1. aberration

**100 Words**

2. abhor

3. acquiesce

4. alacrity

5. amiable

6. appease

7. arcane

8. avarice

9. brazen

10. brusque

11. cajole

12. callous

13. candour

14. chide

15. circumspect

16. clandestine

17. coerce

18. coherent

19. complacency

20. confidant

21. connive

22. cumulative

23. cynical

24. debase

25. decry

26. deferential

27. demure

28. deride

29. despot

30. diligent

31. elated

32. eloquent

33. embezzle

34. empathy

35. enmity

36. erudite

37. extol

38. fabricate

39. feral

40. forsake

41. fractious

42. furtive

43. gluttony

44. gratuitous

45. haughty

46. hypocrisy

47. impeccable

48. impertinent

49. implacable

50. implicit

51. impudent

52. incisive

53. indolent

54. inept

55. infamy

56. inhibit

57. innate

58. insatiable

59. insular

60. intrepid

61. inveterate

62. jubilant

63. lithe

64. lurid

65. maverick

66. maxim

67. meticulous

68. modicum

69. morose

70. myriad

71. nadir

72. nominal

73. novice

74. nuance

75. oblivious

76. obsequious

77. obtuse

78. panacea

79. parody

80. penchant

81. perusal

82. plethora

83. predilection

84. quaint

85. rash

86. refurbish

87. repudiate

88. rife

89. salient

90. serendipity

91. staid

92. superfluous

93. sycophant

94. taciturn

95. truculent

96. umbrage

97. venerable

98. vociferous

99. wanton

100. zenith

This list of words was originally created by **@RealGeoffBarton**: [http://geoffbarton.co.uk/files/student-resources/GCSE-A\*/GB-Top-level-vocab.pdf](http://geoffbarton.co.uk/files/student-resources/GCSE-A%2A/GB-Top-level-vocab.pdf)

Questions compiled by **@GCSE\_Macbeth**

**aberration**

*(n).* something that differs from the norm (*In 1974, Poland won the World Cup,*

*but the success turned out to be an aberration, and Poland have not won a World*

*Cup since).*

**abhor**

*(v).* to hate or detest something

**acquiesce**

*(v).* to agree to something without protesting: *I acquiesced to her demands*

**alacrity**

*(n).* eagerness, speed: *move with alacrity*

**amiable**

*(adj).* friendly

**appease**

*(v).* to calm, satisfy: *I appeased my teacher by giving in my homework*

**arcane**

*(adj).* very old,obscure, known only by a few

**avarice**

*(n).* excessive greed

**brazen**

*(adj).* excessively bold, brash, clear and obvious

**brusque**

*(adj).* short, abrupt, dismissive, rude

**cajole**

*(v).* to urge, coax; persuade someone to do something

**callous**

*(adj).* harsh, cold, unfeeling

**candour**

*(n).* honesty, frankness: *speak with candour*

**chide**

*(v).* to voice disapproval (*Hania chided Gregory for his vulgar habits and sloppy*

*appearance).*

**circumspect**

*(adj).* cautious, thinking about different options

**clandestine**

*(adj).* secret, sneaky

**coerce**

*(v).* to make somebody do something by force or threat: *I coerced him into staying quiet*

**coherent**

*(adj).* logically consistent, intelligible

**complacency**

*(n).* a feeling of ease, arrogance, ignoring problems

**confidant**

*(n).* a person entrusted with secrets

**connive**

*(v).* to plot, scheme, make a sneaky

**cumulative**

*(adj).* increasing, building upon itself, a total of everything: *the cumulative effect of all my days being late to work was that I got fired*

**cynical**

(*adj*). believing the worst of others, especially that all acts are selfish; seeing things in the worst possible wy

**debase**

*(v).* to lower the quality of something; cause something to be seen in a bad way

**decry**

*(v).* to criticize something openly

**deferential**

*(adj).* showing respect for another’s authority

**demure**

*(adj).* quiet, modest, reserved, humble

**deride**

*(v).* to laugh at mockingly, scorn

**despot**

*(n).* one who has total power and rules brutally

**diligent**

*(adj).* showing care in doing one’s work; thorough, careful

**elated**

*(adj).* overjoyed, thrilled, very happy

**eloquent**

*(adj).* expressive, articulate, moving: *give an eloquent speech*

**embezzle**

*(v).* to steal money by falsifying records (The accountant was fired for *embezzling*

€10,000 of the company’s funds).

**empathy**

*(n).* sensitivity to another’s feelings; an ability to imagine yourself in someone else’s position

**enmity**

*(n).* ill will, hatred, hostility

**erudite**

*(adj).* learned, clever, academic

**extol**

*(v).* to praise something, tell others how good it is

**fabricate**

*(v).* to make up, invent

**feral**

*(adj).* wild, savage, uncivilised

**forsake**

*(v).* to give up, renounce, turn your back on something: *I will never forsake my country*

**fractious**

*(adj).* troublesome or irritable, on the verge of causing disruption: *after a long car journey on a hot day the children got fractious*

**furtive**

*(adj).* secretive, sly; hoping that no-one will notice

**gluttony**

*(n).* overindulgence in food or drink; greediness

**gratuitous**

*(adj).* uncalled for, unwarranted, unnecessary

**haughty**

*(adj).* disdainfully proud, arrogant, thinking you’re above others

**hypocrisy**

*(n).* pretending to believe what one does not; doing something one has spoken against

**impeccable**

*(adj).* exemplary, flawless (If your grades were as *impeccable* as your brother’s,

then you too would receive a car for a graduation present).

