1.9 Synonyms and Antonyms: 10-minute Pack

GL ASSESSMENT / CSSE 11+ Entrance English (GL Assessment / CSSE style) · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

The Keeper of Blackrock Point

Source written for Revision Library (original, copyright-free). Fictional narrative created for 11+ synonym and antonym practice. Any resemblance to real people or places is coincidental.

Maya had never seen a building so ancient. The lighthouse at Blackrock Point rose from the cliff like a solitary tooth, its whitewashed walls scarred by a century of salt wind. She was reluctant to climb the spiral staircase at first, for the old caretaker had warned her that the top step was treacherous, but curiosity soon overcame her caution.

Inside, the air smelled of rust and rain. Cobwebs draped the iron railings like grey lace, and her footsteps echoed in the vast emptiness of the stairwell. Halfway up, she paused to rest, her legs aching, and peered through a narrow window at the churning sea below. Waves battered the rocks with a ferocious energy, throwing spray high into the pale morning sky.

At the summit, the great lamp stood silent, its glass lens dull with dust, though it had once flashed a brilliant warning to sailors for thirty miles around. Maya ran her fingers along the brass fittings, imagining the keeper who had tended this light every night for forty years, utterly devoted to his solitary task. A folded scrap of paper had been wedged behind a pipe, and she eased it free. The message, though faded almost to nothing, was still legible: a single line of verse about the sea's ancient, restless patience.

Maya tucked the fragment into her pocket. As she descended, the ordinary world outside seemed suddenly diminished, as though the lighthouse had granted her a secret she would carry for the rest of her life.

1 Explain the difference in meaning between each pair of near-synonyms below.

(a) 'glance' and 'stare' - explain the difference in meaning between these two words. **(2)**

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(b) 'hope' and 'wish' - explain the difference in meaning between these two words. **(2)**

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2 Identify the word in each set that is NOT a synonym of the others.

(a) Which word is NOT a synonym for 'solitary'? **(1)**

- ☐ A) isolated
- ☐ B) secluded
- ☐ C) sociable
- ☐ D) lone

(b) Which word is NOT a synonym for 'meticulous'? **(1)**

- ☐ A) painstaking
- ☐ B) careless
- ☐ C) thorough
- ☐ D) precise

(c) Which word is NOT a synonym for 'benevolent'? **(1)**

- ☐ A) kind
- ☐ B) charitable
- ☐ C) malicious
- ☐ D) generous

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3 Match each word below to its synonym from this box. Each word in the box is used once only: swift, authentic, dismal, robust, nervous.

(a) ANXIOUS **(1)**

(b) RAPID **(1)**

(c) GENUINE **(1)**

(d) STURDY **(1)**

(e) GLOOMY **(1)**

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Mark scheme · 1.9 Synonyms and Antonyms: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) glance = a quick, brief or momentary look oe **B1**

(a) stare = a long, fixed or intense look oe **B1**

(a) Answer: A glance is a brief, quick look, whereas a stare is a long, fixed look.

(b) hope = expectation of something realistically possible oe **B1**

(b) wish = a desire for something, often less certain or beyond one's control oe **B1**

(b) Answer: Hope suggests a realistic expectation that something may happen, while a wish suggests a desire for something less certain or possibly impossible.

Question 2

(a) C cao **B1**

(a) Answer: C) sociable

(b) B cao **B1**

(b) Answer: B) careless

(c) C cao **B1**

(c) Answer: C) malicious

Question 3

(a) nervous cao **B1**

(a) Answer: nervous

(b) swift cao **B1**

(b) Answer: swift

(c) authentic cao **B1**

(c) Answer: authentic

(d) robust cao **B1**

(d) Answer: robust

(e) dismal cao **B1**

(e) Answer: dismal

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