

CTJan27 School Of English and Mathematics
Unit 3/64 Hallam Road, Hampton Park, Vic 3976



Practice Paper

Year 8 Entrance Test 5

Name: _____

Grade: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension: _____ /25

Verbal Reasoning: _____ /30

Writing: _____ /20

Total Mark: _____ /75

I. **READING COMPREHENSION**

Charlotte and Nicholas

This passage is from a novel set in Scotland in the late 1950s. In this scene, Charlotte, 15, and Nicholas, 16, meet their new American stepfather, Robert, for the first time. Sarah, a widow for five years, is their mother.

As Charlotte arrived on the threshold of the big living-room that was more than half the whole flat, Sarah and Robert Graham turned from the window and faced her. We shall never have her to ourselves again, Charlotte thought, in a doomed way. And for a paralysing second she felt as though she might make a scene. If she were only no more than four or five years old, and could hurl herself on the floor in roaring tears and sobs of fury! Instead, she felt her smile widen into a great grin. She rushed forward and threw her arms round Sarah and kissed her wildly, knocking her hat crooked and making her cry out.

'Darling! You'll knock me down!'

'You look gorgeous!' Charlotte cried and knew she was shouting. She was hot again, red and untidy and looking like the last sort of girl any man would want to take on as a stepdaughter.

Nicholas, however, went to the other extreme. He was so poised he was positively boulderish,* and Charlotte knew before he started it that he was going to turn on his eighteenth-century act that made him sound like a bad school play.

'Mrs Graham, ma'am – your most humble obedient. Your servant, ma'am, to oblige,'

'Oh Nicholas, do behave!' Sarah cried. 'Robert – they're showing off!'

Although she was laughing, they both heard the little ring of disappointment in her voice, and both knew that they were letting her down when they wanted so very much not to. There had surely never been such a tricky, difficult moment before for any of them.

It was Robert Graham who saved the situation. He came forward holding out both hands.

'I am very deeply indebted to you two young people. You've had Sarah to yourselves for a long time. Thank you for agreeing to share her with me. I know it can't be easy.'

And although this was just the sort of remark they would call corny, with an American voice to make it sound in their ears like a film, the sincerity with which it was spoken gave it a guarantee. He meant what he said — and they knew he meant what he said. He was indeed thanking them. And by doing so he pulled them back to reality and made them themselves again.

* boulderish: a boulder is someone who engages in dishonourable or disgraceful behaviour.

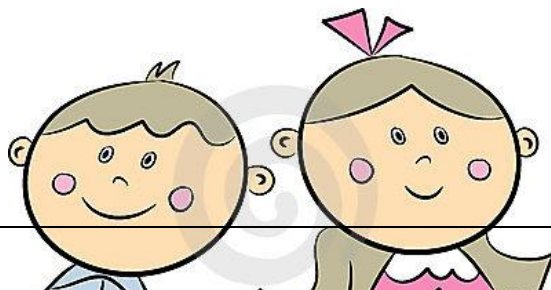


Image retrieved from <http://www.google.com.au/search?>

Encircle the letter of the correct answer.

1. What does Charlotte experience on first entering the room?
 - A. sudden sense of loss
 - B. desire to embarrass her mother
 - C. need to be more melodramatic than Nicholas
 - D. feeling of wrath directed at her new stepfather
2. Why does Sarah most likely find the moment 'tricky' and 'difficult'? She is
 - A. still offended by Charlotte's over-vigorous greeting.
 - B. humiliated by the children's behaviour.
 - C. worried Charlotte will throw a tantrum.
 - D. having doubts about remarrying.
3. How does Robert save the situation? By
 - A. easing the tension so the children can relax and be themselves
 - B. making the children feel ashamed of themselves
 - C. asserting his authority over the children
 - D. helping Sarah to remain strong
4. Whose viewpoint is this account mainly told from?
 - A. Sarah's
 - B. Robert's
 - C. Nicholas'
 - D. Charlotte's
5. What does the passage suggest about Sarah and Robert? They
 - A. are not aware that the children are finding the situation difficult.
 - B. find the children's responses entertaining and enjoyable.
 - C. feel resentful and annoyed by the children's attitude.
 - D. are sensitive to the feelings of the children.



