3.4 Vocabulary for Impact Synonyms: 30-minute Pack

about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Each group of four words below contains three true synonyms and one word that does NOT belong. Identify the odd one out in each group.

(a) **(1)**

- ☐ A) happy
- ☐ B) joyful
- ☐ C) elated
- ☐ D) miserable

(b) **(1)**

- ☐ A) enormous
- ☐ B) huge
- ☐ C) gigantic
- ☐ D) tiny

(c) **(1)**

- ☐ A) rapid
- ☐ B) swift
- ☐ C) quick
- ☐ D) sluggish

(d) **(1)**

- ☐ A) generous
- ☐ B) charitable
- ☐ C) giving
- ☐ D) selfish

(e) **(1)**

- ☐ A) beautiful
- ☐ B) gorgeous
- ☐ C) stunning
- ☐ D) plain

(Total for Question 1 is 5 marks)

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2 Choose the word that has the most precise and impactful effect in each sentence.

(a) The wind ___ through the narrow streets, rattling the shutters. **(1)**

- ☐ A) went
- ☐ B) moved
- ☐ C) howled
- ☐ D) was

(b) After the accident, the driver's hands ___ uncontrollably. **(1)**

- ☐ A) moved
- ☐ B) trembled
- ☐ C) went
- ☐ D) were

(c) The crowd ___ forward the moment the gates opened. **(1)**

- ☐ A) went
- ☐ B) surged
- ☐ C) walked
- ☐ D) moved

(d) He ___ his homework onto the desk, clearly exhausted. **(1)**

- ☐ A) put
- ☐ B) placed
- ☐ C) dumped
- ☐ D) had

(e) The smell of fresh bread ___ from the bakery door. **(1)**

- ☐ A) came
- ☐ B) wafted
- ☐ C) went
- ☐ D) was

(Total for Question 2 is 5 marks)

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3 Rewrite the following sentence so that it has more impact, replacing the three vague words shown in capitals with more precise, ambitious vocabulary. Do not change the overall meaning of the sentence.

'The BIG dog WENT across the NICE garden.'

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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4 In each sentence below, a near-synonym has been chosen that clashes with the surrounding meaning, undermining the intended impact. Identify the wrongly used word and replace it with a word that fits the context.

(a) 'The chef was known for his stingy portions, always piling generous helpings onto every plate, and diners left delighted.' **(2)**

(b) 'The toddler was scolded for being so inquisitive, staring at every stranger's shopping and asking rude questions about their bags.' **(2)**

(c) 'The retired general was celebrated as a reckless leader, praised for his careful, measured decisions that saved countless lives.' **(2)**

(d) 'The negotiator was criticised for being far too assertive, quietly agreeing to every demand without argument.' **(2)**

(Total for Question 4 is 8 marks)

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5 The paragraph below is meant to celebrate a town's summer festival, but one word choice clashes with this positive tone. Identify the word and explain why it clashes, then give a replacement that fits the intended celebratory mood.

'The high street was packed with families, live music drifted from the bandstand, and the smell of fresh doughnuts hung in the air. Even the elderly librarian, usually so reserved, was seen dancing with an infestation of pure delight.'

(Total for Question 5 is 3 marks)

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6 Write one original sentence for each word below, using the word correctly and in a context that shows you understand its precise meaning and connotation.

(a) meticulous **(2)**

(b) relentless **(2)**

(c) exquisite **(2)**

(Total for Question 6 is 6 marks)

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7 Use the word bank below to help you write 2 to 3 sentences describing a busy market. You must use at least FOUR words from the bank, and you must NOT use any of the banned words listed.

Impact word bank
bustling
aromatic
jostled
haggled
vibrant
cacophony
weaved
overflowing

Banned words: nice, good, big, lots, went, walked, said, very.

(Total for Question 7 is 8 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.4 Vocabulary for Impact Synonyms: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) D) miserable **B1**

(a) Answer: D

(b) D) tiny **B1**

(b) Answer: D

(c) D) sluggish **B1**

(c) Answer: D

(d) D) selfish **B1**

(d) Answer: D

(e) D) plain **B1**

(e) Answer: D

Question 2

(a) C) howled **B1**

(a) Answer: C

(b) B) trembled **B1**

(b) Answer: B

(c) B) surged **B1**

(c) Answer: B

(d) C) dumped **B1**

(d) Answer: C

(e) B) wafted **B1**

(e) Answer: B

Question 3

replaces 'BIG' with a more precise, impactful adjective that fits the sentence, e.g. enormous, hulking, powerful (oe) **B1**

replaces 'WENT' with a more precise, impactful verb that fits the sentence, e.g. bounded, thundered, loped (oe) **B1**

replaces 'NICE' with a more precise, impactful adjective that fits the sentence, e.g. immaculate, manicured, sun-dappled (oe) **B1**

Answer: e.g. 'The hulking dog bounded across the immaculate garden.'

