BLOGS

Sample Vocabulary Questions for CLAT 2024

Ruchika Mohapatra · 16 Feb 2023

Read the passages and answer the following questions.

A. In the 16th century, an age of great marine and terrestrial exploration, Ferdinand Magellan led the first expedition __[1]___ sail around the world. As a young Portuguese noble, he served the king of Portugal, but he became involved in the quagmire of political intrigue at court and lost the king's favor. After he was dismissed from service by the king of Portugal, he offered to serve the future Emperor Charles V of Spain.

A papal decree of 1493 had assigned all land in the New World west of 50 degrees W longitude to Spain and all the land east of that line to Portugal. Magellan offered to prove that the East Indies fell under Spanish authority. On September 20, 1519, Magellan set sail from Spain with five ships. More than a year later, one of these ships was exploring the topography of South America in search of a water route across the continent. This ship sank, but the remaining four ships searched along the southern peninsula of South America. Finally they found the passage they sought near 50 degrees S latitude. Magellan named this passage the Strait of All Saints, but today it is known as the Strait of Magellan.

One ship deserted while in this passage and returned to Spain, so fewer sailors were privileged to gaze at that first panorama of the Pacific Ocean. Those who remained crossed the meridian now known as the International Date Line in the early spring of 1521 after 98 days on the Pacific Ocean. During those long days at sea, many of Magellan's men died of starvation and disease.

Later, Magellan became involved in an insular conflict in the Philippines and was killed in a tribal battle. Only one ship and 17 sailors under the command of the Basque navigator Elcano survived to complete the westward journey to Spain and thus prove once and for all that the world is round, with no precipice at the edge.

1. Magellan lost the favor of the king of Portugal when he became involved in a political _____.

a. entanglement

b. discussion

c. negotiation

d. problem

2. Which word is the closest in meaning to the term ‘deserted’?

a. lost

b. abandoned

c. returned

d. gave up

3. What can be written in place of [1]?

a. for

b. on

c. to

d. in

4. Which word is the closest in meaning to the term ‘terrestrial’?

a. related to land

b. related to water

c. related to air

d. related to sea

5. Which word is the opposite of the term ‘assigned’?

a. Unallocated

b. apportion

c. Unclear

d. appropriate

Answers

1. a

2. b

3. b

4. a

5. a

B. Marie Curie was one of the most accomplished scientists in history. Together with her husband, Pierre, she __[2]__ radium, an element widely used for treating cancer, and studied uranium and other radioactive substances. Pierre and Marie's amicable collaboration later helped to unlock the secrets of the atom.

Marie was born in 1867 in Warsaw, Poland, where her father was a professor __[1]__ physics. At an early age, she displayed a brilliant mind and a blithe personality. Her great exuberance for learning prompted her to continue with her studies after high school. She became disgruntled, however, when she learned that the university in Warsaw was closed to women. Determined to receive a higher education, she defiantly left Poland and in 1891 entered the Sorbonne, a French university, where she earned her master's degree and doctorate in physics.

Marie was fortunate to have studied at the Sorbonne with some of the greatest scientists of her day, one of whom was Pierre Curie. Marie and Pierre were married in 1895 and spent many productive years working together in the physics laboratory. A short time after they discovered radium, Pierre was killed by a horse-drawn wagon in 1906. Marie was stunned by this horrible misfortune and endured heartbreaking anguish. Despondently she recalled their close relationship and the joy that they had shared in scientific research. The fact that she had two young daughters to raise by herself greatly increased her distress.

Curie's feeling of desolation finally began to fade when she was asked to succeed her husband as a physics professor at the Sorbonne. She was the first woman to be given a professorship at the world-famous university. In 1911 she received the Nobel Prize in chemistry for isolating radium. Although Marie Curie eventually suffered a fatal illness from her long exposure to radium, she never became disillusioned about her work. Regardless of the consequences, she had dedicated herself to science and to revealing the mysteries of the physical world.

1. Which word is the closest in meaning to the term 'desolation'?

a. melancholy
b. loneliness
c. dejection
d. delusion

2. What can be written in place of [1]?

a. for

b. of

c. in

d. at

3. What can be written in place of [2]?

a. invented

b. created

c. discovered

d. curated

4. Which word is the opposite of the term ‘blithe’?

a. carefree

b. casual

c. decisive

d. sorrowful

5. _____ , Marie remembered their joy together.

a. Dejectedly

b. Worried

c. Tearfully

d. Happily

Answers

1. a

2. b

3. c

4. d

5. a

Preparing for CLAT? Check out more such posts on sample questions for CLAT 2024!