4.7 Etymology and Word Formation: Test Pack

about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 The table below shows six word roots that appear in many English words.

Root	Example word
bio	biology
tele	telephone
script	manuscript
dict	predict
spect	inspect
rupt	interrupt

For each root, identify its meaning by choosing the correct option.

(a) bio **(1)**

- ☐ A) life
- ☐ B) death
- ☐ C) light
- ☐ D) sound

(b) tele **(1)**

- ☐ A) near
- ☐ B) far/distant
- ☐ C) fast
- ☐ D) small

(c) script **(1)**

- ☐ A) to speak
- ☐ B) to write
- ☐ C) to see
- ☐ D) to break

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(d) dict **(1)**

- ☐ A) to write
- ☐ B) to speak/say
- ☐ C) to carry
- ☐ D) to lead

(e) spect **(1)**

- ☐ A) to look/see
- ☐ B) to hear
- ☐ C) to touch
- ☐ D) to smell

(f) rupt **(1)**

- ☐ A) to build
- ☐ B) to send
- ☐ C) to break
- ☐ D) to turn

(Total for Question 1 is 6 marks)

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2 Each sentence below contains a word that has been formed with the wrong negative prefix. The Latin prefix 'in-' changes its spelling depending on the letter that follows it (becoming im-, il-, ir-, or staying as in-). Identify the incorrect word in each sentence and rewrite it correctly.

(a) 'The plan was so unlogical that nobody wanted to follow it.' **(2)**

(b) 'The professor's argument seemed totally unrelevant to the topic.' **(2)**

(c) 'The witness gave a very unaccurate account of what had happened.' **(2)**

(d) 'The politician was accused of giving a completely uncorrect summary of the report.' **(2)**

(Total for Question 2 is 8 marks)

3 Read each sentence below. Using your knowledge of word roots and affixes, explain what the underlined word (shown in capitals) most likely means, and identify the root(s) that help you work this out.

(a) 'Despite years of research, no one could disprove her theory, and her colleagues began to think of her as almost OMNISCIENT.' **(3)**

(b) 'The retired sailor spent his final years teaching young cadets how to CIRCUMNAVIGATE the globe safely.' **(3)**

(Total for Question 3 is 6 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.7 Etymology and Word Formation: Test Pack

Question 1

(a) A) life **B1**

(a) Answer: A

(b) B) far/distant **B1**

(b) Answer: B

(c) B) to write **B1**

(c) Answer: B

(d) B) to speak/say **B1**

(d) Answer: B

(e) A) to look/see **B1**

(e) Answer: A

(f) C) to break **B1**

(f) Answer: C

Question 2

(a) identifies 'unlogical' as the incorrect word **B1**

(a) corrects it to 'illogical' (in- assimilates to il- before l), cao **B1**

(a) Answer: illogical

(b) identifies 'unrelevant' as the incorrect word **B1**

(b) corrects it to 'irrelevant' (in- assimilates to ir- before r), cao **B1**

(b) Answer: irrelevant

(c) identifies 'unaccurate' as the incorrect word **B1**

(c) corrects it to 'inaccurate', cao **B1**

(c) Answer: inaccurate

(d) identifies 'uncorrect' as the incorrect word **B1**

(d) corrects it to 'incorrect', cao **B1**

(d) Answer: incorrect

Question 3

(a) identifies the meaning as knowing everything, or all-knowing (oe) **B1**

(a) identifies the root omni- (meaning all) **B1**

(a) identifies the root sci (meaning to know, as in science) **B1**

(a) Answer: Omniscient means knowing everything, or all-knowing. It combines the root omni- (all, as in omnivore) with sci (to know, as in science), so someone omniscient appears to know everything.

(b) identifies the meaning as to sail or travel all the way around something (oe) **B1**

(b) identifies the root circum- (meaning around) **B1**

(b) identifies the root nav (meaning ship/to sail, as in navy or navigate) **B1**

(b) Answer: Circumnavigate means to sail or travel all the way around something. It combines circum- (around, as in circumference) with nav (ship/sail, as in navigate), giving the sense of sailing right around the globe.

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