Image retrieved from <http://www.google.com.au/search?>

The following is adapted from a radio program entitled 'Unsung bird hero: the Mallee Fowl.' A reporter speaks with David Priddel, a scientist.

Reporter: Just this week the gates are closing on a 119 hectare property near Nhill in Western Victoria. The aim is to protect the last two breeding pairs of the endangered Mallee fowl. This month is important for these birds because it's egg-laying time. While they may look just like chooks, Mallee fowl make one of the biggest nests in the world, up to 13 metres in diameter and a metre high. Moving tonnes of dirt to build them, the Mallee fowl is one of Australia's unsung bird heroes.

David Priddel: We can see the male bird is standing on the rim of the mound now, basically just keeping watch. The female's disappeared almost out of view into the centre of the nest, into the egg chamber. You can see that she's getting very agitated there, and getting into position now and you can hear from the amount of clucking and communication that's going on between the pair that she's ready to lay an egg at any moment.

Reporter: The Mallee fowl is one of the most fertile birds in the world, laying up to 35 eggs with most of them hatching. Once so common across Australia, they were a regular roast on the dinner plates of early European settlers. Now much of their habitat has been cleared, and the population has been estimated to be only 20 per cent of what it was originally.

David Priddel: Most of the Mallee country has now been cleared for wheat. All that's left is tiny little remnants like this.

Encircle the letter of the correct answer.

6. What does the word 'unsung' suggest?
 - A. The Mallee fowl is a quiet bird.
 - B. Today the Mallee fowl is very fertile.
 - C. The Mallee fowl's qualities have not been fully valued.
 - D. David Pridell wants to keep the whereabouts of the Mallee fowl secret.
7. What is the male bird like during egg-laying?
 - A. protective
 - B. builds the nest
 - C. becomes restless
 - D. abandons his mate
8. Which quotation gives an example of a heroic quality of the Mallee fowl?
 - A. 'they may look just like chooks'
 - B. 'Moving tonnes of dirt'
 - C. 'basically just keeping watch'
 - D. 'she's getting very agitated'
9. Which line suggests that the discussion takes place on the property rather than in a studio?
 - A. 'Just this week the gates are closing'
 - B. 'While they may look just like chooks'
 - C. 'We can see the male bird is standing'
 - D. 'The Mallee fowl is one of the most fertile'
10. Which one piece of information could be learnt from listening to the radio program but not from reading the text?
 - A. sound made by the birds
 - B. exact size of the property near Nhill
 - C. length of time it takes to build a nest
 - D. exact appearance of the egg chamber
11. What is the most important threat to the survival of Mallee fowl as implied by the text?

- A. their complex mating routine
- B. the low survival rate of their eggs
- C. the clearing of their natural surroundings
- D. the eating habits of early European settlers

12. What is the role of the reporter in this interview?
- A. ask questions
 - B. provide factual information
 - C. challenge David Priddel's statements
 - D. encourage and reassure David Priddel

The Lottery



Image retrieved from <http://www.google.com.au/search?>

The following passage is adapted from the beginning of a short story set in Sydney.

The first that Ted Bilborough knew of his wife's good fortune was when one of his friends, an elderly wag, shook his hand with mock gravity and murmured a few words of manly but inappropriate sympathy. Ted didn't know what to make of it. He had just stepped from the stairway onto the upper deck of the 6.15 pm ferry from town. Fred Lewis seemed to have been waiting for him, and as he looked about he got the impression of newspapers and grins and a little flutter of half-derisive excitement, all focused on himself. Everything seemed to bulge towards him. It must be some sort of leg pull. He felt his assurance threatened, and the corner of his mouth twitched uncomfortably in his fat cheek, as he tried to assume a hard-boiled manner.

'Keep the change, laddie,' he said to the boy selling newspapers.

'He doesn't know, he actually doesn't know.'

'Your wife's won the lottery!'

Encircle the letter of the correct answer.

