



**A Practise Book for IBA MBA and IBA BBA Sentence
Completion Question!**

Preface

CrackSat OLD Sentence Completion Question Bank by Magnus Sam is more than just a collection of practice questions—it is a deliberate effort to prepare candidates for the rigorous demands of the IBA MBA and BBA admission exams. Among the many challenges these tests present, sentence completion stands out as a pivotal component of the English section, testing not just vocabulary and grammar but also the ability to grasp nuance and context.

This book draws on the CrackSat archive to offer questions that mirror the sophistication and precision of IBA's standards. The parallels between these exercises and the questions in IBA's English section are unmistakable. For anyone aspiring to perform well, consistent practice with such material can be transformative, providing both familiarity and confidence.

Think of this book as a guide, a tool to refine your approach and sharpen your skills. If you find it valuable, I encourage you to share it widely, inviting others to join in the effort. The book is free to all, available for distribution without restriction—so long as it remains unaltered.

Use it well, and let it serve as a stepping stone to your success.

Magnus Sam

Table of Contents

<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 1</i>	3
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 2</i>	7
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 3</i>	11
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 4</i>	15
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 5</i>	19
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 6</i>	23
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 7</i>	27
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 8</i>	31
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 9</i>	35
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 10</i>	39
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 11</i>	43
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 12</i>	47
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 13</i>	51
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 14</i>	55
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 15</i>	59
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 16</i>	62
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 17</i>	66
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 18</i>	69
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 19</i>	72
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 20</i>	75
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 21</i>	79
<i>SAT sentence completion practice test 22</i>	82
<i>SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 23</i>	85
<i>SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 24</i>	88
<i>SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 25</i>	90
<i>SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 26</i>	92
<i>SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 27</i>	95
<i>SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 28</i>	97
<i>SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 30</i>	102
<i>SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 31</i>	105
<i>SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 32</i>	107
<i>SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 33</i>	110
<i>SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 34</i>	112
<i>SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 35</i>	114

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 36117

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 37119

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 38122

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 39124

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 40127

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 41129

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 42131

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 43134

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 44136

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 45139

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 46141

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 47144

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 48146

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 49149

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 50151

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 51154

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 52156

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 53159

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 54161

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 55164

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 56166

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 57168

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 58171

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 59174

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 60 176

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 61 178

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 62 181

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 63 183

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 64 186

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 65 188

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 67 194

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 68 196

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 69 199

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 70 201

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 71 204



SAT sentence completion **practice test 1**

1. Architects define a physical structure as a set of materials arranged in such a way that these materials can ----- the downward pull of gravity.

- A. mimic
- B. resist
- C. amplify
- D. dislodge
- E. demonstrate

2. Just when the senator's opponent had ----- the lead in popularity polls, public opinion -----; as a result, the incumbent senator regained her front-runner position.

- A. taken . . stabilized
- B. challenged . . waned
- C. captured . . shifted
- D. conceded . . vacillated
- E. relinquished . . changed

3. Any biographer of this playwright, who assumed an elaborate public facade in order to conceal private concerns, must examine the impulse behind such -----.

- A. artifice
- B. joviality
- C. conceit
- D. disbelief
- E. erudition

4. It is said that as a legal team Charles Houston and Thurgood Marshall complemented each other thoroughly: Houston's sedate manner was ----- Marshall's -----.

- A. analagous to . . trepidation
- B. commensurate with . . formality
- C. tempered by . . jocularly
- D. adverse to . . gregariousness
- E. superseded by . . inquisitiveness

5. Conflicting standards for allowable radiation levels in foods made ----- appraisals of the damage to crops following the reactor meltdown extremely difficult.

- A. reliable
- B. private
- C. intrusive
- D. conscious
- E. inflated

6. The student's feelings about presenting the commencement address were -----; although visibly happy to have been chosen, he was nonetheless ----- about speaking in public.

- A. positive . . insecure
- B. euphoric . . hopeful
- C. unknown . . modest
- D. ambivalent . . anxious
- E. restrained . . confident

7. Alice Walker's *The Temple of My Familiar*, far from being a tight, ----- narrative, is instead ----- novel that roams freely and imaginatively over a half-million years.

A. traditional . . a chronological

B. provocative . . an insensitive

C. forceful . . a concise

D. focused . . an expansive

E. circuitous . . a discursive

8. In a society that abhors -----, the nonconformist is persistently -----.

A. creativity . . glorified

B. rebelliousness . . suppressed

C. insurgency . . heeded

D. smugness . . persecuted

E. stagnation . . denigrated

9. The board members, accustomed to the luxury of being chauffeured to corporate meetings in company limousines, were predictably ----- when they learned that this service had been -----.

A. satisfied . . annulled

B. stymied . . extended

C. displeased . . upheld

D. disgruntled . . suspended

E. concerned . . provided

10. Both by ----- and by gender, American painter Mary Cassatt was an -----, because her artistic peers were Frenchmen.

A. background . . amateur

B. citizenship . . intellectual

C. nationality . . anomaly

D. style . . advocate

E. skill . . expert

11. Only if business continues to expand can it ----- enough new jobs to make up for those that will be ----- by automation.

A. produce . . required

B. invent . . introduced

C. create . . eliminated

D. repeal . . reduced

E. formulate . . engendered

12. Trinkets intended to have only ----- appeal can exist virtually forever in landfills because of the ----- of some plastics.

A. arbitrary . . scarcity

B. theoretical . . resilience

C. ephemeral . . durability

D. obsessive . . fragility

E. impetuous . . cheapness

13. The editor expected her reporters to be -----, but the number of ----- in the articles submitted clearly showed that her expectations were often not met.

A. impartial . . clichés

B. frank . . predictions

C. decisive . . facts

D. creative . . errors

E. accurate . . misquotations

14. Many people find Stanley Jordan's music not only entertaining but also -----; listening to it helps them to relax and to ----- the tensions they feel at the end of a trying day.

- A. soothing . . heighten
- B. therapeutic . . alleviate
- C. sweet . . underscore
- D. exhausting . . relieve
- E. interesting . . activate

15. Instead of presenting a balanced view of both sides of the issue, the speaker became increasingly -----, insisting on the correctness of his position.

- A. inarticulate
- B. dogmatic
- C. elliptical
- D. tactful
- E. ambiguous

Solutions:

1. **Answer: B. resist** - In this context, "resist" means to withstand or oppose, which is exactly what architects aim for in structures against gravity. "Mimic" (imitate), although related to replicating forms, does not imply opposition to gravity. "Amplify" (increase) and "demonstrate" (show) are irrelevant in the context of structural stability. "Dislodge" (remove) suggests movement or displacement, which is contrary to the desired stability in architecture. Thus, "resist" is the most suitable choice as it directly addresses the need for structural integrity against gravity.
2. **Answer: C. captured . . shifted** - "Captured" implies taking control or gaining an advantage, fitting the context where the opponent gains a lead. "Shifted" indicates a change, aligning with how the public opinion changes to favor the incumbent senator again. "Taken" (acquire) and "stabilized" (make stable) suggest a less dynamic change than what

"shifted" provides. "Challenged" (dispute) and "waned" (diminish) imply a weakening rather than a strategic recovery. "Conceded" (admit defeat) and "vacillated" (waver) do not fit the context of gaining a lead. Therefore, "captured" and "shifted" are the most apt choices reflecting the dynamic political scenario described.

3. **Answer: A. artifice** - "Artifice" means cunning devices or tricks used to deceive, fitting the description of a playwright creating a facade. "Joviality" (cheerfulness) and "conceit" (excessive pride) don't align with the idea of hiding private matters. "Disbelief" (skepticism) and "erudition" (deep knowledge) do not relate to deceptive behaviors. Thus, "artifice" aptly describes the playwright's use of deception to conceal personal issues, making it the correct choice.
4. **Answer: C. tempered by . . jocularity** - "Tempered by" suggests moderated or mitigated by, which complements "jocularity" (playfulness). This pairing indicates a balance between serious and light-hearted approaches. "Analogous to" (similar to) and "trepidation" (fear) do not suggest complementary traits. "Commensurate with" (equal to) and "formality" (conformity to rules) imply similarity rather than complementarity. "Adverse to" (opposing) and "gregariousness" (sociability) suggest conflict rather than balance. Hence, "tempered by" and "jocularity" best describe the complementary working style of the legal team.
5. **Answer: A. reliable** - "Reliable" means dependable, crucial for assessing radiation damage accurately. "Private" (belonging to personal domain), "intrusive" (encroaching), "conscious" (aware), and "inflated" (exaggerated) do not specifically address the need for accuracy in a scientific appraisal following a disaster. Thus, "reliable" is the best choice to emphasize the necessity for dependable radiation level assessments.

6. **Answer: D. ambivalent . . anxious** -
"Ambivalent" describes having mixed feelings, while "anxious" means being nervous or worried, capturing the student's conflicted emotions about public speaking. "Positive" (optimistic) and "insecure" (lacking confidence), "euphoric" (extremely happy) and "hopeful" (optimistic), "unknown" (not known) and "modest" (unassuming), and "restrained" (controlled) and "confident" (self-assured) do not as effectively portray the mixture of pride and nervousness. Therefore, "ambivalent" and "anxious" accurately reflect the student's mixed emotions.

7. **Answer: D. focused . . an expansive** -
"Focused" means having a clear vision, while "expansive" suggests being wide-ranging or extensive. This contrast effectively describes a novel that is not tightly structured but broadly imaginative. "Traditional" (conventional), "provocative" (stimulating), "forceful" (strong), "circuitous" (indirect), and their respective pairings do not as effectively capture the contrast between a strict narrative form and a freely roaming storyline.

8. **Answer: B. rebelliousness . . suppressed** -
"Rebelliousness" (resistance to control) being "suppressed" (forcibly put down) illustrates a society's intolerance toward nonconformity. Other pairs like "creativity... glorified" (praised), "insurgency... heeded" (paid attention to), "smugness... persecuted" (punished), and "stagnation... denigrated" (criticized) do not accurately reflect the societal conflict between conformity and nonconformity.

9. **Answer: D. disgruntled . . suspended** -
"Disgruntled" (dissatisfied) paired with "suspended" (temporarily halted) aptly describes the board members' displeasure at losing a preferred service. Other combinations such as "satisfied... annulled" (nullified), "stymied... extended" (prolonged), "displeased... upheld" (maintained), and "concerned...

provided" (supplied) do not capture the negative reaction as precisely.

10. **Answer: C. nationality . . anomaly** -
"Anomaly" (something that deviates from the norm) perfectly describes Cassatt's unique position among French artists due to her "nationality" (American). Other options like "background... amateur" (novice) and "citizenship... intellectual" (scholar) do not highlight her distinctive status in the same way.

11. **Answer: C. create . . eliminated** -
"Create" means to produce or bring into existence, which is necessary for generating new jobs. "Eliminated" refers to completely removing or ending something, in this case, jobs due to automation. "Produce" (manufacture) and "required" (needed), "invent" (devise) and "introduced" (brought into use), "repeal" (cancel) and "reduced" (decreased), and "formulate" (develop) and "engendered" (caused) do not accurately address the direct action-reaction scenario of job loss and creation as effectively as "create" and "eliminated."

12. **Answer: C. ephemeral . . durability** -
"Ephemeral" describes something short-lived or fleeting, which contrasts with "durability" (the ability to withstand wear or damage). This contrast highlights the irony of disposable items lasting indefinitely in landfills. "Arbitrary" (random), "scarcity" (shortage), "theoretical" (speculative), "resilience" (ability to recover), "obsessive" (excessive focus), "fragility" (delicacy), and "impetuous" (rash) do not effectively capture the transient nature of these items versus their long-lasting material.

13. **Answer: E. accurate . . misquotations** -
"Accurate" means correct or precise, which is expected of reporters. "Misquotations" (incorrect quotes) are a clear indication of inaccuracies. "Impartial" (neutral), "clichés" (overused expressions), "frank" (honest), "predictions" (forecasts), "decisive"

(resolute), "facts" (truths), "creative" (imaginative), and "errors" (mistakes) do not specifically focus on the precision of quoting which is crucial in journalism. Therefore, "accurate" and "misquotations" directly address the contradiction in expected and actual reporting quality.

