

Englist.me



Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Mustafa Akyol: Faith versus tradition in Islam | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/mustafa_akyol_faith_versus_tradition_in_islam

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

Session 1: Word List

mecca

n. a city and administrative center of the Mecca Province of Saudi Arabia and the holiest city in Islam

synonym : cynosure, center

(1) tourist **mecca**, (2) **mecca** for surfers

The building has become a **mecca** for fans of the movie.

shrine

n. a place considered holy because of its association with a deity or a sacred person or relic or because it is a place of pilgrimage or worship

synonym : altar, temple, monument

(1) **shrine** temple, (2) religious **shrine**

The holy **shrine** to the local saint was a popular place for pilgrims to visit.

mosque

n. a Muslim place of worship that usually has a minaret (= slender tower with balconies)

(1) domed **mosque**, (2) the sacred **mosque**

Jumeirah **Mosque** is one of the most beautiful buildings in the United Arab Emirates.

mundane

adj. very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement

synonym : ordinary, everyday, prosaic

(1) **mundane** affairs, (2) **mundane** objects

After returning from the war, he had a pretty **mundane** life.

sect

n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream

synonym: group, faction, cult

(1) **sect** beliefs, (2) secret **sect**

The minority **sect** believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.

mingle

v. to mix or blend in, especially socially; to associate with others in a friendly, informal manner

synonym: mix, blend, merge

(1) **mingle** with colleagues, (2) **mingle** with the locals

I decided to **mingle** with the crowd and converse with some new people.

quitter

n. a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started

synonym: coward, deserter, surrender

(1) easy **quitter**, (2) serial **quitter**

He was labeled as a **quitter** after he abandoned the project halfway.

ironic

adj. using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect

synonym: sarcastic, wry, sardonic

(1) **ironic** result, (2) an **ironic** turn of events

It was **ironic** that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.

relic

n. an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value

synonym: whiff, vestige, antique

(1) historical **relic**, (2) holy **relics**

This bronze sword is a **relic** of ancient times.

seclusion

n. the state of being secluded or isolated from others; privacy or solitude; the act of keeping away from others or being kept away from them

synonym : isolation, solitude, segregation

(1) solitary **seclusion**, (2) self-imposed **seclusion**

The writer sought **seclusion** in a remote cabin to focus on completing his novel.

preexist

v. to exist or occur before something else, especially referring to a time period or event; to predate or come before

synonym : antedate, precede

(1) **preexist** the modern city, (2) **preexist** the current political tensions

The idea for the novel **preexisted** as fragments of a dream in the author's mind.

byzantine

adj. characterized by a complex and often convoluted administrative system or set of rules; intricate and hard to understand

synonym : complex, convoluted, labyrinthine

(1) **Byzantine** rites, (2) **Byzantine** art

The **Byzantine** Empire was known for its complex political system and culture.

pious

adj. deeply religious, having or showing a strong devotion to God or religious beliefs and practices

synonym : religious, devout, godly

(1) **pious** belief, (2) **pious** follower

The **pious** woman spent her days volunteering at the local church.

cling

v. to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something

synonym : stick, adhere, attach

(1) **cling** onto power, (2) **cling** tightly to the skin
He **clings** to the hope that he will find a job soon.

ordain

v. to officially declare or establish something with authority or divine power; to confer holy orders upon someone for religious service

synonym: consecrate, appoint, order

(1) **ordain** a deacon, (2) **ordain** a minister

The bishop will **ordain** new priests next week during the religious ceremony.

confuse

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

synonym: confound, obscure, disorient

(1) **confuse** the listener, (2) **confuse** fantasy with reality

Her remarks **confused** the debate.

circumcise

v. to remove the foreskin of a male's penis, often as a religious or cultural ritual

synonym: cut, remove, excise

(1) **circumcise** a newborn, (2) **circumcise** a child

It is common in some cultures to **circumcise** infant boys as a rite of passage.

deprive

v. to take away something from someone

synonym: deny, take away, divest

(1) **deprive** others of profit, (2) **deprive** him of his status

He was **deprived** of his freedom when sentenced to life in prison.

predate

v. to have existed or happened earlier than something

synonym: foredate, antedate, precede

(1) **predate** A.D. 200., (2) **predate** the modern age

The idea of virtual worlds **predates** computers.

Muslim

n. a follower of the religion of Islam

synonym : Islamic, believer

(1) predominantly **Muslim** country, (2) **Muslim** culture

The **Muslim** community in the city is small but growing.

animism

n. the belief that objects, places, and creatures possess a spiritual essence or soul; a belief system that emphasizes the interconnectedness of all living things and the natural world

synonym : spirit worship, anthropomorphism, paganism

(1) traditional **animism**, (2) **animism** practices

The belief that objects have spirits is a central tenet of **animism**.

