

Exercise 1

Re write the sentence using the word given in capitals. Make sure you use between 3 and 6 words to complete the new sentence.

1. The invention of the printing press led to a new era of literacy.

ADVENT

A new era of literacy was heralded _____ the printing press.

2. The software's main function is to collect and combine data from various sources into one report.

AGGREGATE

The software is _____ data from various sources into a single report."

3. People are fed up with the way the minister behaves in a ridiculous way just to get attention.

ANTICS

People are fed _____ to get attention.

4. The government office in charge of immigration has issued a new set of rules.

BUREAU

The _____ issued a new set of rules.

5. Many influencers do controversial things just because they want to gain more fame and followers.

CLOUT

Many influencers engage in controversy simply in _____.

6. Dostoevsky's novels are full of complex moral problems and deep thoughts.

HEAVY

Dostoevsky is _____ it comes to psychological exploration.

7. A great number of voters feel unrepresented by the current political parties.

SWATH

A broad _____ electorate feels unrepresented by the current political parties.

Exercise 2

Choose the two most appropriate words to fill the gaps in the following sentence. One word will not be used.

1

The (1) _____ of global travel in the 20th century was a milestone for humanity; however, it also created the perfect conditions for the (2) _____ of infectious diseases that we face today."

A) arrival

B) advent

C) outbreak

2

The decision to raise interest rates was intended to (1) _____ the rising inflation; however, critics argue that this move will only serve to (2) _____ the existing financial burden on low-income families.

A) mitigate

B) aggregate

C) exacerbate

3

Despite the CEO's usual professional (1) _____, his late-night (2) _____ at the office party were deemed highly inappropriate for someone in his position.

A) behaviour

B) antics

C) tricks

4

Although the company's global (1) _____ are located in New York, most customers interact with the brand through a local (2) _____ or an authorized dealership.

- A) outlet B) headquarters C) bureau

5

The senator attempted to use his political (1) _____ to influence the investigation, but the local police chief reminded him that the case fell outside his legal (2) _____.

- A) jurisdiction B) leverage C) clout

6

I enjoy reading (1) _____ literature that explores complex philosophical themes; however, I found his latest 800-page novel far too (2) _____ to carry on my commute.

- A) weighty B) highbrow C) heavy

7

From the hilltop, the hikers gazed at the vast (1) _____ of the desert; it was hard to imagine that just months ago, massive (2) _____ of this land had been underwater due to the floods."

- A) stratum B) swaths C) expanse

Exercise 3

Read the four texts below, which discuss the nature of economic progress in the 21st century. Then answer questions 1–10 by choosing from the texts (A–D). You may use any letter more than once.

Text A For decades, we have operated under the assumption that economic expansion is a benign force, an unassailable proxy for human improvement. Yet growth has become a double-edged sword. The modern digital economy rewards scale so aggressively that gains now accumulate in reservoirs of wealth far removed from the communities whose labour sustains them. Growth, once a tide that lifted all boats, now behaves more like a selective current that ferries resources toward the already buoyant. The central incongruity is this: while productivity is soaring, widespread prosperity is not. Unless governments curb the centrifugal forces of capital markets and recalibrate corporate incentives, growth will remain an impressively tall but hollow monument—structurally immaculate, but socially brittle.

Text C To suggest that inequality is a tolerable side-effect of economic efficiency is to adopt a perilously narrow view of how societies hold together. Economies are not cold-blooded mechanisms; they depend on a tacit belief among citizens that the rules of reward bear some resemblance to the rules of effort. When that belief erodes, a society experiences a corrosion of trust that no metric of growth can paper over. Innovation does indeed emerge from the freedom to take risks, yet the dividends of that innovation must not be so lopsided that they undermine social cohesion. Growth is only sustainable in the long term when its human consequences are regarded as a core part of the calculation rather than an unfortunate externality.

Text B The notion that growth has “failed” because it is unevenly distributed presumes that its purpose is moral rather than mechanical. Economic systems do not exist to distribute virtue; they exist to organise scarcity. That growth, which disproportionately benefits certain sectors, is not an aberration but an inherent characteristic of complex markets, in which risk and innovation rarely yield symmetrical returns. Attempts to rectify perceived unfairness through heavy-handed regulation frequently succeed only in stifling the very experimentation that produces progress in the first place. Economic maturity requires accepting that inequality, while politically uncomfortable, is not necessarily evidence of a system malfunction. A system that rewards problem-solvers irregularly is not unjust; it is efficient.

Text D Much of the current debate is framed as though growth were a monolithic phenomenon with a single social footprint. In truth, growth varies not only in degree but also in composition. An economy expanding through speculative finance bears little resemblance to one fuelled by green infrastructure or advanced manufacturing. The quality of growth determines its capacity to support long-term wellbeing. The question is therefore not whether we should pursue growth, but what kind of growth we are prepared to cultivate. Reforms that merely redistribute the spoils of an unhealthy model miss the point; it is the model itself—and our definition of what constitutes progress—that requires a fundamental re-imagining.

Questions 1–10

Which text...

1. Questions the assumption that economic growth is a reliable indicator of broad societal improvement? []
2. Argues that disparities in wealth are a natural and necessary component of a functioning market? []
3. Suggests that the stability of an economy is predicated on the level of trust within a society? []
4. Implies that certain contemporary models of expansion may be structurally unstable or "hollow"? []
5. Warns that interventions to achieve social fairness could inadvertently hamper future progress? []
6. Maintains that the success of an economy cannot be measured by numerical growth alone? []
7. Argues that the focus should be on the specific nature of growth rather than its mere existence? []
8. Challenges the perspective that market outcomes should be viewed through a purely mechanical lens? []
9. Points out that the rewards of modern productivity are increasingly detached from the workforce? []
10. Suggests that redistributive policies are insufficient without a change to the underlying economic model? []