Text completion: dependent meanings across two and three blanks

GRE General Test

Scope and task

Original classroom practice within the reviewed shorter-test task types. This does not simulate an adaptive test or predict a scaled or writing score.

- Predict each blank from contrast, support and qualification cues
- Use one choice from each column and check the completed whole
- Distinguish independent answer columns from interdependent passage meanings

conjecture : A proposed explanation not established by the available evidence.

dogmatic : Treating a view as certain without allowing appropriate doubt.

Read the evidence and choose a method

Read the complete passage before starting a blank. Mark contrast cues such as although, support cues such as because, and a qualification that limits an apparent claim. Predict a plain-language role for each blank before looking for a difficult word. A later sentence may supply the clearest evidence for an earlier blank.

For two or three blanks, begin with the one whose context is most constrained. Use its proposed meaning to check the remaining passage, then return and verify the first choice. Answer columns do not restrict one another mechanically, but the resulting ideas must form one coherent account. Do not choose a superficially positive word merely because the subject sounds admirable.

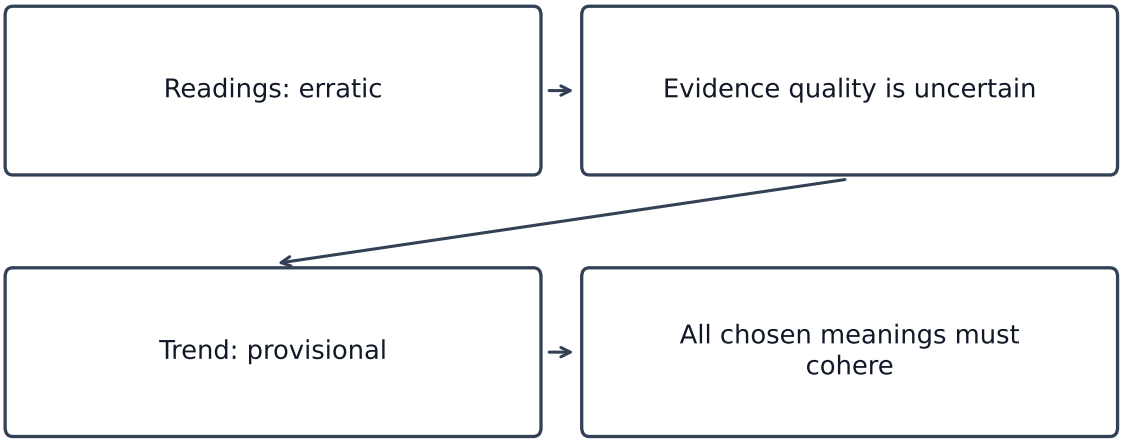
A correct response needs one answer for every blank. The official task gives three choices per blank for multi-blank items, with no partial credit. Our additional checkbox drill labels each column explicitly: select exactly one entry from each labelled blank. It checks the full answer set locally; it is a practice adaptation, not the official column interface.

Read the completed passage using every chosen word. Check grammar, logical direction and strength. Reject a word that contradicts an explicit limitation even if it pairs well with one other blank. Keep a record of why each distractor fails: wrong polarity, wrong degree, wrong logical relation or wrong meaning in context.

Worked reasoning

Original two-blank case: “Although the proposal was initially (i) _____, the pilot’s consistent results made its critics (ii) _____.” Blank i: plausible / dubious / settled. Blank ii: reconsider / celebrate failure / lose interest. Choose dubious and reconsider: initial doubt contrasts with subsequent evidence prompting reassessment. Original

three-blank case: “The curator’s account is (i) _____ about the object’s origin: it distinguishes verified records from (ii) _____, and its final conclusion is therefore (iii) _____ rather than absolute.” i: cautious / dogmatic / irrelevant; ii: certainty / conjecture / documentation; iii: qualified / categorical / unrelated. Cautious, conjecture and qualified preserve the passage’s evidential restraint.



Choose every blank so that the chosen meanings fit together

Conditions and common errors

Independent columns do not mean independent interpretations. Getting two of three blanks right is not a correct complete answer.

Original application

Original two-blank task: “The instrument’s early readings were (i) _____, so the team treated the apparent trend as (ii) _____ rather than established.” Choose one per column. Blank i: erratic / consistent / definitive. Blank ii: provisional / inevitable / irrelevant.

■ Model and reasoning

erratic; provisional. Unstable readings justify a tentative interpretation. Consistent and definitive oppose the reason for caution. Inevitable contradicts “rather than established”; irrelevant discards the trend instead of limiting confidence in it. The “so” connects the evidence quality to the status of the inference. Both choices must work in the completed passage.

Independent transfer

Original three-blank task: “Although the archive is (i) _____, its missing years do not make every conclusion (ii) _____: patterns repeated in the surviving independent records still justify a (iii) _____ claim.” Blank i: incomplete / comprehensive / fabricated. Blank ii: untenable / decisive / modest. Blank iii: qualified / universal / unrelated. Choose one per column and explain every rejection.

■ Check after attempting

incomplete; untenable; qualified. Missing years support incomplete, not comprehensive. Fabricated asserts falsification that the passage never supplies. The negation “do not make every conclusion” allows some justified inference: untenable means indefensible. Decisive would praise conclusions rather than name the criticism being rejected; modest is not the relevant failure. Repeated independent records support a limited claim, so qualified fits. Universal exceeds the incomplete evidence; unrelated breaks the stated support. The blanks are semantically dependent even though the answer columns are separate.