Christ

n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity

synonym : Savior, Jesus Christ, Jesus

(1) teaching of **Christ**, (2) before **Christ**

Christmas is the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Jewish

adj. of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism

synonym : Judaic

(1) **Jewish** history, (2) **Jewish** culture

My friend is a **Jewish** woman who celebrates Hanukkah every year.

authoritarian

adj. characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights

synonym : dictatorial, totalitarian, despotic

(1) **authoritarian** practice, (2) **authoritarian** government

The **authoritarian** leadership style left no room for dissent or alternative opinions.

hijab

n. a headscarf traditionally worn by Muslim women to cover their hair and neck

synonym : veil, headscarf, cover

(1) woman's **hijab**, (2) **hijab** garment

Many Muslim women wear a **hijab** as a symbol of their religious beliefs.

veil

n. a piece of fine cloth worn by women to cover or conceal the face; (verb) to cover, conceal, or obscure

synonym : cover, mask, (verb) conceal

(1) **veil** of mystery, (2) **veil** her face

He lifted her **veil** with both hands.

uncover

v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

synonym : disclose, reveal, unveil

(1) **uncover** a potential problem, (2) **uncover** the truth

He continued his investigation and soon **uncovered** another crime.

tyrannical

adj. using power or authority over people, especially in a specific country, group, etc., in an unfair and cruel way

synonym : despotic, oppressive, authoritarian

(1) a **tyrannical** government, (2) a **tyrannical** parent

Tyrannical Hollywood film moguls can easily rule the movie star's career.

subtitle

n. a secondary title or alternate title that is displayed below the primary title often used to provide additional information or translation for a movie or video; a text that appears at the bottom of a movie, TV show, or video to provide a written translation or transcription of the spoken dialogue in another language

synonym : caption, heading, inscription

(1) chart **subtitle**, (2) foreign-language **subtitle**

Make sure to turn on **subtitles** so you can understand the foreign film.

monotheistic

adj. believing that there is only one God

(1) **monotheistic** faith, (2) a member of a **monotheistic** sect

Monotheistic religions have historically developed in denial of polytheistic religions.

communitarianism

n. a social and political philosophy that emphasizes the importance of community, cooperation, and shared values over individual interests

synonym: collectivism, social solidarity

(1) civic **communitarianism**, (2) political **communitarianism**

The town's governance model is rooted in **communitarianism** principles, focusing on collective welfare over individual interests.

mentality

n. the characteristic way of thinking or mindset of an individual or group; the mental attitude or outlook that influences behavior, choices, and opinions

synonym: mindset, intellect, brainpower

(1) criminal **mentality**, (2) self-improvement **mentality**

Her positive **mentality** helped her overcome challenges and achieve her goals.

condone

v. to overlook, forgive, or show approval for an action or behavior that is wrong or disapproved of

synonym: excuse, overlook, tolerate

(1) **condone** the behavior, (2) **condone** the action

The parents refused to **condone** their daughter's behavior, which they considered unacceptable.

apostasy

n. the act of abandoning or renouncing a religious or political belief, principle, or cause that one previously professed or supported

synonym: defection, betrayal, renunciation

(1) religious **apostasy**, (2) political **apostasy**

The scholar's book explores the historical consequences of **apostasy** in various religions.

milieu

n. the social, cultural, or environmental setting in which a person lives or operates; surroundings or context

synonym : environment, surroundings, setting

(1) new urban **milieu**, (2) political **milieu**

The city's diverse cultural **milieu** contributes to its unique charm.

revisionism

n. the reinterpretation or revision of an ideology, historical account, or doctrine, often to challenge or undermine established beliefs or ideas

synonym : historical negationism

(1) **revisionism** theory, (2) historical **revisionism**

Some historians accuse **revisionism** of altering the accepted historical record to fit a particular agenda.

reformist

adj. advocating or supporting a change or improvement in a particular system or practice, particularly in politics or social systems

synonym : progressive, reform-minded, improvement-seeking

(1) **reformist** agenda, (2) **reformist** policies

The university introduced a new **reformist** curriculum to attract more students.

intellect

n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level

synonym : mind, brightness, cleverness

(1) enrich my **intellect**, (2) human **intellect**

Your **intellect** is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.

statesman

n. a man who is a respected leader or politician in national or international affairs

synonym : solon, politician, legislator

(1) a woman **statesman**, (2) international **statesman**

This statue honors a distinguished **statesman**.

Ottoman

n. a historical empire founded at the end of the 13th century in northwestern Anatolia by the Turkoman tribal leader Osman I; (used as "ottoman") a type of upholstered seat or bench without a back or arms, typically used as a stool or footstool, or in some cases as a coffee table

synonym: Turkish Empire, footstool

(1) **Ottoman** Empire, (2) **ottoman** furniture

The **Ottoman** Sultan was considered the supreme ruler and held great authority.

accepting

adj. willing to receive or to take something offered

synonym: tolerant, open-minded, receptive

(1) **accepting** attitude, (2) **accepting** of diversity

He was an **accepting** person who believed in diversity and inclusiveness.

monarchy

n. a form of government in which a country is ruled by a king or a queen who typically inherits the authority

synonym: kingdom, realm, empire

(1) **monarchy** system, (2) abolish **monarchy**

The **monarchy** government had been in power for centuries.