**impertinent**

*(adj).* rude, insolent, disrespectful

**implacable**

*(adj).* incapable of being appeased or mitigated

**implicit**

*(n).* Implied or understood without being directly stated

**impudent**

*(adj).* casually rude, insolent, impertinent

**incisive**

*(adj).* clear, sharp, direct; getting to the really important point of something

**indolent**

*(adj).* lazy, happy doing nothing

**inept**

*(adj).* not suitable or capable, unqualified

**infamy**

*(n).* notoriety, and extremely bad reputation

**inhibit**

*(v).* to prevent, restrain, stop

**innate**

*(adj).* inborn, native, inherent

**insatiable**

*(adj).* incapable of being satisfied

**insular**

*(adj).* separated and narrow-minded; tight-knit, closed off; not welcoming to others

**intrepid**

*(adj).* brave in the face of danger

**inveterate**

*(adj).* in the long-standing habit of something; very experienced

**jubilant**

*(adj).* extremely joyful, happy, celebrating

**lithe**

*(adj).* graceful, flexible, supple

**lurid**

*(adj).* bright and garish; also: ghastly, sensational, having shocking details

**maverick**

*(n).* an independent, nonconformist person

**maxim**

*(n).* a common saying expressing a principle of conduct

**meticulous**

*(adj).* extremely careful with details

**modicum**

*(n).* a small amount of something

**morose**

*(adj).* gloomy or sullen, in a sulky or sad mood

**myriad**

*(adj).* a very great number of something: *she had myriad good ideas*

**nadir**

*(n).* the lowest point of something

**nominal**

*(adj).* trifling, insignificant; “in name only”

**novice**

*(n).* a beginner, someone without training or experience

**nuance**

*(n).* a slight variation in meaning, tone, expression; a subtlety

**oblivious**

*(adj).* lacking consciousness or awareness of something; ignorant about others

**obsequious**

*(adj).* excessively compliant or submissive

**obtuse**

*(adj).* lacking quickness of sensibility or intellect; slow to realise something

**panacea**

*(n).* a remedy for all ills or difficulties

**parody**

*(n).* an imitation; something making fun of something else

**penchant**

*(n).* a tendency, partiality, preference: *I have a penchant for Italian food*

**perusal**

*(n).* a careful examination, review

**plethora**

*(n).* an abundance, excess: *my nephew received a plethora of Christmas presents*

**predilection**

*(n).* a preference or inclination for something

**quaint**

*(adj).* charmingly old-fashioned

**rash**

*(adj).* hasty, incautious, not sensible

**refurbish**

*(v).* to restore, clean up, make something like new: *refurbish an old house*

**repudiate**

*(v).* to reject, refuse to accept: she *repudiated* my best ideas

**rife**

*(adj).* abundant, something that appears in many places

**salient**

*(adj).* significant, conspicuous

**serendipity**

*(n).* goodluck, finding good things without looking for them

**staid**

*(adj).* sedate, serious, self-restrained, boring

**superfluous**

*(adj).* exceeding what is necessary

**sycophant**

*(n).* one who wants to flatter or stay on the good side of someone else

**taciturn**

*(adj).* not inclined to talk, saying little

**truculent**

*(adj).* ready to fight, cruel

**umbrage**

*(n).* resentment, offence: *I take umbrage at your rude suggestion*

**venerable**

*(adj).* deserving of respect because of age or achievement

**vociferous**

*(adj).* loud, boisterous, talking a lot about something

**wanton**

*(adj).* undisciplined, doing things for no good reason; can also mean lewd or lustful

**zenith**

*(n).* the highest point, the point when something is at its most powerful. Also the point in the sky directly overhead.

**Section A**

**You will need to check the definitions of two words to answer each question.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Statement** | **Question** |
| 1.  | Jasmine was one of the most **amiable** people you could ever meet. She had an **insatiable** appetite for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. | **Which answer is most likely to fill in the gap?**1. meeting new people
2. confrontation
3. spending time alone
 |
| 2.  | Rav was **vociferous** in his support for Manchester United, but some people said he was trying to **appease** his older brother. | **Which of these answers is implied by the statement?**1. Rav’s older brother supports Manchester United
2. Rav rarely talks about Manchester United
3. Ranveer’s older brother is trying to impress him
 |
| 3. | The boys were making each other laugh by doing impressions of their teacher. But one boy, Sam, wouldn’t join in.“Go on Sam,” said his friend Ben. “We’re just doing a **parody** of Mr Smith. Stop being such a **sycophant**.” | Re-write each sentence so it keeps the same meaning, but without the words **parody** or **sycophant:**1. “We’re just doing a parody of Mr Smith.”

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_1. “Stop being such a sycophant.”

