

### Answers and explanations

*(This passage is from “Preface to a Dictionary of the English Language”, by Samuel Johnson)*

1. **D is the correct answer.** All the other options have flaws to their answer. These types of questions generally have distractors which are partially true, but there is always one answer that is completely sound.
2. **E is the correct answer.** A comprehension question. Many of the other options contain words and phrases from the paragraph, but only E is correct.
3. **B is the correct answer.** “Obsequious” means servant-like, and labor is already mentioned in the paragraph. While the author mentions genius, he does not put the writers of dictionaries in that category (making D incorrect).
4. **D is the correct answer.** Another comprehension question. While the author describes many obstacles in his endeavor, he never outright claims to be unhappy (making A incorrect). He also claims to be doing work FOR geniuses, while not including himself in that category (making B incorrect).
5. **A is the correct answer.** This tricky sentence implies that lexicographers often receive criticism for their work.
6. **C is the correct answer.** It’s the only combination of adjectives that fit the author’s description.
7. **E is the correct answer.** While the author is not positive in this paragraph, he does not venture into diction that could be characterized as acerbic or sardonic (making A and C incorrect).
8. **E is the correct answer.** Most multiple choice passages will have a question that assesses the progression of ideas.
9. **B is the correct answer.** The author has already explained that lexicographers receive criticism, and it is logical for him to explain his methodology to alleviate further criticism.
10. **D is the correct answer.** Another comprehension question. While the job of lexicographer is described, the author does not say anything about changing the sound of the language, nor does he comment on English’s place relative to other languages (making A and B incorrect).
11. **A is the correct answer.** The final paragraph is easily classified as humble, making A the best option.
12. **C is the correct answer.** The quote is endorsing an idea from the author, but it has nothing to do with the vanity of lexicographers (making B incorrect).
13. **B is the correct answer.** A tricky comprehension question at the end of the question set. The words “consistency” and “stability” have positive connotations, but in this instance they’re held up as obstacles of progress.

