

Name: _____ Date: _____

Master Your Vernacular: Advanced Idiomatic Proficiency for Grade 12

Evaluate non-literal linguistic patterns and historical etymologies beyond surface-level definitions through contextual analysis of collegiate-level expressions.

1. In a professional or academic setting, if a mentor tells you to 'keep your nose to the grindstone,' what is the intended figurative meaning?

- A. To focus on sensory details in your writing
- B. To work hard and remain focused for a long period
- C. To investigate a problem with extreme scrutiny
- D. To avoid conflict with your colleagues or peers

2. True or False: The expression 'to throw down the gauntlet' historically refers to a literal challenge of combat or competition.

- A. True
- B. False

3. If a political candidate is described as having '____,' it means they possess significant influence and power in their field.

- A. the upper crust
- B. much ado about nothing
- C. clout
- D. a skeleton in the closet

4. Which idiom best describes a situation where an initial, small event triggers a complex and uncontrollable chain of reactions?

- A. Barking up the wrong tree
- B. Opening a Pandora's box
- C. Being at a crossroads
- D. Cutting the Gordian knot

5. The CEO's decision to liquidate the company's assets was considered the '____' that led to the final strike by the union.

- A. bolt from the blue
- B. last straw
- C. silver lining
- D. blessing in disguise

6. When a critic describes a film as 'the elephant in the room,' what are they implying about the movie's controversial theme?

- A. The theme is massive and takes up too much of the plot

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- B. The theme is an obvious problem that everyone is ignoring
- C. The theme is rare and majestic, like an exotic animal
- D. The theme is forgettable and lacks any real weight

7. True or False: If a lawyer asks a witness to 'give them the cliff notes,' they are asking for a detailed, word-for-word transcript of an event.

- A. True
- B. False

8. An individual who acts as a '_____' is someone who argues against an idea primarily to test its validity or provoke debate.

- A. loose cannon
- B. dark horse
- C. devil's advocate
- D. sacrificial lamb

9. True or False: To 'burn bridges' is a figurative expression meaning to eliminate any possibility of returning to a previous state or relationship.

- A. True
- B. False

10. In contemporary society, if a tech startup is called a 'Unicorn,' what does this idiomatic label signify?

- A. It is a company that focuses on children's entertainment
- B. It is a rare, privately held company valued at over \$1 billion
- C. It is a company that has failed and gone bankrupt
- D. It is a company that uses only renewable, 'magical' energy