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 4.  | All of the **inveterate** England fans were **jubilant** after today’s cricket match. | **What might have happened in the cricket match?** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5.  | John’s boss said to him, “I trust you **implicitly** to do your job well. I hope today’s events were an **aberration**.” | **Which of these answers is implied by the statement?**1. John’s boss always doubted John’s ability
2. John did badly at his job today
3. John’s boss often tells John how good he is at his job
 |
| 6.  | “Winning that award was the **zenith** of her acting career. But she said got there through hard work, not **serendipity**.” | **Which of these answers gives a summary of the statement?**1. Everyone has good luck and bad luck.
2. Reaching the top requires hard work
3. Luck can bring you success
 |
| 7.  | Sami really **abhorred** her sister’s **brusque** way of talking to people. Sami wished \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. | **Which answer is most likely to fill in the gap?**1. she could witness her sister being brusque more often
2. her sister would be more polite and chatty
3. she was brusque too
 |
| 8.  | Sonia has only been training as a doctor for a few weeks. She meets with a more experienced doctor, Alice, whom she trusts enough to tell some of the mistakes she has made. | Who is a **confidant** in this situation, and who is a **novice**?**Confidant**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Novice**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 9.  | Ali seemed to have an **innate** ability to sing; his brother Aryan, however, was musically **inept**. | **Which of the two brothers is a good singer?**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 10. | My mother said she can **empathise** with how her children feel but she still has to **chide** them for their behaviour sometimes. | **Which of these answers summarises the mother’s view?**1. If you understand how a child feels then it’s impossible to criticise them.
2. If your children do something wrong then you have to tell them off even if you understand their feelings.
3. Mothers can’t understand how their children feel.
 |
| 11. | The teacher liked the essay I wrote for homework. He said it was easy to follow and my ideas were in a logical order. But he also said it was full of spelling mistakes and the handwriting was messy. | **Which word best describes the piece of homework?****Impeccable \_\_\_****Coherent \_\_\_** |
| 12. | Rebecca came to my birthday party. She hardly spoke to anyone. She just sat there sipping her drink.Kate said, “She just doesn’t like to be loud or draw attention to herself.”Sophie said, “She just thinks she’s better than everyone else.” | Who is suggesting that Rebecca is **haughty**?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Who is suggesting that Rebecca is **demure**?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 13. | Climate change has created many different issues, but some world leaders pretend not to notice them. | Re-write the sentence to include the words **oblivious** and **plethora**. |
| 14. | The adviser was **deferential** to the King in person, but would **decry** the King’s leadership to his friends. | **Which word shows that the adviser does not truly agree with the King?****Deferential \_\_\_****Decry \_\_\_** |
| 15. | The young boxer had only taken part in five fights, but she won them all. She started to train a little less because she wasn’t scared of any opponent. | **Which of these words is more likely to describe the boxer?****Complacent \_\_\_****Venerable \_\_\_** |
| 16. | People in power should listen to **\_\_\_\_A\_\_\_\_** comments if they want to know the truth, not just \_\_\_\_**B**\_\_\_\_ ones. | Place the words **incisive** and **obsequious** into the correct spaces.**A:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**B:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 17. | Fans of the football club said that Joe Smith’s **infamy** as a player shouldn’t **inhibit** his ambition to be the manager. | **Which of these statements gives the most accurate summary of Joe Smith’s situation?**1. Joe Smith’s reputation as a player means he would be a bad manager.
2. Joe Smith had a good reputation as a player but would be a bad manager.
3. Joe Smith had a bad reputation as a player but he could still make a good manager.
 |
| 18. | I’m normally a very hard-working and organised student, but my parents always hide my Xbox when I have exams because they know how much I love video games. | Re-write the sentence to include the words **diligent** and **penchant**. |
| 19. | I told my grandmother she was too old to understand comic book movies. I meant it to be \_\_\_\_**A**\_\_\_but unfortunately I think she took my words as \_\_\_**B**\_\_. | Place the words **candour** and **impudence** into the correct spaces.**A:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**B:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 20. | 1. A cottage in the woods with a log fire
2. Someone giving a beautiful speech at a wedding
3. A letter expressing your feelings to someone you love
4. A set of porcelain dolls that have been in your family for five generations
 | Which two things in the list are more likely to be described as **eloquent**, and which are more likely to be described as **quaint**?**eloquent**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**quaint**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 21. | Zara has a **predilection** for Chinese food. | **What would Zara prefer?**1. her local area to be **rife** with good Chinese restaurants
2. her local area to *not* be **rife** with good Chinese restaurants
 |
| 22. | “The way you’re talking to me is **impertinent**,” the teacher said. “You need to show a **modicum** of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” | **What is the most likely ending to the teacher’s sentence?**1. punctuality
2. respect
3. hard work
 |
| 23. | 1. Our team has a **nominal** captain, but since we all know our roles and cooperate with each other, her job is mostly **superfluous**.
2. I gave my friend a small amount for his comic books, but since he has plenty of money, what I gave him was probably unnecessary.
 | Re-write sentence **b)** to include the words **nominal** and **superfluous**. |

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| 24. | Investigating the murder, police discovered that Jones must be innocent. When the murder occurred, Jones was on the other side of town, meeting his secret girlfriend and filling a paddling pool with champagne. | If you were investigating the murder in this situation, what is one **lurid** detail and what is one **salient** detail?**Lurid**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Salient**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 25. | **\_\_\_A\_\_\_,** scholarly people could be seen in the library, having **\_\_\_B\_\_\_,** whispered conversations. | Place the words **furtive** and **erudite** into the correct spaces.**A:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**B:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 26. | During World War 2, it seemed that British soldiers were fighting an **implacable** enemy. Nearly 400,000 of their soldiers died, but if the British had been too **circumspect** in taking action then the number of victims could have been much higher. | **Which answer summarises this view of Britain in World War 2?**1. the British army could have saved more soldiers’ lives by being more careful
2. it would have been better to try to negotiate with enemy forces
3. the British were right to take action because the enemy soldiers couldn’t be stopped any other way
 |
| 27. | My friend asked for a third slice of my birthday cake; if I was being extremely harsh I would say he was just greedy. | Re-write the sentence to include the words **callous** and **gluttony**. |
| 28. | He was a **taciturn** man. He spoke publicly to **repudiate** the false accusations made against him. | Would someone who is normally **taciturn** probably find it more, or less, difficult to **repudiate** false accusations?More difficult: \_\_\_Less difficult: \_\_\_ |
| 29. | My friend tried to \_\_\_**A**\_\_\_ me into attending the concert with her. Eventually I \_\_\_**B**\_\_\_ to her demands. | Place the words **acquiesced** and **coerced** into the correct spaces.**A:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**B:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 30. | My sister normally leads an **indolent** life during the summer holidays, but when I offered her a day out at the beach she got ready with **alacrity**. | Re-write these phrases with the same meaning, but without using the words **indolent** or **alacrity**:1. She leads an indolent life

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_1. She got ready with alacrity

