and disprove extreme age claims. Given human nature, however, and a number of the modern and historic sources of age misreporting, age validation will continue to need to be (ii) _____ part of valid exceptional longevity research. Even areas thought to have complete birth registration have seen problems with immigrant cases, unreported deaths, pension fraud, and the like. The older the alleged age of a longevity claim, the more (iii) _____ must be the validation procedure.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. veritable	D. an ineffable	G. consummate
B. incredulous	E. a requisite	H. cavalier
C. incredible	F. a dire	I. jackleg



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24. Science is arguably a very high-minded pursuit, but that is not to say that all of its practitioners are _____, as numerous articles alleging overly generous pharmaceutical industry payments to medical researchers have tried to show.

A. conventional

B. perspicacious

C. unimpeachable

D. ingenious

E. orthodox

F. blameless



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25. Some ethicists worry that a deeper understanding of the brain may be tantamount to _____; if we discover that free will is an illusion of neural circuitry, how will we hold people responsible for their actions?

A. absolution
B. vindication
C. ministrations
D. exculpation
E. valediction
F. proscription



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Additional Questions

26. The success of the business venture _____ his expectations; he never thought that the firm would prosper.

A. confirmed
B. belied
C. nullified
D. fulfilled
E. ratified



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27. The journalist (i) _____ the efforts of the drug squad to control drug peddling, claiming that they had actually (ii) _____ the problem.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. deprecated	D. delineated
B. commended	E. exacerbated
C. noted	F. mollified



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28. Just as such apparently basic things as rocks, clouds, and clams are, in fact, intricately structured entities, so the self, too, is not an "elementary particle," but is _____ construction.

A. a complicated
B. a rudimentary
C. a distorted
D. an amorphous
E. an illusory



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29. Far and above the typical rowdiness and harmless pranks of his fraternity brothers, Mathew's behavior bordered on unadulterated _____.

A. disorderliness
B. etiquette
C. debauchery
D. morality
E. cleverness



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30. Even the reader acquainted with the outlines of Pushkin's biography will be (i) _____ the (ii) _____ so vividly conveyed in Binyon's biography. Not only was Pushkin's personal correspondence intercepted and his movements (iii) _____, but Tsar Nicholas I's decision to oversee Pushkin's career obliged Pushkin to submit all his manuscripts for inspection.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. attracted by	D. suffocating lack of creative freedom	G. ignored
B. confused by	E. concern for contemporary society	H. monitored
C. struck by	F. underlying sense of historical change	I. commended



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31. The current (i) _____ of format in electronic scholarly publication will not last beyond the point when amateur burnout occurs and amateurs are replaced by traditional publishing companies: in an effort to reduce costs through economies of scale, publishing firms tend toward (ii) _____ in the format of their electronic publication projects.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. diversity	D. homogeneity
B. monotony	E. sophistication
C. refinement	F. extremes



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32. Viewing people as “social atoms” that obey rather simple rule (which are not unlike the laws of physics), one may discover certain (i) _____. Take, for example, the way channels emerge when people move in crowds. In the midst of initially (ii) _____ movements, one person begins to follow another-in an effort to avoid collisions-and streams of movement emerge. As more people join in, there is greater pull on others to join the flow, and the particular channels become (iii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. apparent contradictions	D. inflexible	G. self-defeating
B. unproductive tendencies	E. straightforward	H. self-aggrandizing
C. lawlike regulations	F. chaotic	I. self-perpetuating





Thank you