14. **Answer: B. therapeutic . . alleviate** - "Therapeutic" pertains to healing or providing relief, while "alleviate" means to reduce pain or burden. This pairing fits the context of music helping to ease day-end tensions. "Soothing" (calming), "heighten" (increase), "sweet" (pleasing), "underscore" (emphasize), "exhausting" (tiring), "relieve" (ease), and "interesting" (engaging), "activate" (stimulate) do not as clearly communicate the health benefit of relaxation provided by the music.

15. **Answer: B. dogmatic** - "Dogmatic" means stubbornly adhering to beliefs, fitting for a speaker insisting only on his correctness. Other options like "inarticulate" (unable to speak clearly), "elliptical" (obscure), "tactful" (considerate), and "ambiguous" (unclear) do not capture the uncompromising assertion of one's own views as effectively as "dogmatic."

SAT sentence completion **practice test 2**

1. Despite its apparent -----, much of early Greek philosophical thought was actually marked by a kind of unconscious dogmatism that led to ----- assertions.

- A. liberality . . doctrinaire
- B. independence . . autonomous
- C. intransigence . . authoritative
- D. fundamentalism . . arrogant
- E. legitimacy . . ambiguous

2. The spacecraft has two ----- sets of electronic components; if one fails, its duplicate will still function.

- A. divergent
- B. identical
- C. simulated
- D. mutual
- E. prohibitive

3. Frank was confident that he had presented the most ----- plan possible, but in reality his proposals were just the opposite, neither practical nor useful enough to produce any worthwhile results.

- A. efficacious
- B. abstruse
- C. conservative
- D. protracted
- E. misconstrued

4. The theory of the ----- of cultures argues that all societies with highly developed technologies will evolve similar social institutions.

- A. isolation
- B. aesthetics
- C. convergence
- D. fragmentation
- E. longevity

5. Despite years of poverty and -----, the poet Ruth Pitter produced work that is now ----- by a range of literary critics.

- A. security . . hailed

B. depression . . criticized

C. celebrity . . publicized

D. inactivity . . undermined

E. adversity . . acclaimed

6. The two travelers may have chosen ----- routes across the continent, but the starting point was the same for each.

A. coinciding

B. direct

C. charted

D. divergent

E. intersecting

7. The former cult-film director ----- his original audience by making films that appealed instead to the general public.

A. enchanted

B. moved

C. glorified

D. disappointed

E. influenced

8. Marine biologist Sylvia Earle makes a career of expanding the limits of deep-sea mobility, making hitherto impossible tasks ----- through the new technology designed by her company.

A. famous

B. feasible

C. fantastic

D. controversial

E. captivating

9. He ----- the practices of aggressive autograph seekers, arguing that anyone distinguished enough to merit such ----- also deserved to be treated courteously.

A. decried . . adulation

B. defended . . adoration

C. endorsed . . brusqueness

D. ignored . . effrontery

E. vilified . . disdain

10. In many cases, the formerly ----- origins of diseases have now been identified through modern scientific techniques.

A. insightful

B. mysterious

C. cruel

D. notable

E. useful

11. The attorney was expert in identifying ----- in contracts, ambiguities that could cause difficulties and therefore needed to be revised.

A. clauses

B. forgeries

C. loopholes

D. intervals

E. thresholds

12. Using detailed observations made by ancient astronomers in China, Korea, and Japan to ----- data collected by modern instruments, scientists can ----- precisely when a particular star exploded.

A. contradict . . speculate

B. replace . . disregard

Solution:

C. simulate . . investigate

D. disseminate . . measure

E. complement . . establish

13. Records documenting the presence of Africans among the crews of explorers like Christopher Columbus ----- the antiquity of the African presence in the Americas.

A. create

B. illustrate

C. compromise

D. overlook

E. modify

14. Anderson's callous habit of ----- the suggestions of his coworkers made him seem ----- to them.

A. reviling . . amenable

B. soliciting . . accessible

C. revisiting . . cantankerous

D. ignoring . . approachable

E. deriding . . abhorrent

15. Rita Dove's poems are widely admired for their -----; as one critic has said, Dove has "planed away unnecessary matter."

A. complexity

B. lyricism

C. leanness

D. warmth

E. zest

1. **Answer: A. liberality . . doctrinaire** - "Liberality" suggests openness and freedom of thought, which contrasts with "doctrinaire" (dogmatically adhering to theories). The pairing suggests that despite its openness, early Greek thought was rigid in its assertions. "Independence" and "autonomous," "intransigence" and "authoritative," "fundamentalism" and "arrogant," and "legitimacy" and "ambiguous" don't convey the contrast between appearance and underlying nature as effectively.

2. **Answer: B. identical** - "Identical" means exactly the same, which fits the context of having duplicate electronic components for redundancy. "Divergent" (different or deviating), "simulated" (imitated or pretended), "mutual" (shared between two or more parties), and "prohibitive" (excessively high or restricting) don't correctly describe the nature of having a backup system.

3. **Answer: A. efficacious** - "Efficacious" means effective, implying Frank believed his plan would work well. However, the reality was that it was ineffective, highlighting a contrast. "Abstruse" (difficult to understand), "conservative" (averse to change), "protracted" (extended in time), and "misconstrued" (misinterpreted) do not capture the intended effectiveness contrasted with actual ineffectiveness as well as "efficacious."

4. **Answer: C. convergence** - "Convergence" refers to the process of coming together or becoming more similar, fitting the theory that societies with similar technologies develop similar social institutions. "Isolation" (separation), "aesthetics" (the study of beauty), "fragmentation" (breaking into fragments), and "longevity" (long life) do not relate to the development of similar social structures.

5. **Answer: E. adversity . . acclaimed** - "Adversity" (hardship) paired with "acclaimed" (praised) effectively contrasts the difficult conditions under which Pitter wrote with the positive reception of her work. "Security," "depression," "celebrity," "inactivity," and their respective pairings do not effectively highlight the disparity between her circumstances and her literary success.
6. **Answer: D. divergent** - "Divergent" means differing from each other, which perfectly describes the scenario where two travelers choose different paths but start from the same point. "Coinciding" (occurring at the same time or place), "direct" (straightforward), "charted" (mapped), and "intersecting" (crossing) do not emphasize the notion of different paths as clearly as "divergent."
7. **Answer: D. disappointed** - The context implies that the director's shift to mainstream appeal "disappointed" (let down) his original cult film audience, who likely preferred more niche content. "Enchanted" (delighted), "moved" (affected emotionally), "glorified" (praised highly), and "influenced" (had an effect on) do not convey the negative impact of the change on his original audience.
8. **Answer: B. feasible** - "Feasible" (possible and practical to do easily) describes the enabling of previously impossible deep-sea tasks through new technology. "Famous" (well known), "fantastic" (extraordinarily good), "controversial" (causing disagreement), and "captivating" (capturing interest or attention) do not directly relate to the practical achievement enabled by the technology.
9. **Answer: A. decried . . adulation** - "Decried" (publicly denounced) fits with "adulation" (excessive admiration or praise), reflecting the speaker's criticism of aggressive behavior towards notable individuals. "Defended," "endorsed," "ignored," "vilified," and their respective pairings do not capture the criticism of

disrespectful behavior as well as "decried" and "adulation."

10. **Answer: B. mysterious** - "Mysterious" (not easily understood or explainable) relates to diseases whose origins were previously unknown but have been revealed by modern science. "Insightful" (providing deep understanding), "cruel" (causing pain or suffering), "notable" (worthy of attention), and "useful" (being of use) do not reflect the unknown nature of diseases as effectively as "mysterious."
11. **Answer: C. loopholes** - "Loopholes" (ambiguities or omissions in the text that can be exploited) correctly describes contract issues that might lead to problems. "Clauses" (sections of a legal document), "forgeries" (fraudulent copies), "intervals" (spaces between), and "thresholds" (points of entry) do not specifically refer to exploitable ambiguities in contracts.
12. **Answer: E. complement . . establish** - "Complement" (add to in a way that enhances or improves) and "establish" (set up on a firm or permanent basis) describe how historical observations can support and confirm findings from modern instruments. "Contradict," "replace," "simulate," and "disseminate" do not convey the supportive relationship between historical and modern data as accurately.
13. **Answer: B. illustrate** - "Illustrate" (make clear by giving examples) effectively describes how historical records highlight the long-standing presence of Africans in the Americas. "Create," "compromise," "overlook," and "modify" do not capture the evidential role of these records.
14. **Answer: E. deriding . . abhorrent** - "Deriding" (mocking or ridiculing) fits with "abhorrent" (causing repugnance), describing how Anderson's dismissive attitude towards coworker suggestions made him detestable. "Reviling," "soliciting," "revisiting," "ignoring," and their respective pairings do not as

accurately depict the disdain his behavior generated.

15. **Answer: C. leanness** - "Leanness" in writing refers to an economical use of words, stripping away unnecessary material, which matches the critic's remark about Dove's style. "Complexity" (being complicated), "lyricism" (expressing the writer's emotions in an imaginative and beautiful way), "warmth" (the quality of being enthusiastic), and "zest" (great enthusiasm and energy) do not directly relate to the described minimalistic style.

SAT sentence completion **practice test 3**

1. Male ostriches are extremely -----: they can be perceived by the human eye at a distance of 900 meters.

- A. swift
- B. aggressive
- C. cumbersome
- D. conspicuous
- E. raucous

2. Business letters are largely -----, conveying unadorned information in a clear and concise manner.

- A. functional
- B. patronizing
- C. superfluous
- D. opaque
- E. individualistic

3. The ----- between the mayor's idealistic speeches and his reprehensible conduct led his

constituents to ----- his claim to be a true reformer.

- A. tension . . endorse
- B. discrepancy . . disparage
- C. contradiction . . vindicate
- D. resemblance . . mimic
- E. parallelism . . undermine

4. Ayn Rand can be considered a ----- novelist; her ----- ideas have provoked irate rebuttal from her philosophical opponents.

- A. polemical . . controversial
- B. charismatic . . fulsome
- C. visionary . . traditional
- D. soporific . . hackneyed
- E. savvy . . ingenuous

5. The exterminators ----- increased the fire ant population by using a pesticide that killed a natural predator of the species.

- A. inadvertently
- B. auspiciously
- C. unsuccessfully
- D. tediously
- E. ideally

6. During her interview with local students, the dignitary exchanged her ----- public manner for a friendlier, less pretentious one.

- A. lofty
- B. modest
- C. gushing

D. amicable

E. precocious

7. Dine (Navajo) weavers have been ----- in their use of design, drawing on ----- motifs as well as on motifs from Spain, Asia, and other parts of the world.

A. artful . . foreign

B. antagonistic . . stereotypical

C. comprehensive . . distant

D. eclectic . . indigenous

E. pedestrian . . exotic

8. Through the years, financial misfortunes and personal tragedies turned his early cynicism into hardened -----.

A. sentimentality

B. bitterness

C. blitheness

D. ambivalence

E. optimism

9. Situated so close to the riverbank, the archaeological site is in danger of ----- when the new dam is built.

A. inundation

B. implementation

C. fortification

D. revival

E. expansion

10. The lemur is little studied because it is nocturnal and dwells in an extremely rainy region, factors that ----- most researchers.

A. interest

B. perplex

C. discourage

D. unite

E. overtake

11. According to the ancient Greek philosopher Plato, only philosophy can provide ----- understanding because it ----- assumptions that other areas of study merely take for granted.

A. faulty . . probes

B. reliable . . concedes

C. genuine . . scrutinizes

D. abstract . . lauds

E. veiled . . divulges

12. The child was stung by the adult's sharp reprimand; no one had ever ----- her that way before.

A. invoked

B. rebuked

C. galvanized

D. evaded

E. humored

13. Before the truth-in-advertising regulations were put into effect, some automobile companies went beyond making vaguely misleading claims and resorted to blatant -----.

A. disrespect

B. shabbiness

C. unconventionality

D. deception

E. selectivity

14. Whereas Jean Rhys's work bristles with an electrifying, ----- rage against all humanity, Anita Brookner's fiction is ----- and more life-affirming.

A. silent . . quieter

B. savage . . calmer

C. passionate . . fiercer

D. controlled . . angry

E. angry . . crushing

15. Sixteenth-century Spanish rulers saw themselves as champions of -----: trifling with tradition was not permitted in matters of faith or politics.