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 31. | On Christmas Day my whole family wakes up at 4am to chop firewood in the freezing cold garden. This **arcane** tradition is the **nadir** of my Christmas. | Re-write this sentence with the same meaning, but without using the words **arcane** or **nadir**:This arcane tradition is the nadir of my Christmas. |
| 32. | Many historical **despots** have been notable for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Finish the sentence with a phrase including the word **brazen** or **brazenly**. |
| 33. | Here’s one example of my father’s **hypocrisy**. He would **deride** unhealthy eaters when we were out, but at home he would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Finish the sentence with a possible example of the father’s **hypocrisy**. |
| 34. | By the end of our long car journey, the children in the back seat were becoming **fractious**. | What is something you might try to **cajole** a **fractious** child into doing? |
| 35. | I made a \_\_\_**A**\_\_\_ plan of all my meals and snacks each week of the year. The \_\_\_**B**\_\_\_ effect was that I lost weight and saved money. | Place the words **cumulative** and **meticulous** into the correct spaces.**A:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**B:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 36. | He \_\_\_**A**\_\_\_ with his co-worker and together they \_\_\_**B**\_\_\_ the company’s money. | Place the words **connived** and **embezzled** into the correct spaces.**A:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**B:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 37. | **Avarice** can be a source of great **enmity**. | **Which answer best summarises this sentence?**1. Disagreeing with someone is a good way to make money.
2. People often fight over money.
3. Greedy people get along well with each other.
 |
| 38. | It would be **rash** to make a decision without a careful **perusal** of the information. | Re-write the sentence to have the same meaning, but without the words **rash** or **perusal**. |
| 39. | He was called \_\_\_**A**\_\_\_ when he left his job and sold all his possessions; he was later described as \_\_\_**B**\_\_\_ when he hiked into the Alaskan wilderness to live alone and hunt for his own food. | Place the phrases **feral** and **a maverick** into the correct spaces.**A:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**B:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 40. | The two women were in opposite moods: Amy was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but Mya was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. | **Choose two of these words that describe opposite moods and place them into the empty spaces.****elated****lithe****morose** |
| 41. | Beth has **forsaken** a vegan diet; Charlotte thinks of it as a **panacea**.  | **Who is more positive about a vegan diet?**1. Beth
2. Charlotte
 |
| 42. | Some people believe that the government hides evidence of extra-terrestrial life.Dani thinks there is a **clandestine** government plot.Eddie believes the evidence is **fabricated**.  | **Who is more likely to believe that the government hides evidence of extra-terrestrial life?**1. Dani
2. Eddie
 |
| 43. | “Treat others how you would like to be treated” is a \_\_\_**A**\_\_\_ with \_\_\_**B**\_\_\_ different applications in daily life. | Place the words **maxim** and **myriad** into the correct spaces.**A:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**B:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 44. | Jay’s friend took **umbrage** when Jay suggested his house needed to be **refurbished**. | Why do you think Jay’s comment made his friend take **umbrage**? |
| 45. | explain nuances obtuse poem student teacher tried | Write a sentence including all of these words, using **nuances** and **obtuse** correctly. |
| 46. | The pirate treasure was buried on a forgotten island, in the middle of a swamp full of crocodiles, surrounded by shark-infested sea. There was a legend that the treasure was cursed. | Who would be more likely to hunt for the pirate treasure?1. someone **intrepid**
2. someone **staid**
 |
| 47. | My friend is a dancer. She **extols** the value of exercise. She says it keeps you **lithe**. | Re-write these phrases with the same meaning, but without using the words **extols** or **lithe**:1. She extols the value of exercise.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_1. She says it keeps you lithe.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 48. | Greg played football with a complete disregard for the rules. He was known for **wanton** and **gratuitous** aggression when he played. | Re-write the sentence, keeping the same meaning, but without using the words **wanton** or **gratuitous**. |
| 49. | His **cynical** way of thinking eventually made him **insular**. | **Which answer best summarises the sentence?**1. He was lonely and it made him think the worst of people.
