Part 2

Circle the letter of the word or set of words that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. Troy was ------- when he wasn't elected class president: his spirits were so low that there was nothing we could say or do to cheer him up.
   (A) unctuous
   (B) disconsolate
   (C) ebullient
   (D) inscrutable
   (E) tenacious

2. Lazarro's last movie polarized viewers: while many ------- the film for its artfully directed scenes, others ------- it for being inaccessible.
   (A) praised . . extolled
   (B) disparaged . . blamed
   (C) regarded . . commended
   (D) admired . . endorsed
   (E) lauded . . criticized
3. Joe Louis was _______ fighter: he inspired fear in many of his opponents.
   (A) a serene
   (B) an impetuous
   (C) an insipid
   (D) a malleable
   (E) a redoubtable

4. His _______ prior experience notwithstanding, David was judged by the hiring manager to be _______ the job.
   (A) illustrious . . entitled to
   (B) limited . . qualified for
   (C) applicable . . assured of
   (D) useful . . overqualified for
   (E) irrelevant . . perplexed by

5. The _______ of Queen Elizabeth I impressed her contemporaries: she seemed to know what dignitaries and foreign leaders were thinking.
   (A) symbiosis
   (B) malevolence
   (C) punctiliousness
   (D) consternation
   (E) perspicacity
6. Allison had only ______ knowledge of the recent legislation; although she had glanced at a summary, she had not ______ the details of the new law's many provisions.

(A) superficial . . examined
(B) subjective . . studied
(C) sketchy . . vacated
(D) questionable . . endorsed
(E) cursory . . opposed

7. A group of Black American fighter pilots known as the Red Tail Angels has the ______ of never having lost any of the bombers it escorted on missions over Europe in the Second World War.

(A) onus
(B) distinction
(C) imperative
(D) potential
(E) assignment

8. The “double feature,” which featured two films for the price of one, became popular in the 1930s as a scheme to ______ former moviegoers who had begun to stay home since the ______ of the Depression at the beginning of the decade.

(A) lure . . advent
(B) discourage . . end
(C) dissuade . . dawn
(D) perplex . . onset
(E) instigate . . devastation
9. His inclination to succumb to flattery made him _______ to the _______ of people who wished to take advantage of him.

(A) immune . . predilection

(B) prejudicial . . intentions

(C) susceptible . . cajolery

(D) resistant . . blandishments

(E) amenable . . rejection

10. The architect wanted to _______ his own initial vision and design but recognized the importance of _______ requests from his client; in the end, he had to make several concessions.

(A) maintain . . accommodating

(B) develop . . submitting

(C) protect . . excluding

(D) refuse . . incorporating

(E) preserve . . disregarding

11. The impoverished city lacked the financial means to update its _______ electrical infrastructure.

(A) despondent

(B) antiquated

(C) rejuvenated

(D) superlative

(E) esoteric
12. Understandably, it is the _______ among theater critics who become most incensed when producers insist on _______ celebrated classic plays.

(A) strategists .. discussing
(B) mediators .. staging
(C) conformists .. praising
(D) traditionalists .. recognizing
(E) purists .. reinterpreting

13. Because he was _______ in the face of danger, the explorer won the government's highest award for conspicuous bravery.

(A) virile
(B) heedless
(C) dauntless
(D) callow
(E) timorous

14. Since the explanations offered are _______ to the exposition, it would be unfair to treat them as _______ parts of the studies under consideration.

(A) tangential .. subsidiary
(B) irrelevant .. superfluous
(C) referable .. correspondent
(D) incidental .. essential
(E) crucial .. immutable
15. Alvin is an exceedingly ------ person: he unselfishly ------ his friends without ever expecting anything in return.

(A) opportunistic .. supports
(B) noble .. undermines
(C) bemused .. aids
(D) caustic .. neglects
(E) altruistic .. assists

16. Ms. Fergusson's main criticism of the artist's rendering of the ancient mammal's physical appearance is that, unsupported by even a ------ of fossil evidence, the image is bound to be ---.

(A) modicum .. speculative
(B) particle .. supplemented
(C) perusal .. substantiated
(D) fabrication .. obsolete
(E) recapitulation .. exhausted

17. Although the scientist claimed to have made a major breakthrough in his research, the evidence he offered as proof of his assertion was ------ at best.

(A) conclusive
(B) indubitable
(C) paltry
(D) copious
(E) extensive
18. When, in 1864, a factory established by Alfred Nobel to manufacture nitroglycerin blew up, the scientist discovered that the explosive was as -------- as it was powerful, -------- to detonate without warning.