A. refinement

B. philanthropy

C. orthodoxy

D. licentiousness

E. versatility

Solutions:

1. Answer: D. conspicuous - Male ostriches are described in terms of visibility at a great distance, making "conspicuous" (clearly visible) the most appropriate choice. "Swift" (fast-moving), "aggressive" (hostile), "cumbersome" (clumsy or bulky), and "raucous" (harsh-sounding) do not specifically relate to visibility, which is why "conspicuous" is the best answer.
2. Answer: A. functional - Business letters are designed to be practical and efficient, fitting the description of "functional" (designed to be practical and useful). "Patronizing" (condescending),

"superfluous" (unnecessary), "opaque" (not transparent or hard to understand), and "individualistic" (emphasizing individual characteristics) do not suit the typical style of business communication focused on clarity and conciseness.

3. Answer: B. discrepancy . . disparage - The "discrepancy" (a lack of compatibility or similarity between two facts) between the mayor's speeches and actions leads constituents to "disparage" (regard or represent as being of little worth) his claims, highlighting the inconsistency. "Tension" (mental or emotional strain), "contradiction" (opposite between two things), "resemblance" (similarity), and "parallelism" (similarity of structure in a pair or series) paired with their respective verbs do not capture the nature of the conflict as accurately as "discrepancy" and "disparage."
4. Answer: A. polemical . . controversial - Ayn Rand's style is argumentative or "polemical" (strongly critical), and her ideas are "controversial" (giving rise or likely to give rise to public disagreement). "Charismatic" (exercising a compelling charm), "visionary" (thinking about the future with imagination), "soporific" (tending to induce drowsiness or sleep), and "savvy" (shrewdness and practical knowledge) paired with their respective adjectives do not as effectively describe her provocative style and the reaction it elicited.
5. Answer: A. inadvertently - The exterminators accidentally increased the ant population by killing a natural predator, described by "inadvertently" (without intention). "Auspiciously" (suggesting a positive outcome), "unsuccessfully" (not achieving desired results), "tediously" (too slow or dull), and "ideally" (perfectly) do not reflect the unintended consequence of their actions.
6. Answer: A. lofty - The dignitary switched from a "lofty" (pompous or arrogant) public manner to a friendlier approach.

"Modest" (unassuming), "gushing" (expressing too much emotion), "amicable" (friendly), and "precocious" (advanced or mature in development) do not reflect the initial more formal or superior demeanor as well as "lofty."

7. Answer: D. eclectic . . indigenous - Dine weavers are described as using a variety of designs, making "eclectic" (deriving ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources) and "indigenous" (originating or occurring naturally in a particular place) fitting. The pair captures the mix of local and global influences better than other options like "artful" (clever or skillful), "antagonistic" (hostile), "comprehensive" (complete), and "pedestrian" (lacking inspiration).
8. Answer: B. bitterness - Over time, the person's cynicism deepened into "bitterness" (anger and disappointment at being treated unfairly), which aptly describes a more intense form of cynicism. Other emotions such as "sentimentality" (excessive tenderness), "blitheness" (casual and cheerful indifference), "ambivalence" (mixed feelings), and "optimism" (hopefulness about the future) do not align with a progression from cynicism as effectively as "bitterness."
9. Answer: A. inundation - The term "inundation" means flooding or submersion, which directly addresses the threat posed by the construction of a new dam near the archaeological site. "Implementation" (the process of putting a decision into effect), "fortification" (the act of strengthening), "revival" (restoration to life or consciousness), and "expansion" (the action of becoming larger) do not specifically relate to the danger of flooding, making "inundation" the most appropriate and directly relevant choice.
10. Answer: C. discourage - The factors of the lemur being nocturnal and living in a rainy region are likely to "discourage"

(deter or dissuade) researchers because these conditions complicate study efforts. "Interest" (to excite curiosity), "perplex" (confuse mentally), "unite" (bring together), and "overtake" (catch up with and pass) do not accurately describe the deterrent effect these environmental challenges have on researchers as effectively as "discourage."

11. Answer: C. genuine . . scrutinizes - "Genuine" means authentic or real, fitting Plato's view on philosophy as the only source of true understanding. "Scrutinizes" means to examine or inspect closely and thoroughly, aligning with the notion of questioning underlying assumptions in other studies. "Faulty" (imperfect), "reliable" (dependable), "abstract" (theoretical), "veiled" (hidden), and their respective verbs like "probes" (investigates), "concedes" (admits), "lauds" (praises), and "divulges" (reveals) do not as accurately capture the idea of philosophy's thorough and authentic examination of fundamental assumptions.
12. Answer: B. rebuked - "Rebuked" means criticized or reprimanded sharply, which directly correlates with the child feeling stung by the adult's harsh words. "Invoked" (cited or appealed to), "galvanized" (stimulated to action), "evaded" (escaped or avoided), and "humored" (complied with the wishes of) do not capture the direct criticism implied by the context, making "rebuked" the most fitting choice.
13. Answer: D. deception - "Deception" refers to the act of deceiving or misleading, fitting the context of automobile companies misleading consumers before regulations. "Disrespect" (lack of respect or courtesy), "shabbiness" (the condition of being dilapidated), "unconventionality" (not based on or conforming to what is generally done), and "selectivity" (the action of carefully choosing) do not specifically address the issue of

misleading advertising claims as directly as "deception."

14. **Answer: B. savage . . calmer** - "Savage" conveys a sense of fierce or violent energy, suitable for describing Jean Rhys's intense rage against humanity. "Calmer" implies a more peaceful or tranquil approach, contrasting Rhys's style with that of Anita Brookner, whose fiction is noted as more life-affirming. The other options, including "silent" (not speaking), "passionate" (showing strong emotion), "controlled" (restrained), and "angry" (feeling or showing strong annoyance), paired with their counterparts, do not as effectively reflect the stark emotional contrast between the two authors' works.

15. **Answer: C. orthodoxy** - "Orthodoxy" refers to authorized or generally accepted theory, doctrine, or practice, especially in religion. This term aptly describes the Spanish rulers' strict adherence to traditional religious and political practices, not allowing deviation. "Refinement" (cultivation), "philanthropy" (the desire to promote the welfare of others), "licentiousness" (lacking legal or moral restraints), and "versatility" (ability to adapt) do not specifically align with the rigid adherence to traditional practices in faith and politics as effectively as "orthodoxy."

SAT sentence completion **practice test 4**

1. The view that human behavior is ----- by events in infancy or by impersonal social forces has been used to ----- individuals from moral responsibility for their acts.

- A. adorned . . distract
- B. manifested . . guard
- C. influenced . . elevate
- D. determined . . exempt

E. retained . . relieve

2. Ed's ----- was apparent in the fumbling and agitated way that he approached his supervisor's office.

- A. discomposure
- B. alacrity
- C. impunity
- D. equanimity
- E. fortitude

3. Mavis described the recently published treatise as inane, insipid, and -----, just another affirmation of the obvious.

- A. banal
- B. baleful
- C. inspired
- D. successful
- E. profound

4. Preservationists believe that wildlife must have designated places of -----, where animals will not be ----- by human intruders.

- A. exhibition . . controlled
- B. openness . . nurtured
- C. refuge . . disturbed
- D. vulnerability . . perceived
- E. safety . . abandoned

5. Horror movies have ----- effect, purging our fears of the unknown by giving them artistic expression.

- A. an indiscernible

B. an analogous

C. a malleable

D. a transient

E. a cathartic

6. The ----- of Sandra Cisneros' works, which have sold many thousands of copies, is reflected in her ----- readership.

A. variety . . narrow

B. popularity . . wide

C. provincialism . . liberal

D. integrity . . scattered

E. control . . concerned

7. Despite their technical -----, sixteenth-century maps of the Caribbean provide ----- information for geographers and historians.

A. inaccuracies . . imaginative

B. limitations . . abundant

C. interest . . additional

D. precision . . great

E. proficiency . . considerable

8. Much work was needed to determine the distances between the atoms, the angles between the chemical bonds, and other ----- features.

A. structural

B. expressive

C. indefinite

D. rational

E. nonexistent

9. The company rewarded Smith for his ----- ability to think for himself; many of his rivals in the industry, in contrast, merely absorb and ----- the clichés of contemporary business.

A. instinctive . . forget

B. unrecognized . . obey

C. touchy . . ignore

D. mindless . . enjoy

E. uncommon . . repeat

10. The establishment of a women's college by the Cherokee nation during the 1850's is one of many ----- of the considerable status traditionally ----- by Cherokee women.

A. illustrations . . held

B. refutations . . sustained

C. demonstrations . . relinquished

D. explications . . enjoyed

E. manifestations . . studied

11. The collection of animals in the laboratory was a virtual ----- that included sea urchins, mice, dogs, monkeys, and chimpanzees.

A. milieu

B. sanctuary

C. arboretum

D. cavalcade

E. menagerie

12. Although in most of Jorge Edwards' stories the references to politics are subtle, in one of his recent works his criticism of the government is -----.

A. astute

B. discreet

Solutions:

C. scathing

D. impersonal

E. uninspiring

13. Some of the region's ranches belong to ----- landowners; they live elsewhere and visit their ranches only rarely.

A. domestic

B. absentee

C. joint

D. bucolic

E. rural

14. Because Ruth's parents often ----- their plans as soon as they were formed, she assumed all adults were as ----- as her parents.

A. cancelled . . indulgent

B. developed . . vivacious

C. solidified . . capricious

D. changed . . mercurial

E. altered . . obstinate

15. Observing that young children are almost invariably ----- racial prejudice, the sociologist concluded that bigotry manifested by adults is therefore -----.

A. immune to . . typical

B. protected from . . juvenile

C. interested in . . unforeseen

D. cured of . . condoned

E. free of . . learned

1. **Answer: D. determined . . exempt -**

"Determined" means definitively shaped or decided, fitting the notion that human behaviors are set by early experiences.

"Exempt" means to free from an obligation, relevant in absolving individuals from moral responsibility.

"Adorned" (decorated), "manifested" (displayed), "influenced" (affected), and "retained" (kept) paired with their respective verbs like "distract" (divert attention), "guard" (protect), and "relieve" (alleviate) do not capture the notion of being definitively shaped and then morally freed as precisely as "determined" and "exempt."

2. **Answer: A. discomposure -**

"Discomposure" means agitation or loss of composure, perfectly matching the description of Ed's nervous approach.

Other options like "alacrity" (briskness), "impunity" (exemption from punishment), "equanimity" (mental calmness), and "fortitude" (courage in pain or adversity) do not reflect the nervousness described.

3. **Answer: A. banal -** "Banal" means

lacking in originality, making it a perfect match for describing something as an uninspired repeat of the obvious. "Baleful" (threatening harm), "inspired" (of extraordinary quality), "successful" (achieving desired aims), and "profound" (very great or intense) do not align with the criticism of being unoriginal and dull.

4. **Answer: C. refuge . . disturbed -**

"Refuge" means a condition of being safe or sheltered from pursuit or danger, and "disturbed" means interrupted or agitated.

This pairing best describes a sanctuary for wildlife undisturbed by humans. Other options do not coherently match the protection needed from human interference.

5. **Answer: E. a cathartic -** "Cathartic" means providing psychological relief

through the open expression of strong

emotions. It suits the context of horror movies helping viewers purge fears. Other adjectives like "indiscernible" (not clear), "analogous" (comparable), "malleable" (easily influenced), and "transient" (temporary) do not capture the emotional release provided by horror films.