2. He repeated the same behaviour over and over again.
3. Thinking the worst of people made him lose interest in being with others.
 |
| 50. | The angry bride said to her brother, “Your **truculent** attitude is **debasing** my wedding day.” | **What might the brother have been doing that his sister was angry about?** |

**Section B**

**Putting the words into sentences**

Each question has a sentence starter using one of the **key words**. Finish the sentence using the other given key word.

Some of the key words have been transformed into different word classes; transform them again if you want to.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 51. | I am a vegetarian, so it was an **aberration** when…**(furtively)**I crept downstairs and **furtively** took a bite of a chicken sandwich. |
| 52. | There was a **feral** man living in the woods near my home, and…**(infamous)**he became **infamous** for walking around our streets at night. |
| 53. | I thought I had an **amiable** relationship with my cousin, but…**(connived)** |
| 54. | Sarah spent the summer feeling **morose**. She…**(forsook)** |
| 55. | Because of my **enmity** with the boy who used to be my friend…**(decried)** |
| 56. | Maggie normally lived an **insular** life, but…**(brazenly)** |
| 57. | It’s easy to **deride** someone who…**(gluttonously)** |
| 58. | Using an **arcane** recipe and ancient methods, the wizard…**(panacea)** |
| 59. | The most **erudite** people often have…**(penchant)** |
| 60. | I often want to say something **impertinent** when…**(haughty)** |
| 61. | Feeling like a **maverick**, the soldier**(alacrity)** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 62. | “Don’t count your chickens before they’ve hatched” is a **maxim**…**(circumspect)** |
| 63. | **Eloquent** people…**(plethora)** |
| 64. | Amira did **meticulous** research and revision before her exam and…**(impeccable)** |
| 65. | I have always had a **predilection** for staying in bed late but…**(modicum)** |
| 66. | I feel guilty about the **callous** way I used to treat my sister. Looking back, …**(nadir)** |
| 67. | It’s difficult for a **novice**…**(coherent)** |
| 68. | Although her behaviour was normally **demure**…**(impudent)** |
| 69. | I am totally **inept** at DIY; …**(refurbishing)** |
| 70. | **Despotic** rulers…**(obsequious)** |
| 71. | It was an amazing bit of **serendipity** when…**(quaint)** |
| 72. |  My next-door neighbour was a **taciturn** old man who lived alone, but…**(jubilant)** |
| 73. | I needed to consult an expert on history for the **salient** information, so…**(inveterate)** |
| 74. | My parents were strict, and we understood **implicitly** what happened if we misbehaved…**(fractious)** |
| 75. | I have an **insatiable** appetite for comic book movies; …**(cumulatively)** |
| 76. | Sam often got into trouble with his **truculent** behaviour; …**(chided)** |
| 77. | The church’s chief minister was a **hypocrite**. He was preaching about morality while…**(embezzling)** |
| 78. | Even when my career as a pianist was at its **zenith**, …**(abhorred)** |
| 79. | The President took **umbrage** when his advisers questioned his decisions; …**(sycophant)** |
| 80. | **Parody** means…**(deferential)** |
| 81. | I order to **appease** my friend, I…**(acquiesce)** |
| 82. | You would never expect such a **staid** person as my friend’s dad to…**(lurid)** |
| 83. | Her **avarice** was apparent in…**(wanton)** |
| 84. | He was always **vociferous** when he cared about something deeply, but…**(brusque)** |
| 85. | The **venerable** old man next door certainly had my respect, but…**(cajole)** |
| 86. | I was normally quiet and **inhibited** at work, but…**(candour)** |
| 87. | Only the Queen’s closest **confidants** would ever…**(clandestine)** |
| 88. | With enough money, you can **coerce**…**(implacable)** |
| 89. | The best students never experience **complacency**; they…**(diligent)** |
| 90. | I was normally **cynical** about the supposedly fun activities my parents planned for our family, but…**(elated)** |
| 91. | The zombie virus was **rife**; …**(intrepid)** |
| 92. | There were **myriad** reasons to be angry with the school bully, but…**(empathy)** |
| 93. | I was an **indolent** teenager, who thought…**(superfluous)** |
| 94. | “Are you really this **obtuse**,” she snapped, “or…**(oblivious)** |
| 95. | My parents planned a beautiful dinner party for my 16th birthday, but it was rather **debased** in my opinion by…**(gratuitous)** |
| 96 | Some people **repudiate** the idea that there is such a thing as a “best movie ever”, but…**(extol)** |
| 97. | Were the objects in the museum real or **fabricated**? I…**(perusal)** |
| 98. | I won the essay prize for my **incisive** exploration of…**(nuance)** |
| 99. | “Even for someone as naturally **lithe** as you,” my coach said, “…**(rash)** |
| 100. | He did a **nominal** amount of violin practice every day to keep his teacher happy, but…**(innate)** |