Question 4

(a) identifies 'stingy' as the wrongly used word, since it clashes with 'generous helpings' and 'diners left delighted' **B1**

(a) gives a suitable replacement that fits the positive context, e.g. generous, lavish, famed (oe) **B1**

(a) Answer: 'stingy' should be replaced with a word such as 'generous' or 'lavish'.

(b) identifies 'inquisitive' as the wrongly used word, since it clashes with 'scolded' and 'rude questions' **B1**

(b) gives a suitable replacement that fits the critical context, e.g. nosy, prying (oe) **B1**

(b) Answer: 'inquisitive' should be replaced with a word such as 'nosy' or 'prying'.

(c) identifies 'reckless' as the wrongly used word, since it clashes with 'careful, measured decisions' and being 'celebrated' **B1**

(c) gives a suitable replacement that fits the admiring context, e.g. courageous, bold (oe) **B1**

(c) Answer: 'reckless' should be replaced with a word such as 'courageous' or 'bold'.

(d) identifies 'assertive' as the wrongly used word, since it clashes with 'quietly agreeing... without argument' **B1**

(d) gives a suitable replacement that fits the critical context, e.g. passive, submissive (oe) **B1**

(d) Answer: 'assertive' should be replaced with a word such as 'passive' or 'submissive'.

Question 5

identifies 'infestation' as the word that clashes with the celebratory tone **B1**

explains that 'infestation' has strong negative connotations (associated with pests, disease or unwelcome invasion), which is unsuitable for a joyful description (oe) **B1**

gives a suitable replacement that fits the celebratory tone, e.g. an outburst, a wave, a rush (of pure delight) (oe) **B1**

Answer: 'Infestation' is the clashing word; it carries negative connotations of pests or disease, which does not fit a joyful scene. A suitable replacement would be 'an outburst of pure delight' or 'a wave of pure delight'.

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Question 6

(a) the word is used with the correct meaning (extremely careful and precise about detail) and appropriate register **1 mark**

(a) the sentence provides clear context that demonstrates understanding of the word's connotation, e.g. describing careful, painstaking work (oe) **1 mark**

(a) Answer: e.g. 'The jeweller examined each diamond with meticulous care, checking for the tiniest flaw.'

(b) the word is used with the correct meaning (continuing without stopping or weakening) and appropriate register **1 mark**

(b) the sentence provides clear context that demonstrates understanding of the word's connotation, e.g. describing something unstoppable or exhausting (oe) **1 mark**

(b) Answer: e.g. 'The relentless rain battered the tent all night, showing no sign of easing.'

(c) the word is used with the correct meaning (extremely beautiful or finely made) and appropriate register **1 mark**

(c) the sentence provides clear context that demonstrates understanding of the word's connotation, e.g. describing delicate craftsmanship or beauty (oe) **1 mark**

(c) Answer: e.g. 'The bride wore an exquisite lace veil, embroidered by hand with tiny silver flowers.'

Question 7

Level 1 Simple description with little or no use of the word bank; banned words may be present. **1-2**

Level 2 Some use of the word bank (fewer than four words), with some vivid detail; occasional reliance on vague or banned vocabulary. **3-4**

Level 3 At least four word bank words used accurately and appropriately; description is generally vivid and avoids banned words. **5-6**

Level 4 At least four word bank words used precisely and effectively for sensory impact, seamlessly integrated into fluent, controlled sentences with no banned words. **7-8**

Indicative content:

- Sensory detail combining sound (cacophony), smell (aromatic) and movement (jostled, weaved) creates an immersive impression of the market.
- Word bank vocabulary is integrated grammatically rather than simply listed, e.g. 'the bustling market' or 'traders haggled loudly'.
- No banned words (nice, good, big, lots, went, walked, said, very) appear anywhere in the response.
- Sentences vary in structure rather than following a repetitive pattern, keeping the description engaging.

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