

• **Antonyms 2** Level 8

Directions: Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word in capital letters.

1. AMNESTY

- A. dismissal
- B. pardon
- C. forgiveness
- D. doom
- E. blame

2. ANXIETY

- A. annoyance
- B. unity
- C. harmony
- D. relief
- E. torment

3. RADICAL

- A. liberal
- B. obsolete
- C. conservative
- D. progressive
- E. typical

4. CHARITY

- A. corruption
- B. generosity
- C. gift
- D. theft
- E. vice

5. FROSTY

- A. sweltering
- B. chilly
- C. lukewarm
- D. humid
- E. nippy

6. WONDROUS

- A. unsurprising
- B. astounding
- C. unexpected
- D. astonishing
- E. commonplace

7. POMPOUS

- A. uppity
- B. humble
- C. plain
- D. grandiose
- E. intricate

8. MOTLEY

- A. uniform
- B. multicolored
- C. various
- D. similar
- E. drab

9. FLOURISH

- A. overflow
- B. seep
- C. dwindle
- D. deprecate
- E. sap

10. TYRANNY

- A. fascism
- B. democracy
- C. totalitarianism
- D. theocracy
- E. despotism

Answers and Explanations

1) **E**

The word *amnesty* means forgiveness or pardon. If a group of political prisoners receives amnesty, they are officially cleared of blame or guilt in the eyes of the law. The opposite of amnesty is accusations or assignments of guilt. Because *blame* means responsibility or guilt for a fault or wrong, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *dismissal* means permission to leave. This is not the opposite of *amnesty*.

(B) is incorrect because *pardon* means forgiveness or excusal. This is synonymous with *amnesty*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *forgiveness* means is the quality of not feeling angry or resentful toward someone for an offense. This is practically synonymous with *amnesty*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *doom* means condemnation to death. This is not the opposite of *amnesty*, as it is too extreme in meaning.

2) **D**

The word *anxiety* means worry or nervousness. Going to the dentist may cause anxiety if you are afraid that he or she will drill your teeth and cause you pain. The opposite of anxiety is comfort. Because *relief* is a feeling of reassurance following release from anxiety, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because an *annoyance* is a thing that irks or annoys someone. This is practically synonymous with *anxiety*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *unity* is the state of togetherness or being joined as a whole. This is not the opposite of *anxiety*.

(C) is incorrect because *harmony* is agreement or concord. This is not the opposite of *anxiety*, because an agreement does not necessarily prevent anxiety.

(E) is incorrect because *torment* is severe mental or physical suffering. This is not the opposite of *anxiety*.

3) **C**

The word *radical* means advocating extensive change or reform. A radical political activist is one who works to alter the political system, especially through revolution. The opposite of radical is not advocating change. Because *conservative* means advocating traditional values and beliefs, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *liberal* means open to new behavior. This is nearly synonymous with *radical*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *obsolete* means out of date or no longer used. This is not the opposite of *radical*.

(D) is incorrect because *progressive* means favoring social change or reform. This is nearly synonymous with *radical*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *typical* means characteristic of a particular person or thing. This is not the opposite of *radical*.

4) **D**

The word *charity* means the voluntary giving of money to those in need. When one donates a quarter to a homeless person, he or she is practicing charity. The opposite of charity is taking money. Because *theft* is stealing or taking what is not one's own property, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *corruption* is dishonest conduct by those in power. This is not the opposite of *charity*.

(B) is incorrect because *generosity* is the quality of being kind and generous. This is practically synonymous with *charity*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because a *gift* is something given willingly without payment. This is practically synonymous with *charity*, not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *vice* is immoral behavior. This is not the opposite of *charity*, because charity is not synonymous with moral behavior.

5) **A**

The word *frosty* means cold and covered in frost. Winters tend to be frosty. The opposite of frosty is hot. Because *sweltering* means uncomfortably hot, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *chilly* means cold. This is nearly synonymous with *frosty*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *lukewarm* means tepid or only moderately warm. This is not the opposite of *frosty*, because its meaning is not extreme enough.

(D) is incorrect because *humid* means moist or marked by a high level of water vapor in the atmosphere. This is not the opposite of *frosty*.

(E) is incorrect because *nippy* means rather cold. This is synonymous with *frosty*, not the opposite of it.

6) E

The word *wondrous* means amazing or marvelous. A spectacular sight such as a breathtaking mountain panorama would be described as wondrous. The opposite of wondrous is dull or not amazing. Because *commonplace* means ordinary or not unusual, choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *unsurprising* means not unexpected. This is not the opposite of *wondrous*, because something surprising is not necessarily amazing or wondrous.

(B) is incorrect because *astounding* means notable or impressive. This is practically synonymous with *wondrous*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *unexpected* means not regarded as likely to happen. This is not the opposite of *wondrous*.

(D) is incorrect because *astonishing* means amazing. This is synonymous with *wondrous*, not the opposite of it.

7) B

The word *pompous* means affectedly self-important or arrogant. Someone who tries to affect an image of being high class might be pompous. The opposite of pompous is modest or unassuming. Because *humble* means modest, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *uppity* means self-important or arrogant. This is synonymous with *pompous*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *plain* means unadorned. This is not the opposite of *pompous*, because being adorned and being arrogant are not synonymous.

(D) is incorrect because *grandiose* means impressively magnificent in style. This is not the opposite of *pompous*.

(E) is incorrect because *intricate* means complex. This is not the opposite of *pompous*.

8) A

The word *motley* means made up of disparate or mismatched parts. A group of soldiers wearing completely different uniforms from one another would be a motley crew. The opposite of motley is homogeneous or the same throughout. Because *uniform* means identical or of a similar form throughout, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *multicolored* means of several colors. This is practically synonymous with *motley*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *various* means different from one another. This is synonymous with *motley*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *similar* means alike but not identical. This is not the opposite of *motley*, because being alike is not synonymous with being identical throughout.

(E) is incorrect because *drab* means dull or cheerless. This is not the opposite of *motley*.

9) C

The word *flourish* means to prosper or develop rapidly and successfully. If a new species of plant flourishes somewhere, it is quickly spreading throughout the area. The opposite of flourish is not to prosper or grow. Because *dwindle* means to diminish gradually in size or strength, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *overflow* means to be in excess. This is not the opposite of *flourish*.

(B) is incorrect because *seep* means to flow or leak slowly through a porous material. This is not the opposite of *flourish*.

(D) is incorrect because *deprecate* means to express disapproval. This is not the opposite of *flourish*.

(E) is incorrect because *sap* means to weaken. This is not the opposite of *flourish*, because to weaken and is not the same thing as to decrease in size.

10) B

The word *tyranny* means a cruel and oppressive government or rule. The citizens of a tyrannical government have very few rights. The opposite of tyranny is a government that is not cruel or oppressive. Because *democracy* is a government by the people in which citizens have many rights, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *fascism* is a governmental system marked by complete devotion to the nation-state and a dictator who controls everything. This is practically synonymous with *tyranny*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *totalitarianism* is a centralized government in which the people are subservient to the state. This is practically synonymous with *tyranny*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *theocracy* is a system of government in which priests rule in the name of God. This is not the opposite of *tyranny*.

(E) is incorrect because *despotism* is the cruel and oppressive exercise of absolute power. This is practically synonymous with *tyranny*, not the opposite of it.