Arabic

n. the Semitic language of the Arab people, widely spoken throughout the Middle East and North Africa; of or relating to Arab peoples, culture, or language

(1) **Arabic** cuisine, (2) **Arabic** language

I'm studying **Arabic** calligraphy as part of my art class.

theologian

n. an expert or student who studies theology

synonym: clergyperson, philosopher, scholar

(1) Swedish **theologian**, (2) great **theologians**

Death gets more than its share of attention from **theologians**.

strident

adj. loud, harsh, and grating to the ears; presenting a forceful or insistent tone or manner

synonym : shrill, loud, piercing

(1) **strident** call for action, (2) **strident** criticism

Her **strident** voice made it difficult for anyone to ignore her.

utopian

adj. ideal and perfect; relating to or resembling a utopia (= an ideal and perfect society)

synonym : idealistic, perfectionistic, unrealistic

(1) **utopian** society, (2) **utopian** goal

He had a **utopian** vision of a world without war.

extremist

n. a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views

synonym : radical, fanatic, zealot

(1) **extremist** political views, (2) radical **extremist**

The **extremist** group planned a series of violent attacks to push its agenda.

colonize

v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers

synonym : settle, occupy, inhabit

(1) **colonize** planets, (2) **colonize** for cultivation

European powers **colonized** much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.

emulate

v. to imitate someone else's achievements to try to do something as well as somebody else

synonym : impersonate, mimic, imitate

(1) **emulate** a successful business model, (2) **emulate** his watercolors

They intend to **emulate** the footsteps of successful software companies.

reactionary

adj. relating to or advocating a return to a previous state of affairs or method of doing things, typically one that is

seen as outdated or regressive

synonym : conservative, backward, regressive

(1) **reactionary** forces, (2) **reactionary** attitudes

The school's administration has a **reactionary** stance on student protests and free speech.

socialism

n. a political and economic theory or system that advocates for the collective ownership and control of the means of production and distribution of goods, aiming for a more equitable and just society; a system that aims to reduce economic inequalities and prioritize the welfare of the community as a whole

synonym : communism, collectivism, equality

(1) non-Marxist **socialism**, (2) the rise of **socialism**

The professor held a seminar on the principles of democratic **socialism** and its impact on modern European countries.

nationalist

adj. relating to or supporting a political ideology that emphasizes a strong sense of national identity and devotion to one's own country

synonym : chauvinist, patriotic, jingoist

(1) **nationalist** sentiment, (2) **nationalist** revolt

The **nationalist** rally attracted thousands of supporters.

dictator

n. a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force

synonym : autocrat, tyrant, despot

(1) military **dictator**, (2) a **dictator** with enormous powers

A popular uprising led to the overthrow of the **dictator**.

secondly

adv. used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.

synonym : in the second place, next, subsequently

(1) **secondly** connected, (2) **secondly**, it is important

Firstly, we will discuss the budget; **secondly**, we will go over the schedule.

autocratic

adj. having absolute power and forcing people to obey completely without asking

synonym : domineering, omnipotent, authoritarian

(1) in an **autocratic** manner, (2) **autocratic** regimes

That emperor amended the law to allow him to continue his **autocratic** rule even after he abdicated.

rebirth

n. the process of being reborn or starting anew, especially after a period of decline or stagnation

synonym : renewal, rejuvenation, resurrection

(1) undergo a **rebirth**, (2) **rebirth** of democracy

The phoenix is a symbol of **rebirth**, rising from the ashes to be reborn anew.

blur

n. a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision

synonym : smudge, smear, fuzz

(1) **blur** image, (2) motion **blur**

The camera's focus was off, and the image was a **blur** of colors and shapes.

sentimental

adj. connected with or resulting from someone's emotions, rather than reason or realism

synonym : bathetic, drippy, maudlin

(1) in a **sentimental** mood, (2) **sentimental** damage

Stop being **sentimental** and always speak the truth.

revolt

n. to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler

synonym : rebellion, uprising, insurgence

(1) **revolt** against existing ways of thinking, (2) **revolt** against the dictator

The people tried to **revolt** to oust the tyrant.

bogey

n. a spectral or mythological being, often portrayed as a malevolent or mischievous spirit; an undesirable or

unpleasant object or entity, often used in a children's game where the object is to avoid it; (of golf) a score of one over par for a given hole

synonym : specter, apparition

(1) **bogey** man, (2) double **bogey**

Her main academic **bogey** was mathematics, and she had difficulty understanding abstract concepts.

disbeliever

n. a person who does not believe in something, such as a religion or idea

synonym : non-believer, skeptic, doubter

(1) persuade a **disbeliever**, (2) stubborn **disbeliever**

Despite the evidence, she remained a **disbeliever** in the theory of evolution.

setback

n. an unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes; a reversal or check in progress

synonym : obstacle, hindrance, difficulty

(1) major **setback**, (2) suffer a **setback**

The team experienced a **setback** when their star player was injured during the game.

takeaway

n. a message or conclusion that can be taken away from a situation or piece of information

synonym : conclusion, message, insight

(1) **takeaway** pizza, (2) **takeaway** message

The main **takeaway** from the meeting was the need for better communication.

skeptic

n. a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural

synonym : doubter, disbeliever, questioner

(1) an ingrained **skeptic**, (2) climate **skeptic**

He was a **skeptic** who doubted the existence of supernatural phenomena.

