

I. DIRECTIONS. Read the following sentences and try to choose the best definition for the italicized word by searching for context clues in the sentence. (15 pts.)

- ____ 1. The designer window treatments in her house, installed 17 years ago, were *outmoded*.
 - a. unnecessary
 - b. pointless
 - c. out-of-date
 - d. worthless
- ____ 2. The spies conducted a *covert* operation.
 - a. dangerous
 - b. foreign
 - c. hidden
 - d. illegal
- ____ 3. The baseball player's malice toward the referee was revealed in his *spiteful* remarks to the media, which almost ruined the referee's career.
 - a. vindictive
 - b. crazy
 - c. rude
 - d. unpleasant
- ____ 4. Although Zachary is much too inexperienced for the managerial position, he is a willful young man and *obdurately* refuses to withdraw his application.
 - a. foolishly
 - b. reluctantly
 - c. constantly
 - d. stubbornly

___ 5. His neighbor's **superficial** remarks trivialized the property line dispute and infuriated Malcolm.

- enraged
- petty
- insulting
- misleading

___ 6. She showed a **blatant** disregard for the rules.

- obvious
- hidden
- last-minute
- rebellious

___ 7. Her fashion sense was usually described as **flamboyant**, but on the night of the party, Tanya's outfit was uncharacteristically modest.

- impeccable
- showy
- sloppy
- unassuming

___ 8. Mr. Powers was so **gullible** that he believed even the most outlandish excuses of his insincere employees.

- intelligent
- naïve
- dishonest
- critical

___ 9. You cannot become a certified teacher without completing the **prerequisite** student-teaching assignment.

- required
- optional
- preferred
- advisable

___ 10. Charles, aware of his susceptibility to gum disease, is **diligent** about flossing.

- uncomfortable
- excited
- thorough
- ambivalent

___ 11. Even though she'd read her supervisor's memo four or five times, she still found his rambling message **ambiguous**.

- profound
- inspiring
- ridiculous
- unclear

___ 12. Excited about winning the award, Marcia walked up to the podium and delivered an **animated** acceptance speech.

- abbreviated
- courteous
- reserved
- lively

___ 13. The **intermittent** rain soaked the garden many different times during the day.

- protracted
- periodic
- incredulous
- light

___ 14. I got a **vicarious** thrill watching you on the diving board.

- shared
- unpleasant
- adventurous
- evil

___ 15. After several small brushfires at the campground, officials felt the need to **augment** the rules pertaining to campfires.

- criticize
- retract
- consider
- expand