13. What did Ted Bilborough learnt shortly after he boards the ferry?
- A. He has lost his job.
 - B. He has inherited a fortune.
 - C. His wife has lost money gambling.
 - D. His wife has won a considerable sum of money.
14. What was the reaction of Ted's friends on the ferry? They were
- A. a bit jealous, but happy for him.
 - B. being unkind and aiming to hurt him.
 - C. being inconsiderate and acting irresponsibly.
 - D. slightly amused, but mainly discomfited for him.

15. What was the 'elderly wag' doing when he murmurs words of sympathy? He was
- A. trying to be as direct and open as possible.
 - B. fumbling for words because he is self-conscious.
 - C. unaware that the occasion is really a time for celebration.
 - D. saying something different from what he is actually means.
16. Which one of the following best describes the way that Ted would have said 'Keep the change, laddie'?
- A. unemotionally, as if nothing had happened
 - B. smugly, so that he could show off his new wealth
 - C. in a kind way, because he pitied the newspaper boy
 - D. whispered behind his hand, in the hope that no one would notice
17. Ted acts differently from the way he feels. What does he feel inside?
- A. mad, but he tries to act as though he is happy
 - B. devastated, but he tries to put on a brave face
 - C. nervous, but he tries to behave in a calm manner
 - D. drained, but he tries to join in the joking of his friends
18. What do the words 'Everything seemed to bulge towards him' refer to?
- A. Ted's self-consciousness about his appearance
 - B. the way that the ferry is tossing in the open water
 - C. Ted's half-hearted attempts to joke with his friends
 - D. Ted's feeling that all the passengers are looking at him
19. What was the mood on the ferry?
- A. calm acceptance
 - B. restless boredom
 - C. seething hostility
 - D. suppressed excitement

Old Woman

Merynn Joseph

The following poem was written by a fifteen-year-old girl.

I have seen an old woman
Who carried age, not like the
End of life but with a pride
In herself and in all around her.

Her clothes barely showed the threads of defeat;
And better times since,
But made a glorious weave of fruitful years,
Of hopes realised.

And I admired this woman
For blanketing the curses of old age,
Fear, defeat, demand,
In a cloak of dignity, humility and kindness.



And I no longer felt the usual scorn
Of those lived too long,
But a hope that I might become
A model based on her structure.

Image retrieved from <http://www.google.com.au/search?>

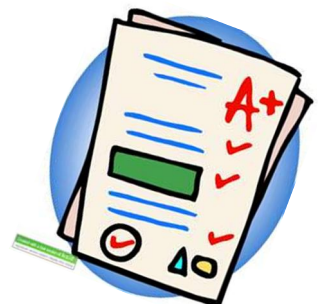
Encircle the letter of the correct answer.

20. What does the first verse of the poem indicate? The old woman
- A. is contented in her world.
 - B. is vain and self-important.
 - C. leads an isolated and lonely life.
 - D. burdens others with her troubles.
21. How does the old woman carry her age?
- A. humbly
 - B. passively
 - C. resentfully
 - D. confidently
22. What does the poem suggest about the old woman? She
- A. fears for the future.
 - B. has forgotten the past.
 - C. is nourished by her past.
 - D. has ambitious plans for the future.
23. What does the third verse of the poem indicate? The old woman
- A. is tormented by doubts.
 - B. is looking forward to the future.
 - C. has kept to herself any fears she might have.
 - D. frets and worries about her advancing years.
24. What does the fourth verse of the poem indicate? The old woman
- A. old people are eccentric and unpredictable.
 - B. old people tend to be scornful of the young.
 - C. the author used to regard old people with scorn.
 - D. it is time for the old woman to pass on her knowledge.
25. What does the poem as a whole suggest about the old woman? She
- A. has an inner strength.
 - B. is kindly but pompous.
 - C. is high-spirited and playful.
 - D. appears bowed down and miserable

II. VERBAL REASONING

Encircle the letter of the correct answer.

