

• **Word Definition 3** Level 12

Directions: Choose the answer choice that best defines the word in capital letters.

1) MAELSTROM

- A. a convoluted story
- B. chaotic turmoil
- C. a severe flood
- D. significant growth
- E. a vast selection

2) ACERBIC

- A. harmful or toxic
- B. saccharine or sweet
- C. cutting or biting
- D. immaculate or flawless
- E. small or dainty

3) PROCLIVITY

- A. a hesitation before doing something due to uncertainty
- B. a thing that grows on top of or outside something else
- C. an established or official way of doing something
- D. a tendency to choose or do something regularly
- E. an ability so pronounced that one could get paid for it

4) LICENTIOUS

- A. official
- B. promiscuous
- C. treacherous
- D. disloyal
- E. illegal

5) ARCANE

- A. occurring in nature
- B. curved in shape
- C. seldom enjoyable
- D. very old or ancient
- E. understood by few

6) INDELIBLE

- A. permanent and unforgettable
- B. untouchable and unknowable
- C. unutterable and breathtaking
- D. tasteless and unappetizing
- E. delinquent and not payable

7) PERFIDIOUS

- A. dangerous
- B. deceitful
- C. dashing
- D. daunting
- E. demonic

8) FASTIDIOUS

- A. dressing or attentive to current trends
- B. extremely interesting or engrossing
- C. very attentive to accuracy and detail
- D. very celebratory and given to revelry
- E. moving to or able to move at a rapid pace

9) ALACRITY

- A. anxious awareness of dangers
- B. extreme unwillingness to spend money
- C. brisk and cheerful readiness
- D. a union of mutual benefit
- E. a lack of fairness or justice

10) DECRY

- A. to give an account in words
- B. to publicly denounce
- C. to abandon disloyally
- D. to see in the distance
- E. to provide money

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

maelstrom (*noun*): a turbulent situation: *The French Revolution created a maelstrom of bloodshed, chaos, and incessant upheavals.*

2) **C**

acerbic (*adjective*): sharp and forthright: *The critic was known for his sardonic and cutting wit; his acerbic jokes punctuated his harshest reviews.*

3) **D**

proclivity (*noun*): a tendency to choose or do something regularly; an inclination toward a particular thing: *Even as a child, Tucker showed a proclivity toward reading, and he was rarely seen without a book in hand.*

4) **B**

licentious (*adjective*): promiscuous and unprincipled in sexual matters: *While in Paris, Ben Franklin lived a very licentious lifestyle, frequenting brothels and keeping several girlfriends.*

5) **E**

arcane (*adjective*): understood only by a few; mysterious or secret: *The professor struggled to make arcane philosophical ideas easy for students to understand, but, in her defense, there were probably only a dozen people in the world who totally understood them.*

6) **A**

indelible (*adjective*): not able to be forgotten or removed: *For Juan Carlos, the painful memories of his father's death were as indelible as the tattoo he got on his forearm.*

7) **B**

perfidious (*adjective*): deceitful and untrustworthy: *Melville's title character in *The Confidence-Man* is perfidious, and the reader would be wise to take everything said by him with a grain of salt.*

8) **C**

fastidious (*adjective*): very attentive to and concerned about accuracy and detail: *The magazine editor was fastidious when it came to the rules of grammar, and she would fire any copy editor who missed an errant punctuation mark or dangling modifier.*

9) **C**

alacrity (*noun*): brisk and cheerful readiness: *Isabella responded to the letter from the college's dean of admissions with alacrity, placing the acceptance letter in the mailbox almost instantly.*

10) **B**

decry (*verb*): to publicly denounce: *Though Charles Van Doren was not guilty of any crime, several members of Congress decry his role in the quiz show scandals, publicly admonishing him during his testimony to Congress.*