

Oedipus Rex
Vocabulary Quiz

1. The shepherd did not show any _____, because his incessant babbling soon revealed the secret.
(A) boon
(B) miscreant
(C) mountebank
(D) parricide
(E) taciturnity
2. Oedipus had an ill-tempered and _____ disposition, which became evident when he quarreled with Creon.
(A) ethereal
(B) truculent
(C) surfeited
(D) taciturn
(E) extirpated
3. By leaving his home and going to Thebes, Oedipus believed that he could avoid _____ and thus foil the prophesy of his killing his father.
(A) boon
(B) miscreant
(C) mountebank
(D) parricide
(E) taciturnity
4. The blind prophet, Tiresias, has a(n) _____ gift from the gods; indeed, since the gods revealed their will to him, he could never be classified as a mountebank.
(A) ethereal
(B) extirpated
(C) prevaricated
(D) surfeited
(E) taciturn
5. King Oedipus believed that a good host was to _____ his guests until they could no longer eat another bite or drink another drop.
(A) etherealize
(B) extirpate
(C) prevaricate
(D) surfeit
(E) requite

OVER

6. BOON : MISFORTUNE ::

- (A) shark : whale
- (B) book : newspaper
- (C) satisfaction : regrets
- (D) murky : obscure
- (E) contract : lawyer

7. CULTIVATE : EXTIRPATE ::

- (A) work : labor
- (B) forget : misplace
- (C) rely : depend
- (D) accept : refuse
- (E) recall : remember

8. MISCREANT : CHAMPION ::

- (A) hermit : recluse
- (B) trap : mouse
- (C) organ : piano
- (D) devil : God
- (E) bus : train

9. PREVARICATE : MISLEAD ::

- (A) withdraw : occupy
- (B) drop : dodge
- (C) entertain : delight
- (D) oppress : relieve
- (E) block : open

10. MOUNTEBANK : CHARLATAN ::

- (A) oracle : prophet
- (B) count : king
- (C) game : checkers
- (D) foolishness : reservation
- (E) ticket : station

11. During his reign as king, Oedipus had power to destroy his enemies as well as to give boons to his supporters.

The word “boons” means

- (A) shoes.
- (B) documents.
- (C) exemptions.
- (D) favors.
- (E) pardons.

12. The shepherd had nothing to gain if he were to prevaricate any facts about what he did years ago.

The infinitive “to prevaricate” means in this sentence

- (A) to lie.
- (B) to imagine.
- (C) to ignore.
- (D) to disbelieve.
- (E) to blackmail.

13. The blind prophet, Tiresias, could not be accused of being a mountebank, because the old man revealed many secrets only known to Oedipus.

The word “mountebank” means

- (A) priest.
- (B) pretender.
- (C) soothsayer.
- (D) counselor.
- (E) miscreant.

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In order to discover the murderer of King Laius, Oedipus sends for the blind seer, Tiresias. Even though he is reluctant, the prophet announces Oedipus as the guilty person. Incensed by the revelation, Oedipus denounces it as a plot by Creon to gain

14

- 14. A. NO CHANGE
- B. Incensed by it
- C. Incensed by them
- D. Incensed due to it

the throne. Arriving in time to stop a fight between the two men, she assures Oedipus that seers are not infallible. For

15

- 15. A. NO CHANGE
- B. they assure
- C. her assuring
- D. Jocasta assures

proof, Jocasta tells about the prophecy which her son was to kill his father and have children by his mother. However, Jocasta prevented the prophecy by abandoning their infant son in the

16

- 16. A. NO CHANGE
- B. her
- C. his
- D. its

mountains. As for her husband, Laius had been killed by robbers years later at the junction of three roads on the route to Delphi. After his mother speaking, Oedipus recalls killing a

17

- 17. A. NO CHANGE
- B. Jocasta
- C. mothers'
- D. mother's

man who matched Laius' description when he had fled from his home in Corinth to avoid fulfilling a similar prophecy. An aged messenger arrives from Corinth and to announce the death of

18

- 18. A. NO CHANGE
- B. and being announced
- C. and announces
- D. and would announce

King Polybus, the supposed father of Oedipus, and the election of Oedipus as king in his stead. Because of the prophecy, Oedipus refuses to return to Corinth until Merope is dead as well. To calm his fears, the messenger assures him that he is not

19

- 19. A. NO CHANGE
- B. Oedipus that he is
- C. them that he is
- D. her that he is

the blood son of Polybus and Merope, but is a foundling who was deserted in the mountains. This statement is confirmed by the old shepherd who Jocasta had charged with the task of

20

- 20. A. NO CHANGE
- B. whose
- C. who's
- D. whom

exposing her babe. Thus the ancient prophecy has been fulfilled in every horrible detail. Jocasta in her shame hangs herself and Oedipus puts out his eyes. Then wretched man imposes upon himself the penalty of exile which Oedipus had decreed for the murderer of Laius.

END