26. Which of the words below best completes the analogy?
WANTON is to MALEVOLENT as BENIGN is to _____.
- A. VINDICTIVE
 - B. MALIGNANT



C. CANCEROUS

D. COMPASSIONATE

27. Which of the words is nearest to the meaning of VITUPERATE?

A. BUOY

C. SUSTAIN

B. INVEIGH

D. REINFORCE

28. Rearrange the words below to make the best sentence. Which is the last word in the sentence?

love of composed inhabiting bodies is single a soul two

A. SOUL

C. BODIES

B. LOVE

D. COMPOSED

Image retrieved from <http://www.google.com.au/search?>

29. Choose the most appropriate word to complete the following sentence:

When angry, the woman would spew _____ insults.

A. vitriolic

C. sympathetic

B. altruistic

D. benevolent

30. Complete the sentence with a third person pronoun:

Since Liza is my friend, I wish _____ entry would win.

A. he

C. his

B. she

D. her

31. Choose the most appropriate word to complete the following sentence:

Beyoncé realized that the lyrics she had just penned were completely _____ and tried to add more substance.

A. clever

C. vacuous

B. shrewd

D. sensible

32. Which of the following is most similar in meaning to truculent?

A. blasé

C. hostile

B. lenient

D. lackadaisical

33. All of the words in the box below are alike in some way.

staid	demure
stolid	sombre

Which of the following options could not be in the box?

A. dull

C. sedate

B. calm

D. audacious

34. Which two of the following statements together prove that HUMANS ARE FOOLS?

I. ALL MORTALS ARE FOOLS.

II. ZEUS IS IMMORTAL.

III. ZEUS IS NOT HUMAN.

IV. ALL HUMANS ARE MORTAL.

A. I and III

B. I and IV

C. II and IV

D. III and IV

35. Four of the following words are alike in some way.

Which is the odd word out?

A. SACROSANCT

C. UNTOUCHABLE

B. INVIOLEABLE

D. BREAKABLE

36. Which of the following words has a similar meaning to RIFE?
A. SPARSE
B. UBIQUITOUS
C. SCRUBBY
D. INSUBSTANTIAL
37. In a certain code KBDOWHPV means HEARTLESS.
Using the same code, VXQZWFRK means
A. ABSOLUTE
B. TRICKERY
C. QUESTION
D. SANCTION
38. Which letters are missing in this series?
KFD IED ____ ECC CBB AAB
A. GDC
B. GCD
C. GCC
D. GDD
39. Which of the following is most similar in meaning to QUERULOUS?
A. EQUABLE
B. WHINGEING
C. PHLEGMATIC
D. UNFLAPPABLE

40. All of the words in the box below are alike in some way.

recalcitrant	unruly
intractable	refractory

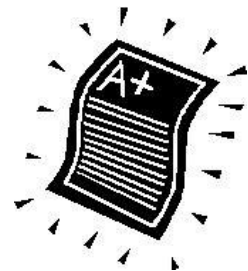


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<http://www.google.com.au/search?>

- Which of the following options could not be in the box?
A. obstinate
B. wayward
C. headstrong
D. complaisant
41. Four of the following words are alike in some way.
Which is the odd word out?
A. beauty
B. splendour
C. drawback
D. pulchritude
42. In a certain code DNDIZPS means ELEGANT.
In the same code, RGUGQCK means
A. RECOUNT
B. REGARDS
C. SINCERE
D. SEVERAL
43. PROTEAN is to MUTABLE as INTERMITTENT is to:
A. INCESSANT
B. PERPETUAL
C. STAUNCH
D. SPASMODIC
44. Which of the following is not similar in meaning to PELLUCID?
A. TRANSPARENT
B. IMPERVIOUS
C. BLATANT
D. CLEAR
45. All of the words in the box below are alike in some way.

paucity	lack	rarity	dearth
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- Which of the following options could go in the box?
A. glut
B. surfeit