6. **Answer: B. popularity . . wide** - "Popularity" reflects being liked or admired by many people, and "wide" indicates a broad scope, fitting the description of Sandra Cisneros' works having a large audience. Other pairings like "variety... narrow" or "provincialism... liberal" do not accurately describe the broad appeal of her writing.
7. **Answer: B. limitations . . abundant** - Despite "limitations" (restrictions or deficiencies), these maps provide "abundant" (plentiful) information, indicating a richness of data despite flaws. Other options do not as effectively convey the mix of technical shortfalls and valuable content.
8. **Answer: A. structural** - "Structural" pertains to the arrangement or organization of something, fitting the description of studying atoms' arrangements in chemistry. Other adjectives like "expressive" (conveying thought or feeling), "indefinite" (vague), "rational" (based on reason), and "nonexistent" (not existing) do not fit the scientific context as well.
9. **Answer: E. uncommon . . repeat** - "Uncommon" means not ordinarily encountered, and "repeat" refers to doing something again. This highlights the distinctiveness of Smith's thought process compared to peers who often just reiterate business clichés. Other options do not portray this unique cognitive ability.
10. **Answer: A. illustrations . . held** - "Illustrations" refers to examples, and "held" means possessed or maintained, accurately describing the status of Cherokee women as reflected by the college's establishment. Other options like

"refutations" (acts of proving wrong) or "manifestations" (signs or symptoms) do not convey the same historical acknowledgment.

11. **Answer: E. menagerie** - "Menagerie" means a collection of wild animals kept for exhibition, fitting the diverse collection in the laboratory. "Milieu" (environment), "sanctuary" (safe place), "arboretum" (place where trees are grown for study), and "cavalcade" (procession) do not accurately describe the variety of species.
12. **Answer: C. scathing** - "Scathing" means witheringly scornful; thus, it perfectly describes harsh criticism of the government. "Astute" (clever), "discreet" (careful and circumspect), "impersonal" (not influenced by personal feelings), and "uninspiring" (not stimulating) do not capture the direct and severe nature of the criticism as effectively.
13. **Answer: B. absentee** - "Absentee" refers to someone absent from a place, especially an owner periodically absent from property they own, fitting the description of ranch owners who rarely visit. "Domestic" (related to the home), "joint" (shared between two or more parties), "bucolic" (relating to the pleasant aspects of the countryside), and "rural" (relating to the countryside) do not specify the absentee nature as clearly.
14. **Answer: D. changed . . mercurial** - "Changed" means altered, and "mercurial" means volatile or subject to sudden or unpredictable changes, precisely describing the parents' behavior and its impact on Ruth's perceptions. Other adjectives like "cancelled... indulgent" (lenient), "developed... vivacious" (lively), and "altered... obstinate" (stubbornly refusing to change opinions) do not capture the whimsical changing of plans as well as "mercurial."
15. **Answer: E. free of . . learned** - Children being "free of" (without) racial prejudice suggests that such attitudes are not innate

but "learned" (acquired behavior). Other options like "immune to... typical" (usual), "protected from... juvenile" (childlike), and "cured of... condoned" (accepted) do not as accurately reflect the sociological view of acquired prejudice.

SAT sentence completion **practice test 5**

1. Gwen Guthrie's controversial compact disc was ----- by wary radio programmers until the city's listening audience ----- her work and requested its airplay.

- A. ignored . . initiated
- B. banned . . overlooked
- C. dismissed . . praised
- D. justified . . boycotted
- E. appreciated . . enjoyed

2. When autumn comes to the Southwest, the chamisa plant blooms, and this previously ----- shrub suddenly seems to be everywhere.

- A. omnipresent
- B. precipitous
- C. flowering
- D. dazzling
- E. inconspicuous

3. In sharp contrast to the previous night's revelry, the wedding was ----- affair.

- A. a fervent
- B. a dignified
- C. a chaotic
- D. an ingenious

E. a jubilant

4. Because Congress exempted the ----- of household products from its regulation of hazardous waste, consumers continue to contribute to toxic pollution by improperly ----- dangerous substances.

- A. purchase . . manufacturing
- B. enlargement . . preserving
- C. distribution . . eliminating
- D. abundance . . economizing
- E. disposal . . discarding

5. As a boy and young man, Paul Cézanne was ----- but also -----: extremely passionate about painting yet unusually restrained socially.

- A. auspicious . . reticent
- B. zealous . . compulsive
- C. ardent . . inhibited
- D. prudent . . fixated
- E. impetuous . . officious

6. The debate over adopting the constitution was by no means a ----- discourse: tempers flared and ----- resounded throughout the meeting hall.

- A. peaceful . . accommodations
- B. contentious . . insults
- C. tense . . opinions
- D. decorous . . invectives
- E. genteel . . anecdotes

7. The medical community seemed so factional that medical progress was often accompanied by -----, with each step forward creating new enmities.

A. sacrifice

B. astonishment

C. coordination

D. conflict

E. error

8. After years of speaking with smug superiority to colleagues, the manager finally admitted that such an attitude was -----.

A. arrogant

B. cerebral

C. plausible

D. unassailable

E. frugal

9. Despite their attempts at -----, the ----- between Peter and Fred was barely suppressed.

A. camaraderie . . admiration

B. reconciliation . . forgiveness

C. geniality . . antipathy

D. estrangement . . hostility

E. earnestness . . severity

10. The economic position of the Victorian working poor was so ----- that even a brief spell of unemployment was likely to plunge them into -----.

A. comfortable . . despair

B. sanguine . . helplessness

C. perilous . . excess

D. dire . . prosperity

E. tenuous . . destitution

11. Although some of the text's language is archaic and virtually indecipherable, most of it is surprisingly -----.

A. intelligible

B. convoluted

C. florid

D. constrained

E. elevated

12. The sound advice given by the eleventh-century medical scholar Trotula in her writings on women's health ----- some of our assumptions about the inadequacy of medieval medicine.

A. belies

B. bypasses

C. elucidates

D. compounds

E. camouflages

13. Although Ms. Harvey's disposition was generally -----, she could become enraged when sufficiently -----.

A. vicious . . ignored

B. serene . . provoked

C. energetic . . disappointed

D. meek . . complimented

E. perverse . . betrayed

14. The playwright provides us, the audience, with the ----- feeling of -----; we revel in the power to perceive connections that the characters cannot perceive.

A. delightful . . diligence

B. exhilarating . . omniscience

C. despondent . . sensitivity

D. restful . . sarcasm

E. frenetic . . despair

15. The ambassador viewed his peacemaking mission to the warring border countries with -----, expecting that ----- was unlikely in the near future.

A. enthusiasm . . mediation

B. cynicism . . conflict

C. trepidation . . reconciliation

D. satisfaction . . security

E. elation . . compromise

Solutions:

1. **Answer: C. dismissed . . praised** - Gwen Guthrie's CD being initially "dismissed" (not considered seriously) by radio programmers until it was "praised" (spoken highly of) by the audience and thus requested for airplay makes the most logical sequence. "Ignored" suggests a lack of any attention, which isn't necessarily reversed by "initiated" (started), making this pair less suitable. "Banned" (prohibited) and "overlooked" (failed to be noticed) imply stronger negative actions than dismissed. "Justified" (shown to be right) and "boycotted" (actively avoided) do not fit the context of gaining popularity.

2. **Answer: E. inconspicuous** - The chamisa plant being "inconspicuous" (not clearly visible or attracting attention) before blooming contrasts effectively with it suddenly seeming to be everywhere, indicating a transformation from unnoticed to highly visible.

"Omnipresent" (constantly encountered) contradicts the idea of sudden visibility. "Precipitous" (done suddenly), "flowering" (blooming), and "dazzling" (extremely impressive) do not emphasize the initial unnoticeableness as effectively as "inconspicuous."

3. **Answer: B. a dignified** - Describing the wedding as "a dignified" (characterized by serious and respectful behavior) affair contrasts sharply with the previous night's revelry, providing a strong sense of decorum and formality. Other adjectives like "fervent" (intensely passionate), "chaotic" (completely disordered), "ingenious" (cleverly inventive), and "jubilant" (extremely joyful) don't capture the solemnity implied in the contrast.

4. **Answer: E. disposal . . discarding** - "Disposal" (the process of throwing away) and "discarding" (getting rid of) hazardous waste by consumers highlight the regulatory exemption and its implications. "Purchase" (the act of buying), "enlargement" (the act of making bigger), "distribution" (the process of giving out), and "abundance" (a very large quantity of something) paired with their respective verbs do not address the specific issue of waste management as directly.

5. **Answer: C. ardent . . inhibited** - Paul Cézanne being "ardent" (very enthusiastic or passionate) about painting, yet "inhibited" (restrained in expression or behavior) socially, captures the contrast in his personality traits effectively. "Auspicious" (promising success), "zealous" (full of zeal), "prudent" (acting with or showing care and thought), and "impetuous" (acting quickly without thought) alongside their respective adjectives do not illustrate the combination of passion for art and social restraint as well.

6. **Answer: B. contentious . . insults** - The description of the debate as "contentious" (causing or likely to cause an argument) with "insults" (disrespectful or scornful

remarks) resounding fits the intense and heated nature of the discourse. "Peaceful" (free from disturbance), "tense" (stretched tight or very strained), "decorous" (in keeping with good taste), and "genteel" (polite, refined) alongside their respective nouns do not capture the hostile atmosphere as vividly.

7. **Answer: D. conflict** - "Conflict" (a serious disagreement or argument) best describes the nature of factional disputes within the medical community that could hinder progress. Other options like "sacrifice" (giving up something important), "astonishment" (great surprise), "coordination" (the organization of the different elements of a complex body), and "error" (a mistake) do not as precisely denote the internal strife described.
8. **Answer: A. arrogant** - Admitting that a smug superiority was "arrogant" (having or revealing an exaggerated sense of one's own importance or abilities) fits the context of recognizing one's own overbearing attitude. Other adjectives like "cerebral" (intellectual rather than emotional), "plausible" (seeming reasonable or probable), "unassailable" (unable to be attacked, questioned, or defeated), and "frugal" (sparing or economical) do not align with the admission of smugness.
9. **Answer: C. geniality . . antipathy** - Despite attempts at "geniality" (friendliness), the "antipathy" (deep-seated feeling of dislike) between Peter and Fred being barely suppressed fits the scenario where superficial friendliness does not hide underlying hostility. Other pairs like "camaraderie... admiration" or "reconciliation... forgiveness" suggest more positive or resolved interactions, which don't fit the context of barely suppressed dislike.
10. **Answer: E. tenuous . . destitution** - Describing the economic position as "tenuous" (very weak or slight) leading to

"destitution" (poverty so extreme that one lacks the means to provide for oneself) captures the precarious financial situation of the Victorian working poor accurately. Other adjectives like "comfortable," "sanguine," "perilous," and "dire" with their respective nouns do not effectively describe the critical level of financial instability and its consequences as well as "tenuous" and "destitution."

11. **Answer: A. intelligible** - Most of the text being "intelligible" (able to be understood) contrasts well with parts that are archaic and hard to decipher, emphasizing that despite some difficult sections, the majority is readable. Options like "convoluted" (extremely complex and difficult to follow), "florid" (excessively intricate), "constrained" (appearing forced), and "elevated" (higher than normal) do not reflect the general readability as effectively.
12. **Answer: A. belies** - Trotula's sound advice "belies" (contradicts) our assumptions about medieval medicine's inadequacy, highlighting that her contributions were unexpectedly advanced. Other verbs like "bypasses" (avoids), "elucidates" (makes clear), "compounds" (makes worse), and "camouflages" (hides) do not capture the idea of contradicting preconceptions as clearly.
13. **Answer: B. serene . . provoked** - Ms. Harvey being "serene" (calm and peaceful) typically but becoming enraged when "provoked" (stimulated to react) aligns with a character who is generally calm but has triggers that can lead to intense reactions. Other adjectives and verbs like "vicious," "energetic," "meek," and "perverse" with their respective triggers do not as accurately depict this dual nature.
14. **Answer: B. exhilarating . . omniscience** - Providing the audience with an "exhilarating" (thrilling) feeling of "omniscience" (the state of knowing

everything) captures the empowerment felt by the audience in understanding more than the characters. Other pairs like "delightful... diligence" or "despondent... sensitivity" do not effectively convey the sense of all-knowing pleasure derived from dramatic irony.

15. Answer: C. trepidation . . reconciliation

- The ambassador viewing his mission with "trepidation" (a feeling of fear or agitation about something that may happen) because "reconciliation" (the restoration of friendly relations) was unlikely reflects his apprehension about the difficult task ahead. Other emotions like "enthusiasm," "cynicism," "satisfaction," and "elation" paired with outcomes do not capture the gravity and doubt as precisely as "trepidation" and "reconciliation."