**Section C**

**Literary contexts**

The key words in this section appear in literary contexts: they are used metaphorically, ironically (with a meaning different to what it first appears), or for descriptive or humorous effect.

Read each example and answer the question. Some of these questions are **challenging** and you will need a dictionary to help with the language.

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| 101. | On a crowded Tube train during rush hour, the sight of someone offering their seat to another traveller is an **aberration**.What does this suggest about the attitude of travellers on the Tube? |
| 102. | “I can so clearly distinguish between the criminal and his crime; I can so sincerely forgive the first while I **abhor** the last.”-- *Jane Eyre*, Chapter 6In your own words, summarise the speaker’s attitude towards criminals. |
| 103. | The storm bent the tree almost double, as if hoping to uproot it. It wanted the tree torn down – and in the early hours of morning, the tree **acquiesced**.What happens to the tree in this description? |
| 104. | KING RICHARD: Give me a bowl of wine:I have not that **alacrity** of spirit,Nor cheer of mind, that I was wont to have.-- *Richard III*, Act V Sc 3What do you think King Richard means by “alacrity of spirit”?  |
| 105. | It was not in Jane’s nature to question the veracity of a young man of such **amiable** appearance as Wickham-- *Pride and Prejudice*, Chapter 17What do you learn about the way Jane judges people?(veracity = honesty / truthfulness)  |
| 106. | With a mocking smile, he placed one hand upon my shoulder and, holding me tight, bared my throat with the other, saying as he did so, “First, a little refreshment to reward my exertions. You may as well be quiet; it is not the first time, or the second, that your veins have **appeased** my thirst!”-- *Dracula*, Chapter 21The character of Dracula is a vampire. What does he mean by telling another character “your veins have appeased my thirst”? |
| 107. | I was sent away to boarding school in what looked like a crumbling old castle in the countryside. It was very different to my old school: I spent the first term learning my way around its twisting, maze-like corridors and the **arcane** rituals that governed every moment of the day. What does the word **arcane** tell you about the school in the description? |
| 108. | Scrooge saw himself. He was older now; a man in the prime of life. His face had not the harsh and rigid lines of later years; but it had begun to wear the signs of care and **avarice**.-- *A Christmas Carol*, Chapter 2 What do you learn about Scrooge in this description?(**care** = worry) |
| 109. | We played on the beach all day, running back and forth to the edge of the sea as the sun beat **brazenly** down on us, until the day was **brusquely** interrupted by a thunderstorm.In your own words, how did the day’s weather seem to the people on the beach?  |
| 110. | The sailor looked back at his homeland, not wanting to leave, but in time the breeze **cajoled** the little wooden boat away from the shore and out to sea.In your own words, describe the movement of the boat in this description. |
| 111. | From what I saw, all these buccaneers were as **callous** as the sea they sailed on.-- *Treasure Island*, Chapter 23What is the speaker suggesting about the buccaneers (pirates), and about the sea? |
| 112. | MAY-FLOWER.Pink, small, and punctual,Aromatic, low,Covert in April,**Candid** in May-- ‘Nature’, Emily DickinsonWhat happens to the May-flower in April and in May? |
| 113. | The sun shone brightly through my bedroom curtains, **chiding** me for staying in bed so late.How does the speaker here feel about being woken up? |
| 114. | I walked with the utmost **circumspection**, to avoid treading on any stragglers who might remain in the streets, although the orders were very strict, that all people should keep in their houses, at their own peril.-- *Gulliver’s Travels*, Chapter 4Gulliver is a normal man in a world of tiny people just a few inches high. How is he walking, and why? |
| 115. | A winding, narrow path led me into the forest, past twisted old trees that seemed to **coerce** me onwards into the darkness. It was the ideal place for a **clandestine** meeting.What emotions does the speaker in this description feel in the forest? |
| 116. | Her words were rapid, **incoherent**, unintelligible, for the burning weight of grief almost stopped her utterance.-- *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Chapter 73What does the word **incoherent** tell you about the woman’s emotions? |
| 117. | I shunned the face of man; all sound of joy or **complacency** was torture to me; solitude was my only consolation—deep, dark, deathlike solitude.--*Frankenstein*, Chapter 9In your own words, what sort of feelings does the speaker hate in other people? |
| 118. | “In the course of your future life you will often find yourself elected the involuntary **confidant** of your acquaintances’ secrets.”-- *Jane Eyre*, Chapter 14In your own words, what do you think the speaker means by “involuntary confidant”? Is it a good thing or a bad thing? |
| 119. | We had a beautiful daytrip planned by boat up the river; the weather **connived** against us, and we travelled a **cumulative** total of three hundred metres.In your own words, explain what happened on the day of the planned boat trip. |
| 120. | “What is a **cynic**? A man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.”-- *Lady Windemere’s Fan*, Act 3According to this speaker, what does it mean to have a cynical attitude?  |
| 121. | My sister **decried** my choice of picnic items, saying that egg sandwiches “**debased** our picnic and probably debased our family’s reputation.”How would you describe the tone of the sister’s comments? |
| 122.  | "You will find that the place is rough, sir," says Mr. Snagsby, walking **deferentially** in the road and leaving the narrow pavement to the lawyer.-- *Bleak House*, Chapter 10How would you describe the relationship between Mr. Snagsby and “the lawyer” in this description? |
| 123. | “My child,” replied his mother, “you have seen That **demure** hypocrite we call a Cat: Under that sleek and inoffensive mien He bears a deadly hate of Mouse and Rat.”-- ‘The Cock, the Cat, and the Young Mouse’, W. Lucas CollinsWhat is meant by describing as cat as a “demure hypocrite”? |
| 124. | HELENA: Injurious Hermia! most ungrateful maid!Have you conspired, have you with these contrivedTo bait me with this foul **derision**?-- *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Act 3 Sc 2What does Helena seem to be accusing Hermia of doing? |
| 125. | Ere the tiny thing could stammer a word or totter a step it wielded a **despot's** sceptre in his heart.-- *Wuthering Heights*, Chapter 17This is a description of a baby. What impression do you get of the baby in this description? |
| 126. | “I entered with the greatest **diligence** into the search of the philosopher’s stone and the elixir of life; but the latter soon obtained my undivided attention.”-- *Frankenstein*, Chapter 2What impression do you get of the speaker from the word “diligence” in this sentence? |
| 127. | My cousin Mary, whom I hated,Informed me we were not related.She hoped that I’d be devastated;I simply stated: “I’m **elated**”.Summarise the speaker’s feelings towards his cousin in this poem. |
| 128. | JULIET: O, here comes my nurse,And she brings news; and every tongue that speaksFair Romeo's name speaks heavenly **eloquence**.-- *Romeo and Juliet*, Act 3 Sc 2What feelings about Romeo is Juliet expressing here? |
| 129. | The teacher looked quizzically at Sam. “Where’s your homework?” she asked.Sam looked up innocently. “My computer **embezzled** it.”What do you think Sam is claiming happened to his homework?  |
| 130. | The celebrated actor Meryl Streep has said “**empathy** is at the heart of the actor’s art.”What do you think she means? Why is empathy important for actors? |
| 131. | “There is no greater, more bitter **enmity** than that between my birthday and sunny weather.”In your own words, what is the speaker complaining about? |
| 132. | Ten minutes after the lecture was supposed to start, the Professor arrived. His hair was dripping wet and his jacket was soaked through. He trudged to the lectern. “It’s raining,” he said. He was a very **erudite** man.How would you describe the speaker’s tone in this account? |