C. plethora

D. deficiency

46. The doctor trusted that the new medication would _____ her patient's discomfort. Which of the following options could fill the gap?
A. palliate
B. inflame
C. aggravate
D. exacerbate
47. Jack's _____ reason for driving was that airfare was too expensive, but in reality, he was afraid of flying. Which of the following options could fill the gap?
A. genuine
B. ostensible
C. cogent
D. authentic
48. OBTUSE is to ASTUTE as SENSITIVE is to:
A. GLIB
B. EARNEST
C. CANDID
D. HEARTFELT
49. Which of the following words is OPPOSITE in meaning to OBFUSCATE?
A. CLOUD
B. BEFUDDLE
C. MYSTIFY
D. CLARIFY
50. John, Bertha, Cath, Don, Ed, and Fabio sit at a round table. Cath sits opposite John. Fabio is next to Bertha. John has Don on her left and Bertha on her right. Who is on Cath's left?
A. John
B. Don
C. Ed
D. Fabio
51. Which of the following is not similar in meaning to OBDURATE?
A. MULLISH
B. ADAMANT
C. IMMOVABLE
D. COMPLIANT
52. All of the words in the box below are alike in some way.

mess	chaos	muddle	quagmire
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Which of the following options could NOT go in the box?

- A. morass
B. tangle

- C. amity
D. knot

53. Refusing to display even a _____ of sensitivity, Henrietta announced her boss's affair in front of the entire office. Which of the following options could fill the gap?
A. modicum
B. malediction
C. manifold
D. maelstrom
54. The author's _____ style has won him many followers who dislike wordiness. Which of the following options could fill the gap?
A. laconic
B. extensive
C. interminable
D. longwinded
55. INVECTIVE is to PRAISE as EULOGY is to:
A. ACCLAIM
B. HOMAGE
C. CRITICISM
D. PANEGYRIC

Good



Images retrieved from <http://www.google.com.au/search?>

III. CREATIVE WRITING

What is Creative Writing?

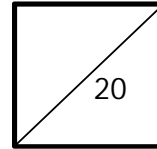
*Creative writing is writing that expresses the writer's thoughts and feelings in an imaginative, often unique, and poetic way.
(Sil.org – What is Creative Writing?)*

Task: Write a short story based on the picture below with the title

And you thought dragons didn't exist...



Do your planning on the space below and write your creative writing piece on the next page:



CREATIVE WRITING RUBRIC

Your work will be assessed based on the rubric below:

	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below basic
Holistic score:	2.5	2	1.5	1
IDEAS/ CONTENT (1)	Expertly combines story elements around a controlling idea to reveal a thought provoking theme.	Combines story elements around a controlling idea to reveal a theme.	Story elements may or may not reveal a controlling idea/theme. Overly simplistic.	No clear controlling idea and/or theme.
PLOT & SITUATION (2)	Expertly develops a plot/situation, characters and setting.	Develops a plot/situation, characters and setting.	Provides a minimally developed plot line.	Lacks a developed plot line.
ORGANISATION (3)	<u>Expert structure:</u> Strong, engaging exposition. Effective sequencing of ideas based on purpose and skilfully linked to theme. Resolution skilfully draws story towards a conclusion.	<u>Satisfactory structure:</u> Engaging exposition. Adequate sequencing of ideas based on purpose and linked to theme. Resolution draws story towards a conclusion	<u>Weak structure:</u> Exposition, sequencing of ideas in body and/or resolution need some revision. May be isolated events with weak sequencing.	<u>Little to no structure:</u> Exposition, conflict, and/or resolution may not exist or may need major revision.
NARRATIVE DEVICES/SENSORY DETAIL (4)	Anecdotes, sensory details and examples expertly create a clear sense of characters' thoughts, actions and appearances. Suspense and dialogue skilfully advance the plot, give insight into characters and keep the reader continually informed/entertained.	Anecdotes, sensory details and examples create a sense of the character's thoughts, actions and appearances. Suspense and dialogue advance the plot, give insight into the characters, and keep the reader informed/entertained.	Attempts to use details and/or anecdotes, suspense and/or dialogue, but with minimal effectiveness.	Fails to use details, anecdotes, dialogue and/or suspense.
VOICE (5)	Writer's voice is authentic, confident, entertaining, and imbedded within the story. Writer's personal style of writing expertly shines through. Clear sense of purpose and audience. Consistent point of view throughout paper.	Writer's voice is confident and authentic. Writer's personal style of writing shines through. Clear sense of audience and purpose. Consistent point of View.	Sense of purpose and/or audience not clear. Writer's voice is detached from the story.	Unclear or no sense of voice, purpose and/or audience.
WORD AND LANGUAGE CHOICE (6)	Precise words or phrases powerfully convey the intended message. Precise words skilfully shows not tell.	Correct/adequate words or phrases get message across. Precise words show not tell	More precise and accurate words are needed to convey a clear message.	Limited vocabulary; words may be used inappropriately or unnecessarily repeated.
SENTENCE FLUENCY (7)	Purposeful and innovative sentence structure to enhance intended effect. Skilful use of transitions	Correct/adequate words or phrases get message across. Precise words show not Tell.	More precise and accurate words are needed to convey a clear message.	Limited vocabulary; words may be used inappropriately or unnecessarily repeated.