SAT sentence completion
practice test 6

1. Despite ----- on taking rare tamarins from their habitat, the illegal trade in the tiny monkeys remains -----.

- A. commendations . . obligatory
- B. consultations . . predominant
- C. restrictions . . local
- D. penalties . . illicit
- E. prohibitions . . active

2. Representing a round world on a flat surface is impos-sible without some -----: the Mercator projection map shows Greenland as over ten times larger than Mexico, a country in fact only slightly smaller than Greenland.

- A. oversight
- B. simplification
- C. distortion

D. sophistication

E. superficiality

3. The highly publicized redesign of the car is essentially -----: the exterior has been updated, but the engine remains unchanged.

- A. intuitive
- B. cosmetic
- C. incoherent
- D. consequential
- E. retroactive

4. Many of our memories are -----, escaping our con-sciousness just as we strain to recall a face or a name.

- A. elusive
- B. pervasive
- C. unvaried
- D. insensitive
- E. impractical

5. Although Caroline Gordon was rigorously objective in her journalistic writing, her lively and ----- private correspondence ----- a de lightful capacity for biting commentary on the social scene.

- A. incisive . . disguised
- B. eloquent . . derided
- C. dispassionate . . demonstrated
- D. exuberant . . minimized
- E. entertaining . . exhibited

6. An effective member of a debating team must focus clearly on the ----- issue and avoid ----- arguments.

A. equivocal . . obstreperous

B. designated . . pertinent

C. comprehensive . . general

D. principal . . peripheral

E. subtle . . significant

7. The ----- with which merchants and landowners in early-nineteenth-century Maryland and Virginia ----- Joshua Johnston's professional services attests to his artistic skill as a portrait painter.

A. avidness . . sought

B. diffidence . . purchased

C. patience . . replaced

D. elegance . . regarded

E. zealousness . . overlooked

8. The man's colleagues characterized him as ----- because he had an irritable, quarrelsome disposition.

A. tyrannical

B. disingenuous

C. sanctimonious

D. cantankerous

E. morose

9. After winning the lottery, John bought sports cars, built a mansion, and wore designer suits; however, by thus ----- his -----, he alienated his friends.

A. tranquillity

B. immobility

C. consistency

D. desirability

E. complexity

10. The study of biology, once considered the key to solving nature's mysteries, has instead served to emphasize nature's incredible -----.

A. enduring . . hardship

B. flaunting . . prosperity

C. undermining . . image

D. calculating . . successes

E. moderating . . consumption

11. In 1575 Venetians instituted an annual celebration to ----- the end of the ----- that had struck the city.

A. lament . . turmoil

B. commemorate . . plague

C. eulogize . . pestilence

D. hail . . prosperity

E. solemnize . . fame

12. Lena Horne's singing style is such that she can invest even the most ----- lyrics with dramatic meaning.

A. harmonious

B. sensational

C. impeccable

D. vapid

E. esteemed

13. A long-standing theory about the migration of green turtles was ----- by an innovative marine biologist who graciously defused potential ----- by dedicating her work to the original researcher.

A. instigated . . rancor

B. renounced . . approval

C. displaced . . attribution

D. enhanced . . alteration

E. repudiated . . acrimony

14. Most pioneers ----- this valley on their journey to the West because its rugged terrain and frequent landslides made it a ----- place for travelers.

A. flanked . . fascinating

B. avoided . . necessary

C. encompassed . . curious

D. enjoyed . . troublesome

E. skirted . . hazardous

15. Ballads often praise popular figures who have performed feats that many perceive as -----, such as defending the poor or resisting ----- authority.

A. modest . . acceptable

B. inescapable . . legitimate

C. insufficient . . overpowering

D. admirable . . unjust

E. unbelievable . . tolerable

16. The serious purpose of the paper-airplane flying contest, which attracted many novel and sometimes truly ----- entries, was to determine whether any ----- aerodynamic designs could be discovered.

A. unorthodox . . conventional

B. bizarre . . revolutionary

C. derivative . . imaginative

D. mundane . . predictable

E. ungainly . . aesthetic

Solutions:

1. Answer: E. prohibitions . . active - "Prohibitions" means official restrictions, which fits the context of attempting to control the trade, and "active" means ongoing or continuing, indicating that despite these bans, the illegal activity persists. "Commendations" (praise), "consultations" (discussions), "restrictions" (limitations), and "penalties" (punishments) paired with their respective outcomes do not convey the ongoing nature of illegal trade as well as "prohibitions" and "active."

2. Answer: C. distortion - "Distortion" means a change, twist, or exaggeration that distorts reality, perfectly fitting the context of a map projection that inaccurately represents actual sizes. "Oversight" (an unintentional omission or mistake), "simplification" (making something simpler), "sophistication" (complexity), and "superficiality" (lacking depth) do not as precisely describe the inherent inaccuracies of map projections.

3. Answer: B. cosmetic - "Cosmetic" refers to superficial changes that affect only the appearance. This is ideal for describing an updated car exterior with an unchanged engine, suggesting that the changes are only superficial. "Intuitive" (based on instinct), "incoherent" (not logically connected), "consequential" (important), and "retroactive" (taking effect from a date in the past) do not fit the scenario of a superficial update.

4. Answer: A. elusive - "Elusive" means difficult to catch or recall, fitting the description of memories that are hard to grasp as we try to remember them. "Pervasive" (widespread), "unvaried" (not varied), "insensitive" (not sensitive), and "impractical" (not practical) do not accurately describe the fleeting nature of certain memories.

5. Answer: E. entertaining . . exhibited - "Entertaining" means enjoyable or amusing, and "exhibited" means displayed or demonstrated, fitting the description of her lively private letters showing her sharp commentary. "Incisive" (intelligently analytical), "eloquent" (fluent or

persuasive), "dispassionate" (unemotional), and "exuberant" (full of energy) paired with their respective verbs do not convey the combination of amusement and demonstration as effectively.

6. Answer: D. principal . . peripheral - "Principal" means main or most important, and "peripheral" means of secondary or minor importance, capturing the need for a debater to concentrate on the main issue and avoid less important arguments.

"Equivocal" (ambiguous), "designated" (appointed), "comprehensive" (complete), and "subtle" (delicate) paired with their respective verbs do not as directly address focusing on the core issue while avoiding minor distractions.

7. Answer: A. avidness . . sought - "Avidness" means eagerness or enthusiasm, and "sought" means actively looked for or desired, describing the strong demand for Johnston's services due to his skills. "Diffidence" (shyness), "patience" (capacity to accept delay), "elegance" (grace), and "zealousness" (fervor) paired with their respective verbs do not capture the active pursuit and appreciation of his talents as effectively.

8. Answer: D. cantankerous - "Cantankerous" means bad-tempered or argumentative, fitting the description of someone known for being irritable and quarrelsome. "Tyrannical" (oppressive), "disingenuous" (dishonest), "sanctimonious" (making a show of being morally superior), and "morose" (sullen or moody) do not as precisely define a quarrelsome disposition.

9. Answer: E. complexity - "Complexity" refers to the state of being intricate or detailed. The sentence is incomplete, missing a verb or action to complete the description of how John's new lifestyle affected his friendships. Options such as "tranquillity" (calmness), "immobility" (lack of movement), "consistency" (uniformity), and "desirability" (attractiveness) would also need verbs to form a coherent sentence.

10. Answer: E. moderating . . consumption - "Moderating" means making or becoming less extreme, and "consumption" means the using up of a resource. The sentence appears to discuss the impact of biology on our understanding of nature, but the choices do not clearly fit a typical outcome

or revelation in biological studies, making the completion somewhat unclear without a better context or options.

11. Answer: B. commemorate . . plague - "Commemorate" means to honor or remember, and "plague" refers to a contagious bacterial disease or any calamitous event. This fits the historical context of remembering

the end of a devastating event. "Lament" (mourn), "eulogize" (praise highly), "hail" (greet enthusiastically), and "solemnize" (observe formally) paired with their respective nouns do not match the context of celebrating the end of a disaster as directly as "commemorate" and "plague."

12. Answer: D. vapid - "Vapid" means offering nothing stimulating or challenging, fitting the description of bland lyrics that Horne can enhance dramatically. "Harmonious" (tunefully arranged), "sensational" (causing great public interest), "impeccable" (flawless), and "esteemed" (highly respected) do not describe lyrics that lack substance on their own.

13. Answer: E. repudiated . . acrimony - "Repudiated" means rejected, and "acrimony" means bitterness or ill feeling, fitting the context where a new theory overturns an old one and the new researcher avoids bitterness by honoring the original theorist. "Instigated" (set in motion), "renounced" (formally declare abandonment), "displaced" (take over the place of), and "enhanced" (intensified) paired with their respective nouns do not as effectively convey the overturning of a theory and the management of potential conflicts.

14. Answer: E. skirted . . hazardous - "Skirted" means to go around or avoid, and "hazardous" means dangerous, capturing the avoidance of a dangerous area by travelers. "Flanked" (situated on either side), "avoided" (kept away from), "encompassed" (included), and "enjoyed" (took pleasure in) paired with their respective adjectives do not as clearly describe the strategic avoidance of a dangerous path.

15. Answer: D. admirable . . unjust - "Admirable" means deserving respect or approval, and "unjust" means not based on or behaving according to fairness. This fits the context of ballads celebrating heroes who stand against unfair treatment. "Modest" (unassuming), "inescapable" (unavoidable), "insufficient" (not enough), and "unbelievable" (incredible) paired with their respective adjectives do not as strongly capture the theme of heroism against injustice.

16. Answer: B. bizarre . . revolutionary - "Bizarre" means very strange or unusual, and "revolutionary" means involving or causing a complete or dramatic change, fitting the description of novel and innovative entries in a contest designed to find new aerodynamic solutions. "Unorthodox" (not traditional), "derivative" (imitative of the work of another), "mundane" (dull), and "ungainly" (awkward) paired with their respective adjectives do not as effectively describe the aim of discovering groundbreaking designs.

SAT sentence completion **practice test 7**

1. Carson presents her case so strongly and logically that only the prejudiced or the ----- will attempt to ----- her.

- A. impartial . . defy
- B. doubtful . . champion
- C. gullible . . believe
- D. obstinate . . contradict
- E. irrational . . follow

2. Over the years the anthropologist's opinions had -----: he refused to tolerate new ideas and nothing could change his mind.

- A. digressed
- B. proliferated
- C. ossified

D. germinated

E. incubated

3. As the first ----- of the political campaign, the senator unleashed a spirited verbal attack on her leading opponent.

- A. salvo
- B. encore
- C. palliative
- D. concession
- E. demurral

4. Although visitors initially may find touring the city by subway to be -----, they are pleased to discover that subways are an inexpensive and ----- way to get around.

- A. wasteful . . generous
- B. daunting . . efficient
- C. extravagant . . prohibitive
- D. convenient . . solitary
- E. enjoyable . . easy

5. One critic asserts that modern urban architecture causes sensory deprivation because it fails to provide visual and tactile -----.

- A. latency
- B. stimulation
- C. complacency
- D. confusion
- E. extension

6. Because little rain falls in the district during summer, municipalities are necessarily ----- to ----- water from winter storms.

A. ready . . squander

B. reluctant . . retain

C. free . . absorb

D. careful . . store

E. unwilling . . conserve

7. Toni Cade Bambara's novels are engrossing because the protagonists, in striving to achieve goals, are not simply ----- characters.

A. passive

B. tangible

C. abandoned

D. autonomous

E. redundant

8. Once his integrity had been -----, the mayoral candidate was quick both to ----- these attacks and to issue counterattacks.

A. debunked . . buttress

B. restored . . recommence

C. revoked . . relinquish

D. impugned . . repudiate

E. vitiated . . avoid

9. New data measuring the ----- of land beneath the oceans permit accurate generalizations about the topography of the seafloor.

A. models

B. contours

C. remnants

D. populations

E. pigments

10. Excessive secrecy tends to ----- excessive curiosity and thus serves to ----- the very impulses against which it guards.

A. inhibit . . protect

B. disguise . . supplant

C. satisfy . . limit

D. compel . . deride

E. invite . . provoke

11. In frigid regions a layer of permafrost under the soil surface prevents water from sinking deep into the soil, and so the water ----- the land, helping to create bog and ----- conditions.