| 133. | And thus is it the humour of many heads, to **extol** the days of their forefathers, and declaim against the wickedness of times present.-- Thomas Browne, 1605-1682In your own words, what point is Browne making? |
| 134. | The word **fabricate** comes from the Latin verb *fabricare*, meaning “to construct, fashion or build”.To **fabricate** can mean to construct something or to tell a lie. **Fabricated** can mean either man-made or fake. A **fabrication** is a lie.Write a sentence using two different senses of the word “fabricate”.  |
| 135. | “There is a rule for what time I have to get to school; there is a rule for what I have to wear; there are rules for what I can and can’t eat; there are rules for what colour pen I can and can’t use. If I could **forsake** my education and turn **feral**, I would.”In your own words, how does the speaker feel about school, and what does she dream about doing? |
| 136. | The hot weather made my children, and our battered old family car, equally **fractious**.In your own words, what experience is the narrator having? |
| 137. | We crossed broad natural lawns sparkling with dew, and we moved like spirits, the cushioned turf giving out no sound of footfall; we dreamed along through glades in a mist of green light that got its tint from the sun-drenched roof of leaves overhead, and by our feet the clearest and coldest of runlets went frisking and gossiping over its reefs and making a sort of whispering music, comfortable to hear; and at times we left the world behind and entered into the solemn great deeps and rich gloom of the forest, where **furtive** wild things whisked and scurried by and were gone before you could even get your eye on the place where the noise was.-- *A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur’s Court*, Chapter 12What does the word “furtive” tell you about the wild things and what impression does it give of the place in this description? |
| 138. | **Gluttony** chastises the glutton. Indigestion was sent into the world to read a lecture to our stomachs; and, bear this in mind, each of our passions, even love, has a stomach which must not be filled too full.-- *Les Miserables*, Book 3 Chapter 7In your own words, what point is the speaker making about gluttony? |
| 139. | A man called Mr. Huntingdon has just asked a woman called Annabella to sing.I knew Annabella’s musical talents were superior to mine, but that was no reason why I should be treated as a perfect nonentity. The time and the manner of his asking her appeared like a **gratuitous** insult to me; and I could have wept with pure vexation.-- *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, Chapter 19In your own words, how does the narrator feel about what Mr. Huntingdon asked? |
| 140. | PAGE: My lord, I know a discontented gentleman,Whose humble means match not his **haughty** mind-- *Richard III*, Act 4 Sc 2What do you learn about the gentleman from the Page’s words? |
| 141. | Politeness: the most acceptable **hypocrisy**.-- *The Devil’s Dictionary*She had an evil face, smoothed by **hypocrisy**; but her manners were excellent.-- *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, Chapter 4What are both these writers suggesting about politeness? |
| 142. | After weeks of putting it off, I finally found just the right moment to ask Sophia to come to the school disco with me. I was nervous. Sophia was nervous. I took a deep breath and –My dad burst into the room, clutching my school planner. He had **impeccable** timing.What does the speaker mean by “impeccable timing” here? |
| 143. | Mrs Smith has taught at my school for years. She taught my father when he was fourteen, and now she teaches me.At parents’ evening she said to my father, “Before I taught your son I didn’t know that **impertinence** was hereditary.”What is Mrs Smith suggesting about the speaker and his father? |
| 144. | **Implacable** November weather.-- *Bleak House*, Chapter 1Bleak House is a novel set in London. What might you expect from “implacable November weather” in London? |
| 145. | “It has been discovered that the best way to ensure **implicit** obedience is to commence tyranny in the nursery."-- Benjamin Disraeli, 1804-1881What is Disraeli suggesting about people’s attitude to raising children? |
| 146. | He would joke with hyenas, returning their stare With an **impudent** wag of the head:And he once went a walk, paw-in-paw, with a bear, "Just to keep up its spirits," he said.-- ‘The Hunting of the Snark’, Lewis CarrollWhat impression do you get of the character being described here? |
| 147. | Mrs. Swancourt was a talker of talk of the **incisive** kind, which her low musical voice—the only beautiful point in the old woman—prevented from being wearisome.-- *A Pair of Blue Eyes*, Chapter 14What positive and negative qualities does the author suggest this woman has? |
| 148. | After some days spent in listless **indolence**, during which I traversed many leagues, I arrived at Strasburgh, where I waited two days for Clerval.-- *Frankenstein*, Chapter 18What is meant by “listless indolence”? |
| 149. | “Never attribute to malevolence what is merely due to incompetence.”-- Arthur C. Clarke, 1917-2008Explain in your own words what this sentence means. Include the word “**inept**” in your answer. |
| 150. | “Pride breakfasted with plenty, dined with poverty, and supped with **infamy**.”-- Benjamin Franklin, 1706-1790What point is Benjamin Franklin making about Pride? |
| 151. | “Having my family around me,” saying my father, “will not **inhibit** me from dancing at the New Year’s Eve party.”I thought to myself, a little more inhibition might be a good thing in this case.How does the speaker feel about her father’s dancing? |
| 152. | “I believe that justice is instinct and **innate**, the moral sense is as much a part of our constitution as the threat of feeling, seeing and hearing.”-- Thomas Jefferson, 1743-1826In your own words, what is Jefferson saying about people’s sense of justice? |
| 153. | The public have an **insatiable** curiosity to know everything. Except what is worth knowing.-- Oscar Wilde, 1854-1900In your own words, what point is Wilde making about the public? |
| 154. | The word **insular** originally meant “of or pertaining to an island” – from the Latin word for island, *insula*.Can you explain how this etymology led to the modern meaning of separated, narrow-minded, unwelcoming? |
| 155. | My mother said, “I was quite an **intrepid** traveller when I was younger.”I asked if she could help tidy my bedroom.“I’m not that intrepid,” she said.What is the mother suggesting about the speaker’s bedroom? |
| 156. | Poor Abel, as he was called, had an **inveterate** habit of over-sleeping himself and coming late to his work.-- *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, Chapter 15What do you learn about Abel from this description? |
| 157. | "We must have our sing, in the good old way, for we are all together again once more," said Jo, feeling that a good shout would be a safe and pleasant vent for the **jubilant** emotions of her soul.-- *Little Women*, Chapter 43What sort of emotions is Jo experiencing? |
| 158. | She was a woman of about forty, I supposed,—but I may have thought her younger than she was. Rather tall, of a **lithe** nimble figure, extremely pale, with large faded eyes, and a quantity of streaming hair. I had been to see Macbeth at the theatre, a night or two before, and that her face looked to me like the faces I had seen rise out of the Witches' caldron.-- *Great Expectations*, Chapter 26What is the effect of the word “lithe” in this description? How does it alter your impression of the woman? |
| 159. | Even at night, the river was specked with lanterns, and **lurid** with fires.-- *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Chapter 15In this story, people are searching the river for Edwin Drood’s body. What atmosphere is created in this sentence?  |
| 160. | The word **maverick** comes from Samuel Maverick, 1803-1870. He owned a large area of land in Texas, and kept cattle, but he refused to brand them to identify himself as their owner. Unbranded cattle came to be labelled "mavericks".Suggest why this might have led to the modern meaning of an independent, free-thinking person. |
| 161. | These are some examples of **maxims**:* It’s better to be safe than sorry.
* It’s easier to get forgiveness than permission.
* You can’t make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear.
* A fool and his money are easily parted.
* Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.