liberalism

n. a political ideology or philosophy that emphasizes individual freedom, democracy, and equality

synonym: progressivism, open-mindedness, humanism

(1) classical **liberalism**, (2) economic **liberalism**

His political views are rooted in neo- **liberalism**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. re____h of democracy
n. the process of being reborn or starting anew, especially after a period of decline or stagnation
2. st____nt call for action
adj. loud, harsh, and grating to the ears; presenting a forceful or insistent tone or manner
3. cir_____se a child
v. to remove the foreskin of a male's penis, often as a religious or cultural ritual
4. ot____n furniture
n. a historical empire founded at the end of the 13th century in northwestern Anatolia by the Turkoman tribal leader Osman I; (used as "ottoman") a type of upholstered seat or bench without a back or arms, typically used as a stool or footstool, or in some cases as a coffee table
5. criminal me_____ty
n. the characteristic way of thinking or mindset of an individual or group; the mental attitude or outlook that influences behavior, choices, and opinions
6. ut____n society
adj. ideal and perfect; relating to or resembling a utopia (= an ideal and perfect society)
7. mo____hy system
n. a form of government in which a country is ruled by a king or a queen who typically inherits the authority

ANSWERS: 1. rebirth, 2. strident, 3. circumcise, 4. Ottoman, 5. mentality, 6. utopian, 7. monarchy

8. a di_____or with enormous powers *n.* a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force
9. international st_____an *n.* a man who is a respected leader or politician in national or international affairs
10. Swedish the_____an *n.* an expert or student who studies theology
11. political ap_____sy *n.* the act of abandoning or renouncing a religious or political belief, principle, or cause that one previously professed or supported
12. v___l of mystery *n.* a piece of fine cloth worn by women to cover or conceal the face; (verb) to cover, conceal, or obscure
13. religious ap_____sy *n.* the act of abandoning or renouncing a religious or political belief, principle, or cause that one previously professed or supported
14. sh___e temple *n.* a place considered holy because of its association with a deity or a sacred person or relic or because it is a place of pilgrimage or worship
15. a tyr_____al government *adj.* using power or authority over people, especially in a specific country, group, etc., in an unfair and cruel way
16. cl___g onto power *v.* to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something

ANSWERS: 8. dictator, 9. statesman, 10. theologian, 11. apostasy, 12. veil, 13. apostasy, 14. shrine, 15. tyrannical, 16. cling

17. an____m practices *n.* the belief that objects, places, and creatures possess a spiritual essence or soul; a belief system that emphasizes the interconnectedness of all living things and the natural world
18. By_____ne art *adj.* characterized by a complex and often convoluted administrative system or set of rules; intricate and hard to understand
19. tourist me__a *n.* a city and administrative center of the Mecca Province of Saudi Arabia and the holiest city in Islam
20. pr_____st the modern city *v.* to exist or occur before something else, especially referring to a time period or event; to predate or come before
21. a tyr_____al parent *adj.* using power or authority over people, especially in a specific country, group, etc., in an unfair and cruel way
22. teaching of Ch____t *n.* the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
23. a member of a mon_____tic sect *adj.* believing that there is only one God
24. great the_____ans *n.* an expert or student who studies theology
25. political mi____u *n.* the social, cultural, or environmental setting in which a person lives or operates; surroundings or context
26. new urban mi____u *n.* the social, cultural, or environmental setting in which a person lives or operates; surroundings or context

ANSWERS: 17. animism, 18. byzantine, 19. mecca, 20. preexist, 21. tyrannical, 22. Christ, 23. monotheistic, 24. theologian, 25. milieu, 26. milieu

- | | | |
|---|-------------|---|
| 27. de____e others of profit | <i>v.</i> | to take away something from someone |
| 28. religious sh____e | <i>n.</i> | a place considered holy because of its association with a deity or a sacred person or relic or because it is a place of pilgrimage or worship |
| 29. ex_____st political views | <i>n.</i> | a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views |
| 30. woman's hi__b | <i>n.</i> | a headscarf traditionally worn by Muslim women to cover their hair and neck |
| 31. re__t against existing ways of thinking | <i>n.</i> | to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler |
| 32. st_____nt criticism | <i>adj.</i> | loud, harsh, and grating to the ears; presenting a forceful or insistent tone or manner |
| 33. s__t beliefs | <i>n.</i> | a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream |
| 34. em_____e his watercolors | <i>v.</i> | to imitate someone else's achievements to try to do something as well as somebody else |
| 35. co_____e fantasy with reality | <i>v.</i> | to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand |
| 36. traditional an_____m | <i>n.</i> | the belief that objects, places, and creatures possess a spiritual essence or soul; a belief system that emphasizes the interconnectedness of all living things and the natural world |

ANSWERS: 27. deprive, 28. shrine, 29. extremist, 30. hijab, 31. revolt, 32. strident, 33. sect, 34. emulate, 35. confuse, 36. animism

37. b__r image *n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision
38. mu_____e objects *adj.* very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement
39. Ot_____n Empire *n.* a historical empire founded at the end of the 13th century in northwestern Anatolia by the Turkoman tribal leader Osman I; (used as "ottoman") a type of upholstered seat or bench without a back or arms, typically used as a stool or footstool, or in some cases as a coffee table
40. historical re__c *n.* an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value
41. foreign-language su_____le *n.* a secondary title or alternate title that is displayed below the primary title often used to provide additional information or translation for a movie or video; a text that appears at the bottom of a movie, TV show, or video to provide a written translation or transcription of the spoken dialogue in another language
42. chart su_____le *n.* a secondary title or alternate title that is displayed below the primary title often used to provide additional information or translation for a movie or video; a text that appears at the bottom of a movie, TV show, or video to provide a written translation or transcription of the spoken dialogue in another language

