7.5 Shades of Meaning: 10-minute Pack

about 10 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

The Talent Show Final

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Zara had been nervous all week, but by the time she stood in the wings on Friday evening, nervous did not begin to describe it. Her stomach churned, her hands trembled, and she felt genuinely terrified.

Onstage, the compere bellowed the next act's name into the microphone, and the audience erupted into applause. Zara crept towards the curtain, peering through the gap. Marcus, the reigning champion, strolled onto the stage as though he owned it, grinning at the crowd.

'You'll be brilliant,' whispered her friend Priya, squeezing her arm. Zara managed a thin smile. She thought Priya's confidence was sweet, if a little misplaced.

When her name was finally announced, Zara did not walk onto the stage - she marched, chin up, refusing to let her legs shake where anyone could see. The first few notes of her song wobbled, but by the chorus her voice had settled into something clear and strong.

Afterwards, the judges' comments ranged from polite to glowing. One called her performance 'adequate'. Another said it was 'outstanding'. Marcus, watching from the side, offered a stiff, grudging nod rather than the warm applause he had given the other finalists.

Zara did not win first place, but she left the stage feeling something better than relief: a quiet, solid pride that no scoreboard could measure.

1 Which word is the most FORMAL way of saying 'get rid of'?

- ☐ A) dump
- ☐ B) chuck out
- ☐ C) dispose of
- ☐ D) throw away

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2 What is meant by the connotation of a word?

- [ ] A) The literal, dictionary definition of a word, with no extra meaning attached
- [ ] B) The feelings, associations or attitudes that a word suggests beyond its literal meaning
- [ ] C) The number of syllables a word contains
- [ ] D) The part of speech a word belongs to (noun, verb, adjective, and so on)

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3 Word bank (all words that could describe someone who has very little body fat):

slim	slender	thin	lean	skinny	scrawny

Each word in the bank has roughly the same denotation, but a different connotation. Sort each word into positive, neutral or negative.

(a) slim **(1)**

- ☐ A) Positive
- ☐ B) Neutral
- ☐ C) Negative

(b) slender **(1)**

- ☐ A) Positive
- ☐ B) Neutral
- ☐ C) Negative

(c) thin **(1)**

- ☐ A) Positive
- ☐ B) Neutral
- ☐ C) Negative

(d) lean **(1)**

- ☐ A) Positive
- ☐ B) Neutral
- ☐ C) Negative

(e) skinny **(1)**

- ☐ A) Positive
- ☐ B) Neutral
- ☐ C) Negative

(f) scrawny **(1)**

- ☐ A) Positive
- ☐ B) Neutral
- ☐ C) Negative

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4 Complete each sentence by choosing the word in brackets that best matches the shade of meaning described.

(a) The teacher gave the talkative student a ___ (glance / glare / look), making it clear she was furious. **(1)**

(b) After running the marathon, Priya was ___ (tired / exhausted / sleepy), barely able to stand. **(1)**

(c) The new intern seemed ___ (timid / pushy / confident) in the meeting, offering ideas clearly without dominating the discussion. **(1)**

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5 This sentence uses a word that clashes with the formal, serious context it appears in. Identify the word and rewrite the sentence, replacing it with a word of a more suitable register: 'The headteacher's announcement about the exam results was totally awesome.'

(2)

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Mark scheme · 7.5 Shades of Meaning: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

C — **B1**

Answer: **C**

Question 2

B — **B1**

Answer: **B**

Question 3

(a) A ticked, cao — **B1**

(a) Answer: **A) Positive**

(b) A ticked, cao — **B1**

(b) Answer: **A) Positive**

(c) B ticked, cao — **B1**

(c) Answer: **B) Neutral**

(d) B ticked, cao — **B1**

(d) Answer: **B) Neutral**

(e) C ticked, cao — **B1**

(e) Answer: **C) Negative**

(f) C ticked, cao — **B1**

(f) Answer: **C) Negative**

Question 4

(a) glare cao — **B1**

(a) Answer: **glare**

(b) exhausted cao — **B1**

(b) Answer: **exhausted**

(c) confident cao — **B1**

(c) Answer: **confident**

Question 5

identifies that 'awesome' (and/or 'totally') is too informal/slang for a formal announcement about exam results — **B1**

correct rewrite using a more formal word, e.g. The headteacher's announcement about the exam results was extremely impressive/excellent, oe — **B1**

Answer: **The headteacher's announcement about the exam results was extremely impressive.**

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