A. freezes . . tropical

B. parches . . marsh

C. inundates . . desert

D. aerates . . jungle

E. floods . . swamp

12. Although the bystander's account of the car accident at first seemed -----, the police officer was surprised, on further investigation, to find that it was -----.

A. dubious . . erroneous

B. incongruous . . inconsistent

C. implausible . . correct

D. logical . . pertinent

E. probable . . coherent

13. The legislation facing Congress was so ----- that it threatened to shatter the governing body's fragile bipartisanship.

- A. divisive
- B. transparent
- C. concordant
- D. repetitive
- E. rhetorical

14. In All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes, author Maya Angelou uses -----, brief descriptive sketches, to provide ----- view of Ghana that clearly details the land and its people.

- A. missives . . an illusory
- B. themes . . a thorough
- C. vignettes . . a vivid
- D. treatises . . an authentic
- E. abstracts . . an ambiguous

15. Because an older horse is more ----- than a younger one, it is safer for a novice rider.

- A. frolicsome
- B. cantankerous
- C. gargantuan
- D. tractable
- E. precipitate

16. The library's collection is a ----- of Asian American historical documents, including rare materials about race relations.

- A. summary
- B. fabrication
- C. consensus
- D. trove

E. replication

Solutions:

1. Answer: D. obstinate . . contradict - "Obstinate" means stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion, which fits the context of those unlikely to accept Carson's well-argued case, and "contradict" means to assert the opposite of a statement, which is what someone set in their views might do. "Impartial" (unbiased), "doubtful" (uncertain), "gullible" (easily deceived), and "irrational" (not logical) do not align with the scenario where a strong logical presentation is being opposed.

2. Answer: C. ossified - "Ossified" means become fixed and rigid, typically referring to ideas that have hardened and cannot be changed, fitting the description of the anthropologist's intolerance to new ideas. "Digressed" (departed from the main subject), "proliferated" (increased rapidly), "germinated" (began to grow), and "incubated" (developed slowly) do not capture the concept of becoming inflexible as effectively as "ossified."

3. Answer: A. salvo - "Salvo" refers to a simultaneous discharge of artillery or other guns in a battle, or a sudden, vigorous, or aggressive act or series of acts, making it suitable for describing an aggressive political campaign start. "Encore" (repeat performance), "palliative" (relieving pain without dealing with the cause), "concession" (something granted), and "demurral" (objection) do not convey the initial aggressive action in a campaign as accurately.

4. Answer: B. daunting . . efficient - "Daunting" means intimidating, which can describe the initial experience of navigating a subway system, while "efficient" denotes being effective without wasting time or effort, which subways often are. "Wasteful" (using or expending something carelessly), "extravagant" (excessive), "convenient" (fitting well with one's needs), and "enjoyable" (pleasant) do not pair well with describing a transportation experience from a newcomer's perspective.

5. Answer: B. stimulation - "Stimulation" means encouragement of activity or excitement, fitting for describing what modern urban architecture lacks in providing visual and tactile experiences. "Latency"

(state of existing but not yet developed), "complacency" (self-satisfaction), "confusion" (lack of understanding), and "extension" (a part that is added to something to enlarge or prolong it) do not focus specifically on the sensory engagement aspect.

6. Answer: D. careful . . store - "Careful" implies being cautious and "store" means to accumulate for future use, fitting the description of managing limited water resources. "Ready" (prepared), "reluctant" (unwilling), "free" (not under control), and "unwilling" (not ready to do something) do not align with the necessity and method of handling scarce water supplies as well as "careful" and "store."

7. Answer: A. passive - "Passive" means accepting or allowing what happens without active response or resistance, fitting the description of characters who, unlike Bambara's protagonists, do not actively pursue goals. "Tangible" (perceptible by touch), "abandoned" (left alone), "autonomous" (independent), and "redundant" (not or no longer needed) do not describe character activity in relation to goals as effectively as "passive."

8. Answer: D. impugned . . repudiate - "Impugned" means challenged or questioned, and "repudiate" means to deny the truth or validity of something. This fits the scenario where the candidate's integrity is questioned, and he responds by denying the accusations and counterattacking. "Debunked" (exposed as false), "restored" (brought back), "revoked" (taken back), and "vitiated" (weakened) do not as accurately capture the reaction to attacks on one's character.

9. Answer: B. contours - "Contours" means an outline representing or bounding the shape or form of something, fitting for describing measurements that help define the topography of the seafloor. "Models" (representations), "remnants" (remains), "populations" (groups of individuals), and "pigments" (substances that give color) do not specifically refer to the physical shapes and forms measured beneath the oceans.

10. Answer: E. invite . . provoke - "Invite" means to encourage or make likely, and "provoke" means to stimulate or give rise to a reaction, appropriately

describing how secrecy can lead to increased curiosity. "Inhibit" (hinder), "disguise" (conceal), "satisfy" (fulfill), and "

compel" (force) paired with their respective verbs do not as effectively describe the ironic effect of secrecy.

11. Answer: E. floods . . swamp - "Floods" refers to covering or submerging with water, and "swamp" describes a wet, boggy area. This pairing effectively describes the hydrological impact of permafrost which prevents water absorption, leading to wet conditions. "Freezes" (turns into ice), "parches" (dries out), "inundates" (overwhelms), and "aerates" (introduces air) do not describe the specific hydrological effects in frigid regions as well as "floods" and "swamp."

12. Answer: C. implausible . . correct - "Implausible" means not seeming reasonable or probable, fitting the initial skepticism about the bystander's account, while "correct" means true or accurate, fitting the outcome of the investigation. "Dubious" (doubtful), "incongruous" (not in harmony), "logical" (reasonable), and "probable" (likely) paired with their respective nouns do not reflect the surprise of finding an unlikely story to be true as well as "implausible" and "correct."

13. Answer: A. divisive - "Divisive" means tending to cause disagreement or hostility between people, perfectly describing legislation that could break the fragile unity in a bipartisan context. "Transparent" (easy to perceive), "concordant" (in agreement), "repetitive" (repeating), and "rhetorical" (used for persuasive effect) do not address the potential conflict within Congress as directly as "divisive."

14. Answer: C. vignettes . . a vivid - "Vignettes" means short descriptive literary sketches, and "vivid" means producing powerful feelings or strong, clear images in the mind, fitting for describing Angelou's style of depicting Ghana. "Missives" (letters), "themes" (subjects), "treatises" (formal and systematic written discussions), and "abstracts" (summaries) do not as effectively describe the detailed and illustrative narrative method.

15. Answer: D. tractable - "Tractable" means easy to control or influence, fitting the description of why an older horse would be safer for a novice rider. "Frolicsome" (playful), "cantankerous" (bad-tempered), "gargantuan" (enormous), and "precipitate" (done without careful consideration) do not as clearly convey the manageable nature desirable for novice riders as "tractable."

16. Answer: D. trove - "Trove" means a collection of valuable items, fitting the description of the library's collection of rare and valuable documents. "Summary" (a brief statement), "fabrication" (a lie), "consensus" (general agreement), and "replication" (copy) do not capture the richness and value of the historical document collection as effectively as "trove."

SAT sentence completion **practice test 8**

1. Seeking to ----- what people view and read by determining what art and literature should be available, censorship laws directly ----- free expression.

- A. govern . . liberate
- B. juxtapose . . prescribe
- C. defer . . nullify
- D. control . . prohibit
- E. balance . . promote

2. Myra laughed exuberantly and embraced her friends repeatedly, so ----- was she about having been selected.

- A. ambivalent
- B. quizzical
- C. euphoric
- D. jaded
- E. exacting

3. It would be a waste of time for any reviewer to bother ----- a book whose utter worthlessness is ----- to even the least discerning reader.

- A. enjoying . . doubtful
- B. mocking . . figurative
- C. assessing . . welcome
- D. condemning . . obvious
- E. ignoring . . obnoxious

4. The new policy has been called a quiet revolution because, though introduced without -----, it is already producing ----- changes.

- A. warning . . specious
- B. fanfare . . momentous
- C. concealment . . transient
- D. hesitation . . ostensible
- E. debate . . negligible

5. When two chemical compounds are combined, a ----- effect can be achieved: the resulting combination can be more potent than either of the individual compounds alone.

- A. synergistic
- B. naturalistic
- C. competitive
- D. retroactive
- E. neutralizing

6. Artists who are described as ----- are the first to experiment with new forms or concepts.

- A. aesthetic
- B. partisan

C. decorous

D. cerebral

E. avant-garde

7. Responding to criticism that the script was rambling and -----, the new screenwriter revised the dialogue for greater succinctness and -----.

A. engaging . . simplicity

B. subjective . . ambiguity

C. muddled . . clarity

D. terse . . emptiness

E. difficult . . abstraction

8. During the 1990's, Shanghai benefited from an archi-tectural -----, the result of a dramatic increase in innovative and artistic building.

A. intransigence

B. plenitude

C. desecration

D. stagnation

E. renaissance

9. Many subatomic nuclear particles are ----- and nearly -----: they are hard to track as well as to detect.

A. unstable . . explosive

B. elusive . . imperceptible

C. minute . . immobile

D. charged . . reactive

E. tenuous . . indivisible

10. The crafty child tricked his innocent brother, a par-ticularly ----- and trusting boy, into committing a mischievous prank.

A. guileless

B. intrusive

C. astute

D. opportunistic

E. circumspect

11. Ellen Ochoa's ----- with the apparatus in the space shuttle Discovery was apparent when she adroitly manipulated the shuttle's robot arm.

A. compromise

B. humility

C. machinations

D. synergy

E. deftness

12. Much of our knowledge of dinosaurs comes from excavated bones, which, in ----- other clues such as fossilized tracks and eggs, help us to ----- the evolution of these creatures.

A. convergence with . . supplant

B. divergence from . . decode

C. dependence on . . belie

D. opposition to . . amplify

E. conjunction with . . trace

13. Vernal pools are among the most ----- of ponds: they form as a result of snowmelt and a high water table in winter, and then they ----- by late summer.

A. transitory . . expand

B. anachronistic . . overflow

C. immutable . . drain

D. itinerant . . teem

E. ephemeral . . evaporate

14. The ----- experiences of Madonna Swan, the 1983 North American Indian Woman of the Year, cannot be fully appreciated if they are ----- in a tidy summary.

A. varied . . interposed

B. diverse . . condensed

C. profound . . magnified

D. transformative . . embellished

E. impressive . . immersed

15. The representative was a traditionalist, reluctant to support any legislation inconsistent with the nation's most ----- principles.

A. orthodox

B. impassioned

C. precarious

D. impressionable

E. indeterminate

16. The author constructed a scenario in which playful, creative children are rewarded for their ----- and strict, dour adults are punished for their -----.

A. spontaneity . . rigidity

B. digressions . . mirth

C. solemnity . . malice

D. inflexibility . . rigor

E. improvisations . . buoyancy

Solutions:

1. Answer: D. control . . prohibit - "Control" means to exercise authority or influence over something, fitting the context of censoring what people view and read. "Prohibit" means to formally forbid, perfectly capturing the effect of censorship laws on free expression. "Govern" (rule), "juxtapose" (place or deal with close together for contrasting effect), "defer" (postpone), "balance" (keep or put into a steady position), and their respective outcomes do not as precisely address the impact on free expression as "control" and "prohibit."

2. Answer: C. euphoric - "Euphoric" describes a feeling of intense excitement and happiness, aligning with Myra's actions of laughing and embracing her friends due to being selected. "Ambivalent" (having mixed feelings), "quizzical" (indicating mild or amused puzzlement), "jaded" (tired or bored), and "exacting" (demanding) do not capture the positive and overwhelming joy that "euphoric" conveys.

3. Answer: D. condemning . . obvious - "Condemning" means expressing complete disapproval of something, suitable for a reviewer's reaction to a worthless book. "Obvious" means easily perceived or understood, indicating that the book's flaws are clear to even the least discerning reader. "Enjoying" (take delight in), "mocking" (tease or laugh at in a scornful way), "assessing" (evaluate), and "ignoring" (refuse to take notice of) paired with their respective outcomes do not capture the futility of reviewing such a book as well as "condemning" and "obvious."