ANSWERS: 37. blur, 38. mundane, 39. Ottoman, 40. relic, 41. subtitle, 42. subtitle

43. a woman st_____an
n. a man who is a respected leader or politician in national or international affairs
44. co_____e the behavior
v. to overlook, forgive, or show approval for an action or behavior that is wrong or disapproved of
45. de_____e him of his status
v. to take away something from someone
46. mon_____tic faith
adj. believing that there is only one God
47. ut_____n goal
adj. ideal and perfect; relating to or resembling a utopia (= an ideal and perfect society)
48. aut_____ic regimes
adj. having absolute power and forcing people to obey completely without asking
49. in an aut_____ic manner
adj. having absolute power and forcing people to obey completely without asking
50. Ar___c cuisine
n. the Semitic language of the Arab people, widely spoken throughout the Middle East and North Africa; of or relating to Arab peoples, culture, or language
51. Ar___c language
n. the Semitic language of the Arab people, widely spoken throughout the Middle East and North Africa; of or relating to Arab peoples, culture, or language
52. co_____ze planets
v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers

ANSWERS: 43. statesman, 44. condone, 45. deprive, 46. monotheistic, 47. utopian, 48. autocratic, 49. autocratic, 50. Arabic, 51. Arabic, 52. colonize

53. co____e the listener *v.* to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand
54. the sacred mo____e *n.* a Muslim place of worship that usually has a minaret (= slender tower with balconies)
55. rea______ry attitudes *adj.* relating to or advocating a return to a previous state of affairs or method of doing things, typically one that is seen as outdated or regressive
56. abolish mo____hy *n.* a form of government in which a country is ruled by a king or a queen who typically inherits the authority
57. bo__y man *n.* a spectral or mythological being, often portrayed as a malevolent or mischievous spirit; an undesirable or unpleasant object or entity, often used in a children's game where the object is to avoid it; (of golf) a score of one over par for a given hole
58. or____n a minister *v.* to officially declare or establish something with authority or divine power; to confer holy orders upon someone for religious service
59. cir____se a newborn *v.* to remove the foreskin of a male's penis, often as a religious or cultural ritual
60. re____t against the dictator *n.* to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler
61. civic com______ism *n.* a social and political philosophy that emphasizes the importance of community, cooperation, and shared values over individual interests

ANSWERS: 53. confuse, 54. mosque, 55. reactionary, 56. monarchy, 57. bogey, 58. ordain, 59. circumcise, 60. revolt, 61. communitarianism

62. an ingrained sk____c
n. a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural
63. pi__s follower
adj. deeply religious, having or showing a strong devotion to God or religious beliefs and practices
64. Je___h history
adj. of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism
65. ac_____ng attitude
adj. willing to receive or to take something offered
66. non-Marxist so_____sm
n. a political and economic theory or system that advocates for the collective ownership and control of the means of production and distribution of goods, aiming for a more equitable and just society; a system that aims to reduce economic inequalities and prioritize the welfare of the community as a whole
67. historical rev_____sm
n. the reinterpretation or revision of an ideology, historical account, or doctrine, often to challenge or undermine established beliefs or ideas
68. mi___e with colleagues
v. to mix or blend in, especially socially; to associate with others in a friendly, informal manner
69. Je___h culture
adj. of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism
70. ta_____ay pizza
n. a message or conclusion that can be taken away from a situation or piece of information

ANSWERS: 62. skeptic, 63. pious, 64. Jewish, 65. accepting, 66. socialism, 67. revisionism, 68. mingle, 69. Jewish, 70. takeaway

71. an ir___c turn of events *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
72. undergo a re_____h *n.* the process of being reborn or starting anew, especially after a period of decline or stagnation
73. aut_____ian practice *adj.* characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights
74. military di_____or *n.* a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force
75. Mu___m culture *n.* a follower of the religion of Islam
76. self-imposed se_____on *n.* the state of being secluded or isolated from others; privacy or solitude; the act of keeping away from others or being kept away from them
77. easy qu_____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
78. cl__g tightly to the skin *v.* to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something
79. re_____st policies *adj.* advocating or supporting a change or improvement in a particular system or practice, particularly in politics or social systems

ANSWERS: 71. ironic, 72. rebirth, 73. authoritarian, 74. dictator, 75. Muslim, 76. seclusion, 77. quitter, 78. cling, 79. reformist

80. self-improvement me_____ty *n.* the characteristic way of thinking or mindset of an individual or group; the mental attitude or outlook that influences behavior, choices, and opinions
81. persuade a dis_____er *n.* a person who does not believe in something, such as a religion or idea
82. me__a for surfers *n.* a city and administrative center of the Mecca Province of Saudi Arabia and the holiest city in Islam
83. holy re__cs *n.* an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value
84. in a sen_____al mood *adj.* connected with or resulting from someone's emotions, rather than reason or realism
85. aut_____ian government *adj.* characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights
86. classical lib_____sm *n.* a political ideology or philosophy that emphasizes individual freedom, democracy, and equality
87. se_____ly connected *adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
88. re_____st agenda *adj.* advocating or supporting a change or improvement in a particular system or practice, particularly in politics or social systems