Try to think of 3 more: |
| 162. | He had the reputation of being an uncomfortable commander, **meticulous** in trifles, always nursing a grievance of some sort and incessantly nagging.-- ‘The Black Mate’, Joseph ConradIn your own words, what impression do you get of the ship’s Captain being described here? |
| 163. | My own exclusive breakfast of a penny loaf and a pennyworth of milk, I provided myself. I kept another small loaf, and a **modicum** of cheese, on a particular shelf of a particular cupboard, to make my supper on when I came back at night.-- *David Copperfield*, Chapter 11What do you learn about the lifestyle of the narrator in this description? |
| 164. |  “Christmas a humbug, uncle!” said Scrooge’s nephew. “You don’t mean that, I am sure?” “I do,” said Scrooge. “Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You’re poor enough.” “Come, then,” returned the nephew gaily. “What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be **morose**? You’re rich enough.”-- *A Christmas Carol*, Chapter 1What point is Scrooge’s nephew trying to make about Scrooge’s money? |
| 165. | Art has made us **myriad**-minded.-- Oscar Wilde, 1854-1900 What point about art do you think Wilde is making? |
| 166. | This is an extract from a restaurant review:“I sat there, turning my overcooked pasta in its tasteless sauce around with my fork. If this was the **nadir** of my meal, at least things could only get better.”Write a sentence describing the nadir of the last meal you ate. |
| 167. | “You shall be Mrs. Rochester—both virtually and **nominally**.”-- *Jane Eyre*, Chapter 27When Mr. Rochester says this to Jane Eyre, she knows that he is already married. What does he mean by “both virtually and nominally”? |
| 168. | In our youthful years we still venerate and despise without the art of **nuance**, which is the best gain of life.-- *Beyond Good and Evil*, Chapter 2According to the author, what changes about people’s attitudes as they get older? |
| 169. | He was alone in the dark. Beyond the reach of his torchlight lay nothing but endless, **oblivious** forest. What effect does the word **oblivious** have in this description? |
| 170. | Rather than love, than money, than fame, give me truth. I sat at a table where were rich food and wine in abundance, and **obsequious** attendance, but sincerity and truth were not; and I went away hungry.-- Henry David Thoreau, 1817-1862Why did Thoreau “go away hungry”? |
| 171. | Q: Why are **obtuse** angles so depressed?A: Because they’re never right.Explain this joke that appeared on a website of “mathematical humour”. |
| 172. | Here was a **panacea** for all human woes; here was the secret of happiness, about which philosophers had disputed for so many ages, at once discovered: happiness might now be bought for a penny, and carried in the waistcoat pocket.-- *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*The writer, Thomas De Quincey, was addicted to a drug called Laudanum. It was freely available in 1821 but is tightly regulated today. In your own words, how does the writer feel about the drug? |
| 173. | A Martian appeared, small and faint in the remote distance, advancing along the muddy coast from the direction of Foulness. At that the captain on the bridge swore at the top of his voice with fear and anger. Every soul aboard stood at the bulwarks or on the seats of the steamer and stared at that distant shape, higher than the trees or church towers inland, and advancing with a leisurely **parody** of a human stride.-- *The War Of The Worlds*, Chapter 17In this description, onlookers see an alien invader from Mars. What effect does it have to describe the Martian’s movements as a “leisurely parody of a human stride”? |
| 174. |  "I said you were beautiful, and I'll say so still; for so you are! The most beautiful ever I saw, or may I fall dead this instant! Why, upon my –-" "Don't—don't! I won't listen to you—you are so profane!" she said, in a restless state between distress at hearing him and a **penchant** to hear more.-- *Far From The Madding Crowd*, Chapter 26The first speaker here is a man; the second is a woman. In your own words, how does the woman feel? |
| 175. | Sitting on a low stool, a few yards from her arm-chair, I examined her figure; I **perused** her features.-- *Jane Eyre*, Chapter 4What do you think it means to “peruse someone’s features”? |
| 176. | “The day after Halloween, my little brother asked me how much chocolate and sweets I’d collected. I told him I had a **plethora** of chocolate and sweets. He walked off, looking puzzled. He doesn’t know what **plethora** means and I didn’t want to share.”Explain what trick the speaker played on his little brother. |
| 177. | **PREDILECTION**: The preparatory stage of disillusion.-- *The Devil’s Dictionary*According to this definition, how do our ideas about things change? |
| 178. | The country is lovely, and most interesting; if only we were under different conditions, how delightful it would be to see it all. To stop and see people, and learn something of their life, and to fill our minds and memories with all the colour and picturesqueness of the whole wild, beautiful country and the **quaint** people! But, alas!—-- *Dracula*, Chapter 26The character Mina Harker is travelling through Europe. What does she think of the country around her? |
| 179. | JULIET: It is too **rash**, too unadvised, too sudden;Too like the lightning, which doth cease to beEre one can say 'It lightens.'-- *Romeo and Juliet*, Act 2 Sc 2How does Juliet feel about her relationship with Romeo when she speaks here? |
| 180. | “After a series of costly mistakes, the Chief of Police attempted to **refurbish** his reputation.”In your own words, what did the Chief of Police try to do? |
| 181. | For there behind, behind all the sunshine, was England. England, beyond the water, rising with ash-grey, corpse-grey cliffs, and streaks of snow on the downs above. She watched it, fascinated and terrified. It seemed to **repudiate** the sunshine, to remain unilluminated, long and ash-grey and dead.-- *The Lost Girl*, Chapter 14In this passage a character is returning to England by boat. What does it mean to say the landscape “seemed to repudiate the sunshine”? |
| 182. | “My wife had a life **rife** with strife.” In your own words, what do we learn about the speaker’s wife? |
| 183. | Our brains ache, in the merciless iced east winds that knive us . . . Wearied we keep awake because the night is silent . . .Low drooping flares confuse our memory of the **salient** . . .-- ‘Exposure’, Wilfred OwenThis poem was written by a soldier who had served in World War 1. It describes the experience of waiting for battle in the extreme cold. What effect do these conditions have on the speaker? |
| 184. | In a poll conducted in 2000, **serendipity** was voted Britain’s favourite word.What is your favourite word? |
| 185. | ORSINO: For such as I am all true lovers are,**Unstaid** and skittish in all motions else,Save in the constant image of the creatureThat is beloved.-- *Twelfth Night*, Act 2 Sc 4According to Orsino, what is it like being in love? |
| 186. | Dr. Sprague was **superfluously** tall; his trousers got creased at the knees, and showed an excess of boot.— *Middlemarch*, Chapter 28What impression does this description give of Dr. Sprague? |
| 187. |  That land full surely hastens to its end Where public **sycophants** in homage bend The populace to flatter, and repeat The doubled echoes of its loud conceit.-- ‘Politics’, Ambrose BierceWhat point is Bierce making about the behaviour of politicians? |
| 188. | All that day and the next and the next Holmes was in a mood which his friends would call **taciturn**, and others morose. He ran out and ran in, smoked incessantly, played snatches on his violin, sank into reveries, devoured sandwiches at irregular hours, and hardly answered the casual questions which I put to him.-- *The Adventure of the Second Stain*Describe Sherlock Holmes’ mood in your own words. |
| 189. | In her turn, Helen Burns asked me to explain, and I proceeded forthwith to pour out, in my own way, the tale of my sufferings and resentments. Bitter and **truculent** when excited, I spoke as I felt, without reserve or softening.-- *Jane Eyre*, Chapter 6What does the word “truculent” tell you about how the narrator feels about her own past? |
| 190. | In the Harry Potter series, J K Rowling created a character called Dolores Umbridge.What does it suggest about her character that her names sounds like “dolorous **umbrage**”? |
| 191. | A very merry lunch it was, for everything seemed fresh and funny, and frequent peals of laughter startled a **venerable** horse who fed near by.-- *Little Women*, Chapter 12What does the horse’s reaction suggest about the people laughing? |
| 192. | Here the clown throws himself on the ground, and goes through a variety of gymnastic convulsions, doubling himself up, and untying himself again, and making himself look very like a man in the most hopeless extreme of human agony, to the **vociferous** delight of the gallery.-- *Sketches by Boz*, Chapter 11How do the audience respond to the clown? |
| 193. | GLOUCESTER: As flies to **wanton** boys, are we to the gods.They kill us for their sport.--King Lear, Act 4 Sc 1What does the word “wanton” suggest about the way gods treat mortals? |
| 194. | A vast fountain of dazzling lances of fire vomited itself toward the **zenith** with a hissing rush, and burst in mid-sky into a storm of flashing jewels!-- *A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur’s Court*, Chapter 23What is the author, Mark Twain, describing? How does he make this sentence exciting and effective? |