



Five Years Ago, Anthem Was A Warning

Description

In the beginning of 2019, I was hopeful as I tried out BioWare's new game, Anthem, in their headquarters in Austin, Texas. I was excited about the studio's take on a live-service looter-shooter game. The demo was impressive, it was like becoming Iron Man in my suit, blasting enemies with special guns. I genuinely believed that Anthem would be a game-changer; little did I know what was to come.

BioWare had a good reputation and I have enjoyed many of their previous games such as the Mass Effect trilogy, Knights of the Old Republic, and Dragon Age Origins. However, when the demo was made public, things took a turn. Unfavourable reviews started to appear, criticising long loading screens and glitches in the flying feature. Gameplay became repetitive quickly and rewards didn't have significant impact on the gameplay. Beyond flying, the game didn't have much to offer.

Anthem's problems were a result of a troubled, five-year-long development process. Several patches were released, added new content and fixed some issues, but these efforts didn't seem to help the game enough to thrive.

In 2020, BioWare's General Manager, Casey Hudson, wrote in a blog post about their plans for Anthem's future. But the next year, BioWare announced the end of further development on Anthem.

Nowadays, Anthem is mostly forgotten and can be found in discount bins. We can't know how many players are left as EA controls the servers. This is another tale of a big-budget live-service that didn't manage to find its place in the gaming world despite abundant resources and expectations.

Currently there are over 500 live-service games either being developed or maintained. Anthem's downfall was an early warning of what happens when studios attempt to jump onto the lucrative live-service trend, but it's often too fast-paced to keep up with. High-level games industry decision makers need to heed the lessons from BioWare's Anthem and other similar stories to help prevent future development disasters.

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Hopeful** // (adjective): Feeling or inspiring optimism about a future event.
2. **Impressive** // (adjective): Evoking admiration through size, quality, or skill.
3. **Thrived** // (verb): Flourished or prospered.
4. **Unfavourable** // (adjective): Not expressing approval or liking; critical.
5. **Abundant** // (adjective): Existing or available in large quantities; plentiful.
6. **Looter-shooter** // (noun): A subgenre of video games that combines elements of looting and shooting.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the term used to describe being ready for a potential emergency?

- Option: Resources
- Option: Congested
- Option: Diversions
- Option: Preparedness

2. What term is used to indicate the release of something like a patient from a hospital?

- Option: Standby
- Option: Discharge
- Option: Hopeful
- Option: Impressive

3. Which condition is characterized by challenges with social skills and repetitive behaviors?



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- Option: Thrived
Option: Unfavourable
Option: Autism
Option: Abundant
4. Which type of cells have the potential to develop into many different cell types in the body?
Option: Looter-shooter
Option: Genes
Option: Stem cells
Option: Social behaviour
5. What term describes something that brings about significant change or innovation?
Option: Syndrome
Option: Innovative
Option: Revolutionary
Option: Avant-garde
6. Which term describes something that is clear and easily understood?
Option: Transparent
Option: Augmented reality
Option: Groundbreaking
Option: Equinox
7. What is half of the Earth divided either north-south or east-west?
Option: Vernal
Option: Hemisphere
Option: Aries
Option: Babylonian
8. What term refers to a group of stars forming a recognizable pattern that is traditionally named after its apparent form or identified with a mythological figure?
Option: Constellation
Option: Collaborate
Option: Innovative
Option: Revolutionary
9. Which word describes an area that is overcrowded or full of traffic?
Option: Transparent
Option: Augmented reality
Option: Congested
Option: Groundbreaking
10. What term describes feeling or inspiring optimism for the future?



- Option: Revolutionary
- Option: Innovative
- Option: Hopeful
- Option: Avant-garde

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. During the disaster the lack of _____ posed a significant challenge for the relief efforts.
12. The emergency response team was on _____ ready to deploy at a moment's notice.
13. Despite the difficult circumstances the community _____ and supported one another.
14. The company took an _____ approach to product development leading to unique solutions in the market.
15. The mobile app uses _____ to overlay digital information onto the real world.
16. The _____ is the time of year when day and night are of equal length.
17. People born between March 21 and April 19 fall under the zodiac sign of _____.
18. The ancient _____ civilization made significant contributions to mathematics and astronomy.
19. Your _____ play a big role in determining your physical characteristics.
20. The artist was known for his _____ style pushing the boundaries of traditional art.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The garden was filled with a variety of colorful flowers and lush vegetation.
22. The scientist studied the makeup of the rare species to understand its uniqueness.
23. Anthropologists observe primates to learn more about their complex interactions and group dynamics.



24. The new video game combines elements of fast-paced action and strategic gameplay.
25. The invention transformed the industry by introducing a completely new approach to production.
26. The research findings opened up new possibilities and avenues for exploration in the field.
27. The company's policy on data privacy was clear and easily understandable to all users.
28. Despite the challenges the team remained optimistic about reaching their goal.
29. During the road construction alternative routes were provided to redirect traffic.
30. The medical condition is characterized by a specific set of symptoms that often occur together.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Preparedness 2. Discharge 3. Autism 4. Stem cells 5. Revolutionary 6. Transparent
7. Hemisphere 8. Constellation 9. Congested 10. Hopeful

Gap-Fill: 11. resources 12. standby 13. thrived 14. innovative 15. augmented reality 16. equinox 17. Aries
18. Babylonian 19. genes 20. avant-garde

Matching sentence: 1. abundant 2. genetic 3. social behaviour 4. looter-shooter 5. revolutionary
6. groundbreaking 7. transparent 8. hopeful 9. diversions 10. syndrome

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL3

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