ANSWERS: 80. mentality, 81. disbeliever, 82. mecca, 83. relic, 84. sentimental, 85. authoritarian, 86. liberalism, 87. secondly, 88. reformist

89. predominantly Mu___m country *n.* a follower of the religion of Islam
90. un____r a potential problem *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
91. sen_____al damage *adj.* connected with or resulting from someone's emotions, rather than reason or realism
92. ta____ay message *n.* a message or conclusion that can be taken away from a situation or piece of information
93. enrich my in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
94. nat_____st sentiment *adj.* relating to or supporting a political ideology that emphasizes a strong sense of national identity and devotion to one's own country
95. rea_____ry forces *adj.* relating to or advocating a return to a previous state of affairs or method of doing things, typically one that is seen as outdated or regressive
96. suffer a se____k *n.* an unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes; a reversal or check in progress
97. radical ex_____st *n.* a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views
98. economic lib_____sm *n.* a political ideology or philosophy that emphasizes individual freedom, democracy, and equality

ANSWERS: 89. Muslim, 90. uncover, 91. sentimental, 92. takeaway, 93. intellect, 94. nationalist, 95. reactionary, 96. setback, 97. extremist, 98. liberalism

99. mi___e with the locals *v.* to mix or blend in, especially socially; to associate with others in a friendly, informal manner
100. secret s__t *n.* a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
101. pr_____e the modern age *v.* to have existed or happened earlier than something
102. human in_____ct *n.* the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
103. major se_____k *n.* an unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes; a reversal or check in progress
104. co_____ze for cultivation *v.* to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
105. political com_____ism *n.* a social and political philosophy that emphasizes the importance of community, cooperation, and shared values over individual interests
106. ir___c result *adj.* using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
107. rev_____sm theory *n.* the reinterpretation or revision of an ideology, historical account, or doctrine, often to challenge or undermine established beliefs or ideas

ANSWERS: 99. mingle, 100. sect, 101. predate, 102. intellect, 103. setback, 104. colonize, 105. communitarianism, 106. ironic, 107. revisionism

108. co_____e the action *v.* to overlook, forgive, or show approval for an action or behavior that is wrong or disapproved of
109. or____n a deacon *v.* to officially declare or establish something with authority or divine power; to confer holy orders upon someone for religious service
110. climate sk_____c *n.* a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural
111. stubborn dis_____er *n.* a person who does not believe in something, such as a religion or idea
112. nat_____st revolt *adj.* relating to or supporting a political ideology that emphasizes a strong sense of national identity and devotion to one's own country
113. v__l her face *n.* a piece of fine cloth worn by women to cover or conceal the face; (verb) to cover, conceal, or obscure
114. the rise of so_____sm *n.* a political and economic theory or system that advocates for the collective ownership and control of the means of production and distribution of goods, aiming for a more equitable and just society; a system that aims to reduce economic inequalities and prioritize the welfare of the community as a whole
115. ac_____ng of diversity *adj.* willing to receive or to take something offered

ANSWERS: 108. condone, 109. ordain, 110. skeptic, 111. disbeliever, 112. nationalist, 113. veil, 114. socialism, 115. accepting

116. mu____e affairs *adj.* very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement
117. motion b__r *n.* a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision
118. pi__s belief *adj.* deeply religious, having or showing a strong devotion to God or religious beliefs and practices
119. pr____e A.D. 200. *v.* to have existed or happened earlier than something
120. em____e a successful business model *v.* to imitate someone else's achievements to try to do something as well as somebody else
121. se____ly, it is important *adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
122. un____r the truth *v.* to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
123. hi__b garment *n.* a headscarf traditionally worn by Muslim women to cover their hair and neck
124. before Ch____t *n.* the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
125. By____ne rites *adj.* characterized by a complex and often convoluted administrative system or set of rules; intricate and hard to understand

ANSWERS: 116. mundane, 117. blur, 118. pious, 119. predate, 120. emulate, 121. secondly, 122. uncover, 123. hijab, 124. Christ, 125. byzantine

126. serial qu____r *n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
127. domed mo____e *n.* a Muslim place of worship that usually has a minaret (= slender tower with balconies)
128. solitary se_____on *n.* the state of being secluded or isolated from others; privacy or solitude; the act of keeping away from others or being kept away from them
129. pr____st the current political tensions *v.* to exist or occur before something else, especially referring to a time period or event; to predate or come before
130. double bo__y *n.* a spectral or mythological being, often portrayed as a malevolent or mischievous spirit; an undesirable or unpleasant object or entity, often used in a children's game where the object is to avoid it; (of golf) a score of one over par for a given hole

ANSWERS: 126. quitter, 127. mosque, 128. seclusion, 129. preexist, 130. bogey

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. The parents refused to _____ their daughter's behavior, which they considered unacceptable.
 - v.* to overlook, forgive, or show approval for an action or behavior that is wrong or disapproved of

2. This bronze sword is a _____ of ancient times.
 - n.* an object from a previous era, especially one of historical value

3. Death gets more than its share of attention from _____.
 - n.* an expert or student who studies theology

4. Jumeirah _____ is one of the most beautiful buildings in the United Arab Emirates.
 - n.* a Muslim place of worship that usually has a minaret (= slender tower with balconies)

