

Beer Street and Gin Lane

Vocabulary exercises

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

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