

**Choose the answer that best completes the sentence or answers the question.**

1. If a politician is known for the *brevity* of her speeches, she
  - a. writes her own speeches
  - b. keeps speeches short and concise
  - c. waits for the audience to applaud
  - d. gives speeches most days
2. Read this sentence.  
The *amplitude* of my grandmother's Thanksgiving feasts always amazed us.  
  
*Amplitude* means
  - a. menu
  - b. size
  - c. choice
  - d. variety
3. If you want to measure the *radius* of a circle, you measure
  - a. from the center to the perimeter
  - b. the circumference
  - c. the perimeter
  - d. one-fourth of the circle
4. Which of the following is a synonym for *fundamentally*?
  - a. loosely
  - b. generally
  - c. broadly speaking
  - d. primarily

The Boston Marathon is one of the *supreme* running marathons in the world, growing in popularity and *generating* plenty of publicity every year. It is ranked as one of five World Marathon Majors. The others are New York, London, Berlin, and Chicago. Boston is the oldest annual marathon. The first race was held in 1897. It attracts both world-class, *virtuoso* runners at the top of their game and everyday runners who make up for their lack of *technical* skills with energy and enthusiasm. The sheer *volume* of competitors is impressive. More than 25,000 have entered the marathon the last few years, often under the less-than-*optimal* weather conditions of early spring in New England. Hundreds of thousands of spectators line the route whether it's sunny or snowing, cheering on runners as they make their way to the finish line.

5. In line 1, *supreme* is used to indicate the Boston Marathon is
  - a. one of the world's top marathons
  - b. the first marathon held each year
  - c. the most difficult course to run
  - d. the largest marathon in the world
6. In line 2, *generating* plenty of publicity means
  - a. paying for publicity
  - b. producing publicity
  - c. receiving bad publicity
  - d. requesting publicity
7. In line 4, the word *virtuoso* could be replaced by
  - a. undefeated
  - b. solo
  - c. expert
  - d. unaccompanied
8. If you have *technical* (line 5) skills, you have
  - a. faulty skills
  - b. general skills
  - c. inaccurate skills
  - d. precise skills
9. In line 5 *volume* refers to
  - a. the technical skills of top runners
  - b. the number of runners
  - c. the intense training runners undergo
  - d. the high entrance fee
10. Which is NOT another way of saying *optimal* (line 7)?
  - a. least desirable
  - b. most effective
  - c. most favorable
  - d. most desirable