5. The phoenix is a symbol of _____ rising from the ashes to be reborn anew.
 - n.* the process of being reborn or starting anew, especially after a period of decline or stagnation

6. The _____ woman spent her days volunteering at the local church.
 - adj.* deeply religious, having or showing a strong devotion to God or religious beliefs and practices

7. Some historians accuse _____ of altering the accepted historical record to fit a particular agenda.
 - n.* the reinterpretation or revision of an ideology, historical account, or doctrine, often to challenge or undermine established beliefs or ideas

ANSWERS: 1. condone, 2. relic, 3. theologians, 4. Mosque, 5. rebirth, 6. pious, 7. revisionism

8. The _____ Sultan was considered the supreme ruler and held great authority.
- n.* a historical empire founded at the end of the 13th century in northwestern Anatolia by the Turkoman tribal leader Osman I; (used as "ottoman") a type of upholstered seat or bench without a back or arms, typically used as a stool or footstool, or in some cases as a coffee table
9. The _____ government had been in power for centuries.
- n.* a form of government in which a country is ruled by a king or a queen who typically inherits the authority
10. That emperor amended the law to allow him to continue his _____ rule even after he abdicated.
- adj.* having absolute power and forcing people to obey completely without asking
11. The writer sought _____ in a remote cabin to focus on completing his novel.
- n.* the state of being secluded or isolated from others; privacy or solitude; the act of keeping away from others or being kept away from them
12. His political views are rooted in neo-_____.
- n.* a political ideology or philosophy that emphasizes individual freedom, democracy, and equality
13. He was labeled as a _____ after he abandoned the project halfway.
- n.* a person who gives up easily or does not have the determination to finish what they have started
14. _____ Hollywood film moguls can easily rule the movie star's career.
- adj.* using power or authority over people, especially in a specific country, group, etc., in an unfair and cruel way

ANSWERS: 8. Ottoman, 9. monarchy, 10. autocratic, 11. seclusion, 12. liberalism, 13. quitter, 14. Tyrannical

15. The building has become a _____ for fans of the movie.
n. a city and administrative center of the Mecca Province of Saudi Arabia and the holiest city in Islam
16. The bishop will _____ new priests next week during the religious ceremony.
v. to officially declare or establish something with authority or divine power; to confer holy orders upon someone for religious service
17. They intend to _____ the footsteps of successful software companies.
v. to imitate someone else's achievements to try to do something as well as somebody else
18. _____ is the day to celebrate the birth of Christ.
n. the man that Christians believe is the prophet and the son of God, and whose life and sermons form the basis for Christianity
19. The people tried to _____ to oust the tyrant.
n. to take violent action against authority, especially government or ruler
20. My friend is a _____ woman who celebrates Hanukkah every year.
adj. of or relating to people whose traditional religion is Judaism
21. After returning from the war, he had a pretty _____ life.
adj. very ordinary and therefore lacking interest or excitement
22. The university introduced a new _____ curriculum to attract more students.
adj. advocating or supporting a change or improvement in a particular system or practice, particularly in politics or social systems

ANSWERS: 15. mecca, 16. ordain, 17. emulate, 18. Christmas, 19. revolt, 20. Jewish, 21. mundane, 22. reformist

23. He was a _____ who doubted the existence of supernatural phenomena.
n. a person who doubts or questions the truth of specific claims, beliefs, or doctrines, especially those in religion or the supernatural
24. It was _____ that the heavy rain started just as they set up for an outdoor picnic.
adj. using words to express something different from and often opposite to their literal or usual meaning, often for humorous or rhetorical effect
25. The scholar's book explores the historical consequences of _____ in various religions.
n. the act of abandoning or renouncing a religious or political belief, principle, or cause that one previously professed or supported
26. The _____ leadership style left no room for dissent or alternative opinions.
adj. characterized by strict, absolute control and obedience to authority or rules; dictatorial and lacking in personal freedoms or individual rights
27. I decided to _____ with the crowd and converse with some new people.
v. to mix or blend in, especially socially; to associate with others in a friendly, informal manner
28. A popular uprising led to the overthrow of the _____.
n. a political leader who has complete power over a country, especially one who has obtained control by force
29. Her _____ voice made it difficult for anyone to ignore her.
adj. loud, harsh, and grating to the ears; presenting a forceful or insistent tone or manner

ANSWERS: 23. skeptic, 24. ironic, 25. apostasy, 26. authoritarian, 27. mingle, 28. dictator, 29. strident

30. The belief that objects have spirits is a central tenet of _____.
- n.* the belief that objects, places, and creatures possess a spiritual essence or soul; a belief system that emphasizes the interconnectedness of all living things and the natural world
31. _____ religions have historically developed in denial of polytheistic religions.
- adj.* believing that there is only one God
32. He lifted her _____ with both hands.
- n.* a piece of fine cloth worn by women to cover or conceal the face; (verb) to cover, conceal, or obscure
33. Many Muslim women wear a _____ as a symbol of their religious beliefs.
- n.* a headscarf traditionally worn by Muslim women to cover their hair and neck
34. He _____ to the hope that he will find a job soon.
- v.* to hold onto something tightly; to be closely attached to someone or something
35. Firstly, we will discuss the budget; _____ we will go over the schedule.
- adv.* used to introduce the second point or item in a list or series of statements, considerations, etc.
36. The _____ Empire was known for its complex political system and culture.
- adj.* characterized by a complex and often convoluted administrative system or set of rules; intricate and hard to understand
37. The idea of virtual worlds _____ computers.
- v.* to have existed or happened earlier than something

ANSWERS: 30. animism, 31. Monotheistic, 32. veil, 33. hijab, 34. clings, 35. secondly, 36. Byzantine, 37. predates

38. The idea for the novel _____ as fragments of a dream in the author's mind.
- v. to exist or occur before something else, especially referring to a time period or event; to predate or come before
39. He continued his investigation and soon _____ another crime.
- v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
40. Her main academic _____ was mathematics, and she had difficulty understanding abstract concepts.
- n. a spectral or mythological being, often portrayed as a malevolent or mischievous spirit; an undesirable or unpleasant object or entity, often used in a children's game where the object is to avoid it; (of golf) a score of one over par for a given hole
41. It is common in some cultures to _____ infant boys as a rite of passage.
- v. to remove the foreskin of a male's penis, often as a religious or cultural ritual
42. This statue honors a distinguished _____.
- n. a man who is a respected leader or politician in national or international affairs
43. Despite the evidence, she remained a _____ in the theory of evolution.
- n. a person who does not believe in something, such as a religion or idea
44. The professor held a seminar on the principles of democratic _____ and its impact on modern European countries.
- n. a political and economic theory or system that advocates for the collective ownership and control of the means of production and distribution of goods, aiming for a more equitable and just society; a system that aims to reduce economic inequalities and prioritize the welfare of the community as a whole

ANSWERS: 38. preexisted, 39. uncovered, 40. bogey, 41. circumcise, 42. statesman, 43. disbeliever, 44. socialism

45. The holy _____ to the local saint was a popular place for pilgrims to visit.
n. a place considered holy because of its association with a deity or a sacred person or relic or because it is a place of pilgrimage or worship
46. The _____ group planned a series of violent attacks to push its agenda.
n. a person who holds extreme political or religious views and who is willing to use violent or illegal methods to promote those views
47. The minority _____ believed in a set of unconventional religious practices.
n. a group of people who follow a particular religious or philosophical belief system, especially one that is regarded as outside the norm or mainstream
48. He was _____ of his freedom when sentenced to life in prison.
v. to take away something from someone
49. Make sure to turn on _____ so you can understand the foreign film.
n. a secondary title or alternate title that is displayed below the primary title often used to provide additional information or translation for a movie or video; a text that appears at the bottom of a movie, TV show, or video to provide a written translation or transcription of the spoken dialogue in another language
50. The camera's focus was off, and the image was a _____ of colors and shapes.
n. a faint or indistinct image or sound; something that is not clear or distinct; (verb) to become unclear; to lose clear vision
51. Stop being _____ and always speak the truth.
adj. connected with or resulting from someone's emotions, rather than reason or realism
52. I'm studying _____ calligraphy as part of my art class.
n. the Semitic language of the Arab people, widely spoken throughout the Middle East and North Africa; of or relating to Arab peoples, culture, or language

ANSWERS: 45. shrine, 46. extremist, 47. sect, 48. deprived, 49. subtitles, 50. blur, 51. sentimental, 52. Arabic

53. The main _____ from the meeting was the need for better communication.
n. a message or conclusion that can be taken away from a situation or piece of information
54. Your _____ is capable of distinguishing among similar objects.
n. the ability to think logically and comprehend information, especially at an advanced level
55. He had a _____ vision of a world without war.
adj. ideal and perfect; relating to or resembling a utopia (= an ideal and perfect society)
56. The _____ community in the city is small but growing.
n. a follower of the religion of Islam
57. European powers _____ much of the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries.
v. to establish a colony in or on a specific place; to settle or occupy in large numbers
58. The school's administration has a _____ stance on student protests and free speech.
adj. relating to or advocating a return to a previous state of affairs or method of doing things, typically one that is seen as outdated or regressive
59. The town's governance model is rooted in _____ principles, focusing on collective welfare over individual interests.
n. a social and political philosophy that emphasizes the importance of community, cooperation, and shared values over individual interests

ANSWERS: 53. takeaway, 54. intellect, 55. utopian, 56. Muslim, 57. colonized, 58. reactionary, 59. communitarianism

60. The city's diverse cultural _____ contributes to its unique charm.

n. the social, cultural, or environmental setting in which a person lives or operates; surroundings or context

61. Her remarks _____ the debate.

v. to mistake one thing for another; to make somebody hard to understand

62. Her positive _____ helped her overcome challenges and achieve her goals.

n. the characteristic way of thinking or mindset of an individual or group; the mental attitude or outlook that influences behavior, choices, and opinions

63. The _____ rally attracted thousands of supporters.

adj. relating to or supporting a political ideology that emphasizes a strong sense of national identity and devotion to one's own country

64. The team experienced a _____ when their star player was injured during the game.

n. an unfortunate happening that hinders or impedes; a reversal or check in progress

65. He was an _____ person who believed in diversity and inclusiveness.

adj. willing to receive or to take something offered

ANSWERS: 60. milieu, 61. confused, 62. mentality, 63. nationalist, 64. setback, 65. accepting