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	within and across paragraphs.			
CONVENTIONS (8)	Shows creativity and flexibility when using conventions to enhance meaning.	Uses grade level appropriate conventions; errors are minor and do not obscure meaning.	Uses grade level appropriate conventions; errors are minor and do not obscure meaning.	Uses grade level appropriate conventions; errors occasionally obscure meaning.

ANSWER KEY:

I. COMPREHENSION

1. What does Charlotte experience on first entering the room?
A. sudden sense of loss
2. Why does Sarah most likely find the moment 'tricky' and 'difficult'? She is
B. humiliated by the children's behaviour.
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A. easing the tension so the children can relax and be themselves
4. Whose viewpoint is this account mainly told from?
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D. are sensitive to the feelings of the children.
6. What does the word 'unsung' suggest?
C. The Mallee fowl's qualities have not been fully valued.
7. What is the male bird like during egg-laying?
A. protective
8. Which quotation gives an example of a heroic quality of the Mallee fowl?
B. 'Moving tonnes of dirt'
9. Which line suggests that the discussion takes place on the property rather than in a studio?
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10. Which one piece of information could be learnt from listening to the radio program but not from reading the text?
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12. What is the role of the reporter in this interview?
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13. What did Ted Bilborough learnt shortly after he boards the ferry?
D. His wife has won a considerable sum of money.
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C. nervous, but he tries to behave in a calm manner

18. What do the words 'Everything seemed to bulge towards him' refer to?

D. Ted's feeling that all the passengers are looking at him

19. What was the mood on the ferry?

D. suppressed excitement

20. What is the 'heavy cargo' referred to in line 15?

D. cultural and emotional understanding

21. Why are the cities 'fading' in line 22?

D. The memory of them is becoming vague.

22. What does the text suggest about the environment in which the snow leopard lives?

D. largely difficult to get to

23. Why does the text suggest that conservation of the snow leopard is important for the local ecosystem? Because it ensures

A. the survival of other species.

24. A 'buffer' is like a shock absorber or protective device. As used in the text, why is the marmot considered a 'buffer'?

D. Snow leopards would rather hunt marmots than domestic livestock.

25. What does the text imply about the living conditions of humans in snow leopard countries in the last few years?

D. deteriorated

II. VERBAL REASONING

26. Which of the words below best completes the analogy?

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D. COMPASSIONATE

27. Which of the words is nearest to the meaning of VITUPERATE?

B. INVEIGH

28. Rearrange the words below to make the best sentence. Which is the last word in the sentence?
love of composed inhabiting bodies is single a soul two

C. BODIES

29. Choose the most appropriate word to complete the following sentence:

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30. Complete the sentence with a third person pronoun:

Since Liza is my friend, I wish _____ entry would win.

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C. vacuous

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C. hostile

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Which of the following options could not be in the box?

D. audacious

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D. SANCTION

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KFD IED ____ ECC CBB AAB

A. GDC

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51. Which of the following is not similar in meaning to OBDURATE?
D. COMPLIANT
52. All of the words in the box below are alike in some way.
Which of the following options could NOT go in the box?
C. amity
53. Refusing to display even a _____ of sensitivity, Henrietta announced her boss's affair in front of the entire office. Which of the following options could fill the gap?
A. modicum
54. The author's _____ style has won him many followers who dislike wordiness. Which of the following options could fill the gap?
A. laconic
55. INVECTIVE is to PRAISE as EULOGY is to:
C. CRITICISM