

1.

The theory of cognitive **dissonance** suggests that when individuals hold conflicting beliefs or attitudes, they experience discomfort, which they are motivated to reduce. This often results in changing one of the beliefs to align with the other. For instance, if someone believes in environmental conservation but drives a gas-guzzling car, they may either justify their vehicle use or switch to a more eco-friendly model to alleviate the discomfort caused by the dissonance.

What does "dissonance" mean in the context of the paragraph?

- a) Agreement
- b) Discomfort caused by inconsistency
- c) Harmony

2.

Although initially met with skepticism, the new drug was **lauded** after several clinical trials demonstrated its efficacy. Many physicians were reluctant to prescribe it at first, but as the data became more convincing, the drug gained widespread acceptance in the medical community for treating chronic illnesses.

What does "lauded" mean in the context of the paragraph?

- a) Criticized
- b) Praised
- c) Ignored

3.

The researchers were cautious not to overgeneralize their findings, acknowledging that the data was drawn from a relatively **homogeneous** group. They emphasized that the results might not be applicable to more diverse populations and that further studies were needed to confirm the broader relevance of their work.

What does "homogeneous" mean in the context of the paragraph?

- a) Consisting of similar parts
- b) Diverse and varied
- c) Difficult to analyze

4.

While many **proponents** of renewable energy emphasize its environmental benefits, critics argue that the high initial costs and technical challenges make widespread adoption difficult. However, advocates contend that these are short-term obstacles, and the long-term advantages far outweigh the drawbacks.

What does "proponents" mean in the context of the paragraph?

- a) Critics
- b) Supporters
- c) Opponents

5.

The anthropologist's study revealed that the tribe's rituals were not mere superstitions, as many outsiders believed, but sophisticated practices deeply rooted in the community's values and history. These traditions, passed down through generations, serve to maintain social **cohesion** and reinforce collective identity.

What does "cohesion" mean in the context of the paragraph?

- a) Conflict
- b) Unity
- c) Isolation

6.

The politician's rhetoric was filled with **hyperbole**, exaggerating the risks posed by the proposed policy changes. While some constituents found his warnings persuasive, many others recognized that his statements were designed to elicit fear rather than present an accurate assessment of the situation.

What does "hyperbole" mean in the context of the paragraph?

- a) Understatement
- b) Exaggeration
- c) Fact

7.

Her argument was **cogent**, well-structured, and backed by ample evidence, which made it difficult for the opposition to refute. Even those who initially disagreed with her position found themselves reconsidering their stance after hearing her thorough analysis.

What does "cogent" mean in the context of the paragraph?

- a) Weak
- b) Irrelevant
- c) Convincing

8.

The professor's lecture was highly **esoteric**, focusing on obscure theories that were unfamiliar to most of the students. As a result, only those with a strong background in the subject matter were able to follow the discussion, while the rest struggled to keep up.

What does "esoteric" mean in the context of the paragraph?

- a) Easy to understand
- b) Intended for a small audience
- c) Widely accepted

9.

The CEO's decision to outsource production was **pragmatic** rather than idealistic, focusing on cost-cutting and efficiency over the company's long-standing commitment to local manufacturing. While some employees were disappointed, the move was deemed necessary for the company's survival in a competitive market.

What does "pragmatic" mean in the context of the paragraph?

- a) Practical
- b) Idealistic
- c) Risky

10.

The committee's findings were **equivocal**, providing no clear answer as to whether the new policy had succeeded or failed. Some members interpreted the data as positive, while others viewed it as inconclusive, leading to continued debate over the policy's effectiveness.

What does "equivocal" mean in the context of the paragraph?

- a) Clear
- b) Ambiguous
- c) Decisive

the answer key:

1. **b) Discomfort caused by inconsistency**
2. **b) Praised**
3. **a) Consisting of similar parts**
4. **b) Supporters**
5. **b) Unity**
6. **b) Exaggeration**
7. **c) Convincing**
8. **b) Intended for a small audience**
9. **a) Practical**
10. **b) Ambiguous**