4. Answer: B. fanfare . . momentous - "Fanfare" refers to a display of publicity or spectacle, and "momentous" means of great importance or significance. This pairing effectively describes a policy introduced quietly but having significant effects. "Warning" (alerting to danger), "concealment" (the action of hiding), "hesitation" (the action of pausing before saying or doing something), and "debate" (a formal discussion) paired with their respective outcomes do not as clearly convey the quiet yet significant nature of the change.

5. Answer: A. synergistic - "Synergistic" refers to the interaction or cooperation of two or more substances, or other agents, to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects, fitting the description of compounds interacting to enhance their potency. "Naturalistic" (imitating nature), "competitive" (involving competition), "retroactive" (taking effect from a date in the past), and "neutralizing" (nullifying) do not as effectively describe the enhanced effect from combining compounds.

6. Answer: E. avant-garde - "Avant-garde" refers to new and experimental ideas and methods, especially in the arts, fitting the description of artists who first experiment with new forms or concepts. "Aesthetic" (concerned with beauty), "partisan" (prejudiced in favor of a particular cause), "decorous" (in keeping with good taste), and "cerebral" (intellectual rather than emotional) do not as directly describe the pioneering nature of these artists.

7. Answer: C. muddled . . clarity - "Muddled" means confused or disorganized, and "clarity" refers to the quality of being clear. This accurately describes the revision process from a rambling and unclear script to one that is succinct and clear. "Engaging" (charming or attractive), "subjective" (based on personal feelings), "terse" (sparing in the use of words), and "difficult" (needing much effort) paired with their respective outcomes do not as effectively convey the improvement in script quality.

8. Answer: E. renaissance - "Renaissance" refers to a revival of art and culture, appropriately describing the architectural boom in Shanghai characterized by innovative and artistic building. "Intransigence" (refusal to change one's views), "plenitude" (an abundance), "desecration" (the act of desecrating something), and "stagnation" (the state of not flowing or moving) do not convey the cultural and artistic revival as vividly.

9. Answer: B. elusive . . imperceptible - "Elusive" means difficult to catch, define, or describe, and "imperceptible" means impossible to perceive, accurately describing subatomic particles that are hard to track and detect. "Unstable" (prone to change), "minute" (extremely small), "charged"

(infused with energy), and "tenuous" (very weak or slight) paired with their respective outcomes do not as clearly depict the challenge of tracking and detecting these particles.

10. Answer: A. guileless

- "Guileless" means devoid of guile; innocent and without deception, fitting the description of an innocent and trusting boy. "Intrusive" (causing disruption), "astute" (clever), "opportunistic" (exploiting opportunities), and "circumspect" (wary and unwilling to take risks) do not as accurately describe the naive nature of the boy.

11. Answer: E. deftness - "Deftness" means skillful performance or ability without difficulty, capturing how Ellen Ochoa adeptly manipulated the shuttle's robot arm. "Compromise" (an agreement), "humility" (a modest view of one's own importance), "machinations" (scheming or crafty actions), and "synergy" (cooperation for enhanced effect) do not describe her skilled manipulation as precisely as "deftness."

12. Answer: E. conjunction with . . trace - "Conjunction with" means together with, and "trace" means to find or discover by investigation, fitting the description of using various clues to outline the evolution of dinosaurs. "Convergence with" (coming together), "divergence from" (moving away from), "dependence on" (relying on), and "opposition to" (resistance against) paired with their respective outcomes do not as directly address the comprehensive use of multiple clues in studying evolution.

13. Answer: E. ephemeral . . evaporate - "Ephemeral" means lasting for a very short time, and "evaporate" means to turn from liquid into vapor, perfectly describing the temporary nature of vernal pools that disappear by late summer. "Transitory" (temporary), "anachronistic" (belonging to a different time), "immutable" (unchanging), and "itinerant" (traveling) paired with their respective outcomes do not as vividly describe the seasonal life cycle of these ponds.

14. Answer: B. diverse . . condensed - "Diverse" means showing a great deal of variety, and

"condensed" means reduced in volume or size. This pairing effectively describes how the varied experiences of Madonna Swan cannot be fully appreciated if summarized briefly. "Varied" (incorporating a number of different types), "profound" (very great or intense), "transformative" (causing a marked change), and "impressive" (evoking admiration) paired with their respective outcomes do not as directly address the risk of oversimplification.

15. Answer: A. orthodox - "Orthodox" means following or conforming to traditional beliefs and practices, fitting the description of a traditionalist representative reluctant to support inconsistent legislation. "Impassioned" (filled with passion), "precarious" (not securely held), "impressionable" (easily influenced), and "indeterminate" (not exactly known) do not as clearly describe adherence to traditional principles.

16. Answer: A. spontaneity . . rigidity - "Spontaneity" means the condition of being spontaneous; natural or unconstrained, and "rigidity" means the inability to be bent or be forced out of shape. This fits the scenario where creative children are rewarded for their spontaneity, and strict adults are punished for their inflexibility. "Digressions" (deviations from the main theme), "solemnity" (the state or quality of being serious and dignified), "inflexibility" (lack of adaptability), and "improvisations" (the action of improvising) paired with their respective outcomes do not as directly capture the contrasting qualities rewarded and punished in the scenario.

SAT sentence completion **practice test 9**

1. Although usually warm and ----- in greeting friends, Lauren was too reserved ever to be truly -----.

A. joyous . . conventional

B. cordial . . effusive

C. restrained . . gracious

D. dismissive . . ebullient

E. genial . . antisocial

2. Legal scholars argue that when "justice" is interpreted too broadly, the concept becomes -----, easily changed and controlled by outside forces.

A. malleable

B. influential

C. coherent

D. felicitous

E. prosaic

3. The instructor's voice was so ----- that most students preferred taking a test to listening to its grating sound.

A. receptive

B. cajoling

C. melodious

D. muted

E. strident

4. Originally ----- mainly by young, urban audiences, rap music was ultimately ----- by its appreciative listeners of all ages across the country.

A. admired . . embraced

B. performed . . condemned

C. derided . . ignored

D. appropriated . . relinquished

E. applauded . . instigated

5. It was out of ----- that Professor Green, the author of several highly respected books in his field, described himself to his colleagues as -----.

A. embarrassment . . a paragon

B. magnanimity . . an avenger

C. insolence . . a pedant

D. egotism . . an apprentice

E. modesty . . a dilettante

6. Historian Carlo Botta often contradicted himself, as when he first championed and then ----- the ideals of the French Revolution.

A. invoked

B. investigated

C. conceived

D. coveted

E. denounced

7. Luisa worked with extreme precision, ----- that served her well in her law career.

A. a meticulousness

B. an effrontery

C. an inhibition

D. a litigiousness

E. an impetuosity

8. In 1916 Yellowstone National Park had only 25 bison, but the population has since ----- to more than 2,000.

A. dispersed

B. mediated

C. attenuated

D. burgeoned

E. reconciled

9. Though surgeon and researcher Charles Drew never enjoyed celebrity, he truly deserves to be ----- for his life's achievements.

A. mollified

B. lionized

C. accosted

D. galvanized

E. vilified

10. The architect advised tearing down the old structure, since he did not consider it sufficiently ----- to ----- the heavy winds of the tropical storm the peninsula was expecting.

A. flimsy . . forestall

B. hardy . . forecast

C. robust . . withstand

D. noteworthy . . justify

E. ramshackle . . repel

11. When x-rays were discovered around the turn of the twentieth century, doctors quickly began to ----- their newfound ability to diagnose maladies by peering beneath the surface of the human body.

A. bequeath

B. deny

C. exploit

D. finesse

E. divulge

12. Though he was fascinated by the ----- behavior of others, Darek was, by contrast, the model of ----- in his own comportment.

A. hedonistic . . recklessness

B. unorthodox . . conformity

C. restless . . agitation

D. egotistical . . extremity

E. unwieldy . . rigidity

13. Teachers who consider cartoons and comic books harmful to students' literacy skills often use class time to ----- these media.

A. deride

B. rationalize

C. vindicate

D. foster

E. annotate

14. Because he had decided not to ----- himself through the sales of his new product, the inventor anonymously donated all profits to charity.

A. compromise

B. invigorate

C. impoverish

D. aggrandize

E. debilitate

15. Once he had ----- sufficient ----- information, Randall felt confident in publishing his daring article incriminating the local politician.

A. written . . substantial

B. believed . . sensational

C. obtained . . corroborating

D. reported . . hackneyed

E. discovered . . contradicting

16. Since her personal pleas had failed to make her noisy neighbors change their ways, the homeowner felt that her only ----- was to notify the police.

A. backlash

B. recourse

C. bromide

D. reckoning

E. forbearance

Solutions:

1. Answer: B. cordial . . effusive - Lauren's warm and "cordial" (friendly and polite) greeting style contrasts with being "effusive" (expressing feelings of gratitude, pleasure, or approval in an unrestrained or heartfelt manner), which she could never be due to her reserved nature. "Joyous" (full of happiness and joy), "restrained" (characterized by reserve), "dismissive" (feeling or showing that something is unworthy of consideration), and "genial" (friendly and cheerful) do not capture the contrast between her usual warmth and the potential for overwhelming expressiveness as clearly.

2. Answer: A. malleable - "Malleable" (able to be easily changed or influenced) fits the description of a concept that becomes overly flexible when defined too broadly. "Influential" (having great influence on someone or something), "coherent" (logical and consistent), "felicitous" (well chosen or suited to the circumstances), and "prosaic" (having the style or diction of prose; lacking poetic beauty) do not as directly describe the susceptibility to external influence.

3. Answer: E. strident - "Strident" (loud and harsh; grating) describes the instructor's voice that students found unpleasant. "Receptive" (willing to consider or accept new suggestions and ideas), "cajoling" (persuading someone to do something by sustained coaxing or flattery), "melodious" (producing or having a pleasant tune), and "muted" (quiet or soft) do not align with the negative auditory experience described.

4. Answer: A. admired . . embraced - Initially "admired" (regarded with respect or warm approval) by a specific group, rap music was later "embraced" (accepted or supported enthusiastically) by a wider audience. "Performed" (presented for an audience), "derided" (expressed contempt for), "appropriated" (taken for one's own use), and "applauded" (shown approval or praise by clapping) paired with their respective outcomes do not as effectively depict the music's journey from niche appreciation to widespread acceptance.

5. Answer: E. modesty . . a dilettante - Out of "modesty" (the quality of being modest; freedom from vanity), Professor Green humbly described himself as "a dilettante" (a person who cultivates an area of interest, such as the arts, without real commitment or knowledge). "Embarrassment" (a feeling of self-consciousness, shame, or awkwardness), "magnanimity" (the fact of being generous or forgiving, especially toward a rival or less powerful person), "insolence" (rude and disrespectful behavior), and "egotism" (the practice of talking and thinking about oneself excessively because of an undue sense of self-importance) do not align with the humility expressed.

6. Answer: E. denounced - Botta first supported and then "denounced" (publicly declared to be wrong or evil) the ideals of the French Revolution, indicating a complete reversal in his stance. "Invoked" (cited or appealed to as an authority), "investigated" (carried out a systematic or formal inquiry to discover and examine the facts), "conceived" (formed in the mind), and "coveted" (yearned to possess) do not reflect the shift from support to opposition.

7. Answer: A. a meticulousness - "A meticulousness" (the quality of being very careful and precise) is a trait that would notably benefit a legal career, suggesting attention to detail. "Effrontery" (insolent or impertinent behavior), "inhibition" (a feeling that makes one self-conscious and unable to act in a relaxed and natural way), "litigiousness" (prone to engaging in lawsuits), and "impetuousness" (acting or done quickly and without thought or care) do not as clearly relate to the precision required in law.

8. Answer: D. burgeoned - The bison population "burgeoned" (began to grow or increase rapidly; flourished), reflecting a significant recovery from a small base. "Dispersed" (distributed or spread over a wide area), "mediated" (intervened in a dispute in order to bring about an agreement or reconciliation), "attenuated" (reduced in force, effect, or physical thickness), and "reconciled" (restored friendly relations) do not capture the growth aspect as directly.

9. Answer: B. lionized - Charles Drew deserves to be "lionized" (give a lot of public attention and approval to someone; treat as a celebrity), recognizing his significant contributions. "Mollified" (appease the anger or anxiety of someone), "accosted" (approach and address someone boldly

or aggressively), "galvanized" (shocked or excited someone into taking action), and "vilified" (speak or write about in an abusively disparaging manner) do not fit the context of honoring achievements.

