

3. The once-thriving town is now a ___ shadow of its former self.
A. perfunctory B. quiescent C. vestigial D. burgeoning
4. He was given to ___ pronouncements, which his followers mistook for profound wisdom.
A. perspicacious B. pellucid C. oracular D. transparent
5. The lawyer's ___ cross-examination dismantled the witness's testimony.
A. desultory B. meticulous C. cursory D. flippant
6. Faced with irrefutable evidence, he had no choice but to ___ his earlier statement.
A. reiterate B. buttress C. recant D. espouse
7. Her writing style is ___, characterized by an ornate and unnecessarily complex vocabulary.
A. laconic B. turgid C. succinct D. pithy
8. The CEO's ___ apology did little to placate the angry shareholders.
A. heartfelt B. sincere C. contrite D. perfunctory
9. The argument was based on a logical ___, rendering its conclusion invalid.
A. verity B. axiom C. fallacy D. tenet
10. He affects an air of ___ indifference, but in reality, he cares deeply.
A. studied B. genuine C. shallow D. palpable

Section 3.2: Reading Comprehension

Instructions: Read the text and choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D).

The semiotics of a landscape extends beyond its mere physical topography; it is a palimpsest, inscribed with layers of cultural, historical, and personal meaning. What one person perceives as a barren wasteland, another may read as a testament to resilience, a space imbued with ancestral narratives. This hermeneutic variance is not arbitrary but is conditioned by the observer's cultural lexicon and experiential framework. The very act of naming—of applying a toponym to a geographical feature—is an exercise in power, an appropriation of the space that often effaces pre-existing indigenous significations.

Thus, a 'wilderness' is rarely empty; it is, more often than not, simply emptied of the meanings familiar to the dominant culture. The sublime terror evoked by a vast, untamed vista in a 19th-century Romantic painter is a cultural construct, one that would be utterly alien to a hunter-gatherer society whose existence is predicated on an intimate, symbiotic knowledge of that same environment. To truly comprehend a landscape, therefore, one must endeavor to read its myriad, often conflicting, narratives, recognizing that our perception is but one interpretation among many.

1. The use of the word 'palimpsest' suggests that landscapes are ____.
A. unchanging and permanent
B. easily understood by all observers
C. surfaces with multiple layers of meaning written over time
D. natural formations devoid of human influence
2. According to the text, the perception of a landscape is primarily shaped by ____.
A. its objective geographical features
B. the individual's cultural and personal background
C. its economic value
D. universal aesthetic principles
3. The author argues that naming a place ('applying a toponym') can be an act of ____.
A. scientific discovery
B. cultural preservation
C. collaborative creation
D. domination and erasure
4. The word 'hermeneutic' in the first paragraph is best understood as relating to ____.
A. interpretation
B. geology
C. aesthetics
D. politics
5. What is the central argument of the passage?
A. Romantic painters had a flawed view of nature.
B. Landscapes can only be understood through a scientific lens.
C. The meaning of a landscape is subjective and culturally constructed.
D. Indigenous cultures have a superior understanding of geography.

Section 3.3: Sentence Transformation

Instructions: Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

1. The company's performance was not significantly affected by the new policy.
(CONSEQUENCE)
=> The new policy was of ____ for the company's performance.
2. He is becoming very famous for his innovative research. (NAME)
=> He is ____ for himself with his innovative research.
3. The defendant would have been acquitted if it hadn't been for the main witness's persuasiveness. (BUT)
=> ____ the main witness's persuasiveness, the defendant would have been acquitted.
4. The project was cancelled just before it was due to start. (VERGE)
=> The project was on the ____ when it was cancelled.