(A) dormant . . ready

(B) fickle . . unlikely

(C) volatile . . liable

(D) unprecedented . . intended

(E) inactive . . designed

19. Because she has a great need for --------, she loathes the public appearances demanded of her as a leading literary figure.

(A) luxury

(B) privacy

(C) reward

(D) devotion

(E) distraction

20. Kelly was stunned that her neighbor had the -------- to inquire about borrowing her new snow blower, considering the fact that he had broken her old one.

(A) foresight

(B) temperament

(C) conviction

(D) audacity

(E) integrity
21. Although Rolf is usually quite ------, he was so ------ by the salesman's rude remarks that he insisted on complaining to the manager.

(A) tractable .. reassured
(B) timorous .. angered
(C) plucky .. offended
(D) valiant .. incensed
(E) diffident .. satisfied

22. Tantra paintings from India are not only beautiful but also ------: in addition to their aesthetic value, they are used to facilitate meditation.

(A) garish
(B) valuable
(C) numerous
(D) ornate
(E) functional

23. The new administrator was ------; he considered new ideas worthy of consideration but ultimately ------ the old ways.

(A) an iconoclast .. undermined by
(B) an opportunist .. reminiscent of
(C) a sentimentalist .. preferable to
(D) a traditionalist .. inferior to
(E) an idealist .. instructive about
24. Mark’s pledge to assist with the project left Sondra more ------- than grateful; she ------- the offer but knew that Mark often failed to follow through on his promises.

(A) wary .. appreciated
(B) puzzled .. suspected
(C) content .. abandoned
(D) skeptical .. resented
(E) elated .. acknowledged

25. The notoriously temperamental American actor Edwin Forrest was known for his ------- - both on stage and off.

(A) apologies
(B) musings
C) inequities
(D) histrionics
(E) philosophies

26. Confident that her own political platform would ------- at election time, the mayor considered her opponent's sudden popularity less a threat than -------.

(A) falter .. a boon
(B) strengthen .. a calamity
(C) prevail .. a distraction
(D) alter .. an error
(E) waver .. a diversion
27. The rumor was of the -------- variety, spreading slowly and almost imperceptibly until, finally, everyone seemed to have heard the story.

(A) manifest
(B) dilatory
(C) insidious
(D) aggressive
(E) expeditious

28. Instead of praising the -------- employees who worked late every night to ensure that the project was finished on time, the manager criticized them for not having -------- the work sooner.

(A) assiduous .. complicated
(B) lethargic .. finalized
(C) meticulous .. discarded
(D) diligent .. completed
(E) neglectful .. overlooked

29. Cecily is worried that, with all the recent innovations in computing, her five-year-old laptop and its software will soon be --------.

(A) redundant
(B) obsolete
(C) unnecessary
(D) renewable
(E) valuable
30. Even those who do not ------- Robinson’s views ------- him as a candidate who has courageously refused to compromise his convictions.

(A) shrink from . . condemn
(B) concur with . . recognize
(C) profit from . . dismiss
(D) disagree with . . envision
(E) dissent from . . remember

31. Many of today’s physicians and patients are ------- high technology, captivated by computer-designed drugs and laser surgery.

(A) nervous about
(B) defensive about
(C) tolerant of
(D) enamored of
(E) overwhelmed by

32. Those scholars who believe that the true author of the poem died in 1812 consider the authenticity of this particular manuscript ------- because it includes references to events that occurred in 1818.

(A) ageless
(B) tenable
(C) suspect
(D) unique
(E) legitimate
33. Observing the newspaper's tradition of ------ attention to accuracy, the reporter ------ every statement made by her informant.

(A) scrupulous .. verified  
(B) lax .. challenged  
(C) sporadic .. corroborated  
(D) systematic .. bungled  
(E) inordinate .. exaggerated

34. The language of Anne Spencer's poetry conveys an impression of ------ that can be misleading: just when a poem seems to be echoing routine feelings, the diction suddenly sharpens to embody fresh and unexpected ideas.

(A) frivolity  
(B) triteness  
(C) diversity  
(D) lyricism  
(E) precision

35. While a "rock" is usually defined as ------ , or a combination, of one or more minerals, geologists often ------ the definition to include such materials as clay, loose sand, and certain limestones.

(A) a conglomeration .. limit  
B) an aggregate .. extend  
(C) an element .. eliminate  
(D) a blend .. restrict  
(E) a product .. provide
36. Many forests in the southern region of the continent are ------- plant and animal diversity, partly because they never suffered the onslaught of glaciers that wiped out flora and fauna in northern forests long ago.

(A) rich in
(B) devoid of
(C) dependent on
(D) protected from
(E) conflicted about
Part 3

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards Addressed:

Language

Knowledge of Language:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.3
Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.4
Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.5
Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.6
Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.

Reading

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.10
Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently