

Beer Street and Gin Lane

Vocabulary exercises - **Answers**

1. The prints are designed to be viewed together as they depict the evils of the consumption of gin in contrast to the **merits** of drinking beer.

What is the meaning of **merits**? a) drawbacks

b) health issues

c) good points

d) disadvantages

2. Imports of French wine and spirits were **banned**.

What is the meaning of **banned**? a) discouraged

b) not allowed

c) very expensive

d) very poor quality

3. Gin was often safer to drink than the city's **contaminated**, **sewage-infested** water.

What is the meaning of **contaminated**? a) pure

b) undrinkable because of an unpleasant taste

c) nasty because of the colour

d) impure because it contains a substance that is dangerous or carries disease

4. What is the meaning of **sewage-infested**? **a) full of human waste**

b) full of rats

c) full of alcohol

d) full of oxygen

5. St Giles-in-the-Fields was a **slum** area. What is a **slum**?

- a) an area of the city that is very poor and where the houses are dirty and in bad condition
- b) an expensive area of the city that is inhabited by the upper classes
- c) a middle-class area of the city where the houses are well-maintained
- d) a dangerous area of the city where criminals operate

6. There were enormous health and social problems including **infant mortality** and **insanity**.

What is **infant mortality**?

- a) children with disabilities
- b) young children with terrible diseases
- c) babies that die at or just after birth
- d) children living on the streets

7. What is the meaning of **insanity**?

- a) criminal activity
- b) a disease of the liver
- c) madness
- d) extreme poverty

8. The scene is St Giles, a **notorious slum**, which depicts the **squalor** and despair of a community raised on gin.

What is the meaning of **notorious**?

- a) well known for being good
- b) well known for being bad
- c) well known for commercial activity
- d) well known for being overcrowded

9. What is the meaning of **squalor**?

- a) poverty
- b) hopelessness
- c) dirty and unpleasant conditions
- d) physical health issues

10. The only businesses doing well are the gin sellers, the **distiller**, the **pawnbroker** and the **undertaker**.

Match these occupations with their descriptions.

distiller	someone who produces spirits - strong alcoholic drinks
pawnbroker	someone who lends money in exchange for items left with them
undertaker	someone who prepares the bodies of dead people and arranges funerals

11. The woman in the centre has let her baby slip from her arms and **plunge** to its death.

- What is the meaning of **plunge**?
- a) fall slowly
 - b) drop gently
 - c) move forwards
 - d) move suddenly downwards

12. Judith Dufour's two-year-old child had been placed in the **workhouse**.

- What was the **workhouse**?
- a) children's home
 - b) factory
 - c) brothel
 - d) a building where very poor people were sent to live and given work to do

13. Dufour **reclaimed** her child.

- What is the meaning of **reclaim**?
- a) to ask for something back after it has been taken away
 - b) to be in a position to try again
 - c) to pick up
 - d) to take without asking

14. Dufour **strangled** her child.

What is the meaning of **strangle**?

- a) kill accidentally
- b) kill deliberately
- c) kill by squeezing or pressing on the throat and neck
- d) kill by neglect

15. She left the body in a **ditch**.

What is a **ditch**?

- a) a channel at the side of the road to take away water
- b) a rubbish bin
- c) a hidden area
- d) a deep hole in the ground

16. Mary Estwick let a **toddler** burn to death while she slept in a gin-induced **stupor**.

Who is a **toddler**?

- a) an elderly relative
- b) a child who has only recently learnt to walk
- c) a child over 10 years old
- d) a baby under 6 months old

17. What is a **stupor**?

- a) a dream-like state
- b) a state in which you are unable to think, hear or see clearly because you have drunk too much alcohol
- c) a state of paralysis
- d) a state of ecstasy

18. A barber has committed suicide in the **dilapidated** attic of his barber shop. What is the meaning of **dilapidated**?

- a) newly renovated
- b) well-maintained
- c) old and in very bad condition
- d) needing some minor repairs

19. The only failing business is the pawnbrokers. His building is **run-down**.

What is the meaning of **run-down**? a) neglected; not taken care of

- b) not economically viable
- c) not in a good position
- d) not in the right area

20. People here do not need to pawn off their belongings as they are relatively **prosperous**.

What is the meaning of **prosperous**? a) middle class

- b) rich and successful
- c) happy and healthy
- d) in work

21. The pawnbroker is afraid of **debt collectors** coming after him.

Who are **debt collectors**? a) people who work for criminals

- b) people who are employed to collect money owed to someone
- c) landlords who want their rent
- d) people who want their possessions back

22. It is George II's birthday so maybe the inhabitants are toasting his health.

Who are inhabitants?

- a) people in a picture
- b) supporters of the king
- c) people who live in a particular place
- d) people in well-paid jobs

23. What is the meaning of toast someone's health?

- a) to celebrate the birthday of a member of the royal family
- b) to wish someone happiness or success by drinking a glass of alcohol at the same time
- c) to make a healthy toasted sandwich
- d) to show support to the reigning monarch

24. The inhabitants of Beer Street are all working in commerce.

What is the meaning of commerce? a) good jobs

- b) trade
- c) fulfilling jobs
- d) self-employed businesses

25. Tied up in the basket are examples of books that Hogarth disapproved of.

What is the meaning of disapproved?

- a) he didn't think they were good
- b) he thought they were excellent
- c) he thought they were too expensive
- d) he didn't like the authors

26. The books are **destined** for the **scrap heap**.

- What is the meaning of **destined**?
- a) being sold
 - b) on the way to**
 - c) coming back from
 - d) on top of

27. What is the **scrap heap**?
- a) a second-hand market
 - b) a book-sellers
 - c) a pile of things that are no longer wanted**
 - d) a library

28. On the roof, the builders are working on the **publican**'s house above *The Sun Inn*.

- Who is a **publican**?
- a) a politician
 - b) a member of the public
 - c) a person who owns or manages a pub**
 - d) a customer of a pub

29. Apart from the master **tailor**, the other **tailors** have not stopped working in the attic.

- Who is a **tailor**?
- a) a graphic designer
 - b) a writer
 - c) someone who makes suits**
 - d) someone who makes furniture

30. The wages of journeymen tailors were the subject of an ongoing **dispute**, which was finally settled in their favour by **arbitration** in 1751.

- What is a **dispute**?
- a) an argument or disagreement**
 - b) a legal case
 - c) a strike
 - d) request for a raise

31. What is **arbitration**?
a) a successful strike
b) a successful court case
c) a violent fight
d) the official process of settling an argument or disagreement by someone who is not involved

32. The inhabitants of the street have taken a break for **refreshment**.

What is **refreshment**?
a) a cold shower
b) a proper rest
c) a pint of beer
d) food and drink

33. Although the workers have paused for a break, it is clear that they are not **idle**.

What is the meaning of **idle**?
a) poor
b) rich
c) lazy
d) tired

34. The sign-painter is a bit of an **enigma**.

What is an **enigma**?
a) an artist
b) a mystery
c) a professional
d) an expert

35. He is dressed in **ragged** clothes.

What is the meaning of **ragged**?
a) old and torn
b) old but stylish
c) old-fashioned
d) old and dirty

36. He is quite **skinny** compared to the rather well-fed workers enjoying their beers.

- What is the meaning of **skinny**?
- a) malnourished
 - b) **very thin**
 - c) unhappy
 - d) hard-working

37. The government's initial policy of encouraging the distillation of gin may be the cause of both Gin Lane's **ruin** and Beer Street's **prosperity**.

- What is the meaning of **ruin**?
- a) **downfall; destruction**
 - b) benefit
 - c) enjoyment
 - d) addiction

38. What is the meaning of **prosperity**?
- a) happy-go-lucky atmosphere
 - b) drinking culture
 - c) **success, especially in making money**
 - d) well-maintained community

39. The people of Beer Street ignore the **misery** of Gin Lane.

- What is the meaning of **misery**?
- a) addiction
 - b) existence
 - c) buildings
 - d) **very poor living conditions**

40. Beer Street is a **counterpoint** to the more shocking Gin Lane.

- What is a **counterpoint**?
- a) an accompaniment
 - b) a pleasant addition
 - c) **an interesting contrast**
 - d) a beautiful scene

41. Beer Street depicts the benefits of being **nourished** by the native beer.

What is the meaning of **nourished**? **a) kept alive and healthy with food etc.**

b) kept entertained

c) kept happy

d) kept free from addiction

42. You might wonder how beer can be promoted as a health-giving **elixir** for life.

What is an **elixir**? a) a remedy to improve mental health

b) a magic liquid that is believed to cure illnesses or make people live for ever

c) a drink to keep you young

d) a cure for water-borne diseases

43. Beer was safer to drink than the water, given that it had gone through the **fermentation** process.

What is **fermentation**? a) cleansing

b) chemical change from sugar to alcohol

c) dilution

d) purification

44. The free-market economy practised in Beer Street leaves the **exponents** prosperous and well-fed but at the same time makes the poor poorer.

Who are **exponents**? a) residents who have good jobs

b) economists

c) the middle classes who are self-employed

d) people who support an idea or theory and persuade others that it is good