

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Do You Have the Linguistic Precision of a 12th Grade Scholar?

Can you deconstruct the complex etymology of academic discourse? Analyze how sophisticated morphemes shift the philosophical weight of senior-level texts.

1. In the context of socio-political critique, if a critic describes a regime as 'idiosyncratic' and 'autocratic,' which Greek root most directly suggests that the power is concentrated in a single individual?

Answer: C) Autos (self)

While 'kratos' means rule, the prefix 'auto-' specifically denotes 'self,' indicating a system where one person holds absolute power over themselves and others without external checks.

2. The philosopher's argument relied on the concept of _____ (the state of being unchangeable), derived from the Latin root 'mutare' (to change) and the negative prefix 'im-'.

Answer: A) Immutability

The suffix '-ity' is required to turn the adjective 'immutable' into a noun representing a state or quality, as required by the sentence structure.

3. In the term 'anthropocentrism,' the root 'anthropos' refers to the study of ancient cultures.

Answer: B) False

False. 'Anthropos' means 'human' or 'mankind.' While archaeology or history examines the past, anthropocentrism is the philosophical belief that humans are the central element of existence.

4. Consider the word 'anachronism.' If 'ana-' acts as a prefix meaning 'against' or 'back' and 'chronos' means 'time,' what is the secondary analytical implication of the suffix '-ism' in this context?

Answer: B) It indicates a characteristic action or condition.

The suffix '-ism' creates a noun that describes a condition, practice, or doctrine—in this case, the condition of being out of its proper chronological time.

5. To describe a piece of literature that is intended to instruct, particularly in a moral sense, a critic would use the term _____, rooted in the Greek 'didaskein' (to teach).

Answer: B) Didactic

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Didactic refers specifically to instructional or educational intent in art or literature, using the '-ic' suffix to form an adjective.

6. The legal term 'reproach' and the literary term 'irreproachable' share the root 'proach' (from Latin 'prope' - near). How does the addition of both 'ir-' and '-able' change the semantic value of the root?

Answer: C) It creates an adjective meaning beyond or incapable of being blamed.

'Ir-' is a variant of 'in-' (not), and '-able' (capable of). Combined with 'reproach' (blame), it describes someone so perfect they are not capable of being blamed.

7. The prefix 'ep-' in 'ephemeral' and 'epilogue' generally means 'upon,' 'at,' or 'over.'

Answer: A) True

True. In 'epilogue,' it is speech 'upon' or 'after' the end, and in 'ephemeral,' it relates to something lasting only 'upon' a day (hemera).

8. If a biologist and a linguist are discussing 'morphology,' they are both studying the 'logy' (study) of 'morph.' What does this shared root imply about their work?

Answer: C) They are both studying the structure or form of things.

The root 'morph' means 'form' or 'shape.' In biology, it is the form of organisms; in linguistics, it is the form of words (morphemes).

9. In her thesis, the student argued that the character's _____ (propensity to believe things too quickly) led to his downfall. (Root: Cred - to believe/trust).

Answer: C) Credulity

'Credulity' specifically refers to the state of being too ready to believe things, whereas 'credibility' refers to how believable someone else is.

10. The prefix 'per-' in the word 'perfunctory' implies that an action is performed thoroughly and with great care.

Answer: B) False

False. While 'per-' can mean 'throughout,' in 'perfunctory' it implies doing something merely to get 'through' it, resulting in a superficial or careless effort.