

Name: _____ Date: _____

Aesthetic Analysis: Ancient Adjectives for College Critics

Moving beyond basic modifiers to investigate how nuanced descriptors shape ideological framing and rhetorical impact in philosophical and literary texts.

1. In Virginia Woolf's seminal essay 'A Room of One's Own,' she characterizes the hypothetical 'Judith Shakespeare' using adjectives that suggest a latent, suppressed genius. Which adjective choice most effectively functions as a 'limiting' rather than a 'descriptive' modifier in a rhetorical context?

- A. Gifted
- B. Any
- C. Wild
- D. Poetic

2. When analyzing the 'sublime' in Edmund Burke's aesthetic philosophy, the adjective _____ is used to describe an experience that is not merely beautiful, but overwhelming to the point of terror.

- A. Pastoral
- B. Vast
- C. Symmetrical
- D. Pleasant

3. In the sentence 'The then-current administration's policy was flawed,' the word 'then-current' serves as a compound attributive adjective.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Analyze the 'intrinsic' vs 'extrinsic' value of adjectives in a legal brief. Which of the following examples utilizes an 'evaluative' adjective that would most likely be flagged for lack of objectivity?

- A. The statutory requirements
- B. The egregious violation
- C. The previous ruling
- D. The third witness

5. In the phrase 'The poet's Kafkaesque narrative style,' the capitalized word is a/an _____ adjective derived from a proper noun.

- A. Nominal
- B. Predicative
- C. Proper
- D. Participial

6. A post-positive adjective occurs when the modifier is placed before the noun it describes, such as in the phrase 'the blue sky'.

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- A. True
- B. False

7. Consider the semantic difference in these two descriptors: 'The statesman was childish' vs 'The statesman was childlike.' This distinction highlights what property of adjectives?

- A. Syntactic positioning
- B. Denotation versus Connotation
- C. Superlative degree
- D. Adjectival order

8. In linguistic typology, if an adjective is used as a noun, such as 'The _____ and the dead,' it is referred to as a nominalized adjective.

- A. Strong
- B. Quick
- C. Brave
- D. Loud

9. In the sentence 'The water felt cold,' the word 'cold' is a predicative adjective that functions as a subject complement.

- A. True
- B. False

10. Evaluate the cumulative adjective order in this doctoral thesis title: 'Three distinct ancient Greek ceramic artifacts.' Why is the order 'distinct ancient' grammatically preferred over 'ancient distinct' in Standard English?

- A. Size must precede age
- B. Opinion adjectives must precede age adjectives
- C. Coordinate adjectives require commas
- D. Color must precede origin