10. Answer: C. robust . . withstand - The architect deemed the structure not "robust" (strong and healthy; vigorous) enough to "withstand" (remain undamaged or unaffected by; resist) the severe weather conditions expected. "Flimsy" (comparatively light and insubstantial; easily damaged), "hardy" (capable of enduring difficult conditions), "noteworthy" (worthy of attention), and "ramshackle" (in a state of severe disrepair) paired with their respective verbs do not accurately describe the structural integrity needed for weather resistance.

11. Answer: C. exploit - Doctors quickly began to "exploit" (make full use and derive benefit from) their new ability to diagnose internal ailments with x-rays. "Bequeath" (leave to someone by a will), "deny" (refuse to admit the truth or existence of), "finesse" (do something in a subtle and delicate manner), and "divulge" (make known private or sensitive information) do not convey the immediate utilization of a new technology as effectively.

12. Answer: B. unorthodox . . conformity - Darek's interest in "unorthodox" (contrary to what is usual, traditional, or accepted) behavior contrasts with his own "conformity" (compliance with standards,

rules, or laws). "Hedonistic" (engaged in the pursuit of pleasure), "restless" (unable to rest or relax as a result of anxiety or boredom), "egotistical" (excessively conceited or absorbed in oneself), and "unwieldy" (difficult to carry or move because of its size, shape, or weight) paired with their respective adjectives do not as directly contrast his personal behavior with his interests.

13. Answer: A. deride - Teachers often "deride" (express contempt for; ridicule) cartoons and comic books, criticizing them as harmful to literacy. "Rationalize" (attempt to explain or justify behavior or an attitude with logical reasons, even if these are not appropriate), "vindicate" (clear someone of blame or suspicion), "foster" (encourage the development of something), and "annotate" (add notes to a text or diagram giving explanation or comment) do not describe the dismissive attitude as directly.

14. Answer: D. aggrandize - The inventor chose not to "aggrandize" (increase the power, status, or wealth of) himself with the profits from his invention, opting instead for anonymous donation. "Compromise" (weaken or place at risk), "invigorate" (give strength or energy to), "impoverish" (make poor), and "debilitate" (make weak) do not capture the self-effacing gesture of avoiding self-promotion.

15. Answer: C. obtained . . corroborating - Randall "obtained" (got possession of) "corroborating" (confirming or giving support to) information, which gave him the confidence to publish his article. "Written" (composed in writing), "believed" (accepted as true), "reported" (given an account of), and "discovered" (found or identified something previously unknown or unrecognized) paired with their respective adjectives do not as specifically describe acquiring supporting evidence.

16. Answer: B. recourse - The homeowner felt her only "recourse" (a source of help in a difficult situation) was to notify the police, indicating it was her last available option. "Backlash" (a strong and adverse reaction by a large number of people), "bromide" (a trite statement intended to soothe or placate), "reckoning" (the action or process of calculating or estimating something), and "forbearance" (patient self-control; restraint and

tolerance) do not convey the notion of a final resort as precisely.

SAT sentence completion **practice test 10**

1. Despite pressure from reporters to discuss the scandal in which Senator Scottsdale was currently -----, the press secretary would not ----- the details of the senator's upcoming public address.

- A. imbued . . rescind
- B. connected . . consort
- C. entangled . . repeal
- D. embroiled . . divulge
- E. compliant . . quash

2. The critics found the play -----, in that its social message was unfortunately lost in the awkward twists and turns of the plot.

- A. convoluted
- B. susceptible
- C. suspect

- D. condemnatory
- E. preachy

3. Muriel was so fond of her dog that their brief separation left her not just saddened, but in a state of -----.

- A. vagary
- B. abhorrence
- C. bereavement
- D. degeneration
- E. elation

4. Deliberately designed to be devoid of elaborate carving or other -----, Biedermeier furniture was known for its -----.

- A. customization . . uniqueness
- B. spareness . . starkness
- C. embellishment . . garnishes
- D. ornamentation . . simplicity
- E. flamboyance . . flourishes

5. Because she had mistakenly assumed that the disputes between the parties could be successfully -----, the attorney had not prepared herself for the ----- of a long, drawn-out public trial.

- A. mediated . . eventuality
- B. eased . . probability
- C. exacerbated . . contingency
- D. manipulated . . particularity
- E. foreseen . . inevitability

6. Anthropology was much more than ----- for the novelist Zora Neale Hurston: she studied at Barnard College with Franz Boas, who is often called the "Father of American Anthropology."

- A. an obsession
- B. a career
- C. an avocation
- D. an encumbrance
- E. a commitment

7. Angered that the book arrived in the mail in such a shabby condition, Elliot insisted that the bookseller replace it with ----- copy.

- A. an imitation

B. an authentic

C. a pristine

D. a generic

E. a shopworn

8. Staring at the abstract painting, Edna could not understand how so many of her fellow museumgoers could pretend to ----- its meaning, when to her its message was so opaque.

- A. obscure
- B. advertise
- C. comprehend
- D. disparage
- E. ignore

9. Mrs. Rodriguez was under the impression that discipline would ----- her wayward student's academic progress rather than advance it.

- A. condone
- B. foster
- C. quicken
- D. exalt
- E. hamper

10. Despite the director's lifelong reputation for humility, the retirement celebration found him unable to ----- the urge to ----- his successes.

- A. quell . . downplay
- B. resist . . catalog
- C. embrace . . embellish
- D. forego . . diminish
- E. modify . . belittle

11. Despite his ----- rich food, the chef was able to practice ----- when his diet became threatening to his health.

A. penchant for . . austerity

B. fondness for . . indulgence

C. avoidance of . . luxury

D. indifference to . . asceticism

E. talent for . . virtuosity

12. Raul's game-winning goal in the closing minutes of the game ----- his well-known ability to excel under stressful conditions.

A. clarified

B. solidified

C. identified

D. epitomized

E. decried

13. The garden that had remained ----- for months was now pleasantly enlivened by the budding shoots of its perennial flowers.

A. redolent

B. dormant

C. exuberant

D. compliant

E. trenchant

14. After several months of training, the ----- young spaniel was finally ----- enough to be walked safely without a leash.

A. eager . . unruly

B. placid . . defiant

C. clever . . helpful

D. boisterous . . docile

E. vigilant . . convinced

15. ----- as Mario's misdeed was, his grandmother, always blind to his faults, pretended to be unaware of it.

A. Accidental

B. Apt

C. Random

D. Flagrant

E. Covert

16. Despite his ----- desire to show off, he remained at heart a very ----- person.

A. uncharacteristic . . demonstrative

B. inexplicable . . hedonistic

C. occasional . . reticent

D. continual . . transparent

E. blatant . . exhibitionistic

1. Answer: D. embroiled . . divulge - "Embroiled" means involved in conflict or difficulties, fitting the context of a scandal, while "divulge" means to reveal or make known, which the press secretary would not do regarding the details of the senator's address. "Imbued" (saturated), "connected" (linked), "entangled" (caught in a difficult situation), "compliant" (agreeing to rules), and their respective verbs do not capture the essence of ongoing involvement and refusal to reveal as precisely.

2. Answer: A. convoluted - "Convoluted" means extremely complex and difficult to follow, appropriately describing a play where the social message is lost in complex plot twists. "Susceptible" (likely to be influenced), "suspect"

(not to be trusted), "condemnatory" (expressing strong disapproval), and "preachy" (morally self-righteous) do not as aptly describe the complexity of plot that overshadows the message.

3. Answer: C. bereavement - "Bereavement" refers to a state of intense grief, especially after the loss of a loved one, which fits the extreme reaction described for Muriel. "Vagary" (an unexpected change), "abhorrence" (disgust), "degeneration" (decline), and "elation" (great happiness) do not fit the context of sadness due to separation.

4. Answer: D. ornamentation . . simplicity - Biedermeier furniture is known for its "simplicity" (lack of complexity or elaboration), which aligns with the absence of "ornamentation" (decorative elements). "Customization" (modification for particular use), "sparseness" (the quality of being sparse), "embellishment" (a decorative detail), and "flamboyance" (tendency to attract attention because of one's exuberance) do not match the furniture's described characteristics as well as "ornamentation" and "simplicity."

5. Answer: A. mediated . . eventuality - "Mediated" means intervened to resolve, which is what the attorney assumed she could do, and "eventuality" refers to something that might occur in the future, in this case, a long trial. "Eased" (lessened), "exacerbated" (worsened), "manipulated" (influenced unfairly), and "foreseen" (anticipated) paired with their respective nouns do not fit the scenario of unexpected prolonged litigation as well.

6. Answer: C. an avocation - "Avocation" refers to a hobby or minor occupation, which suggests that anthropology was more than just a passing interest for Hurston. "Obsession" (an idea or thought that continually preoccupies), "career" (an occupation undertaken for a significant period), "encumbrance" (a burden), and "commitment" (the state of being dedicated) do not describe her scholarly engagement as precisely.

7. Answer: C. a pristine - "Pristine" means in its original condition or unspoiled, fitting the description of a new, undamaged book replacement. "Imitation" (a copy), "authentic" (genuine), "generic" (characteristic of a class), and

"shopworn" (worn out by overhandling in a shop) do not fit the request for an undamaged book.

8. Answer: C. comprehend - "Comprehend" means to understand or grasp, which Edna doubted her fellow museumgoers could genuinely do, given the painting's opaque (unclear) message. "Obscure" (make unclear), "advertise" (publicly promote), "disparage" (belittle), and "ignore" (refuse to take notice of) do not as aptly describe the pretense of understanding as "comprehend."

9. Answer: E. hamper - "Hamper" means to hinder or impede, fitting the context where discipline is viewed as an obstacle to the student's academic progress. "Condone" (accept), "foster" (encourage), "quicken" (speed up), and "exalt" (praise highly) do not describe an impediment as effectively.

10. Answer: B. resist . . catalog - "Resist" means to withstand the temptation or force, and "catalog" means to make a detailed list, fitting the scenario where the director struggles not to list his achievements despite his humble reputation. "Quell" (suppress), "embrace" (accept), "forego" (omit), and "modify" (change) paired with their respective verbs do not capture the internal conflict of humility and pride as well.

11. Answer: A. penchant for . . austerity - "Penchant for" (a strong or habitual liking for) rich food and "austerity" (sternness or severity of manner or attitude) as the practice when his health was at risk captures the chef's discipline. "Fondness for" (affection), "avoidance of" (steer clear of), "indifference to" (lack of interest), and "talent for" (natural aptitude) paired with their respective nouns do not highlight the personal restraint as effectively.

12. Answer: D. epitomized - "Epitomized" means to be a perfect example of, which fits the description of Raul's performance under pressure exemplifying his ability. "Clarified" (made clear), "solidified" (made firm), "identified" (recognized), and "decried" (publicly denounced) do not as effectively convey his exemplary performance.

13. Answer: B. dormant - "Dormant" means inactive or asleep, fitting the description of a

garden that becomes lively after a period of inactivity. "Redolent" (fragrant), "exuberant" (full of energy), "compliant" (obedient), and "trenchant" (vigorous or incisive in expression) do not describe the state of inactivity transitioning to activity as accurately.

14. Answer: D. boisterous . . docile - "Boisterous" (noisy, energetic, and cheerful) and "docile" (ready to accept control or instruction) describe the transformation of the young spaniel from energetic to manageable, fitting the training context. "Eager" (keen), "placid" (not easily upset), "clever" (quick to understand), and "vigilant" (keeping careful watch) paired with their respective adjectives do not describe the change from unruly to controlled as effectively.

15. Answer: D. Flagrant - "Flagrant" means conspicuously or obviously offensive, fitting the description of Mario's misdeed, which his grandmother chooses to ignore. "Accidental" (unintentional), "Apt" (appropriate), "Random" (made without method), and "Covert" (hidden) do not capture the egregious nature of the misdeed as vividly.

16. Answer: C. occasional . . reticent - "Occasional" (occurring, appearing, or done infrequently and irregularly) and "reticent" (not revealing one's thoughts or feelings readily) describe the contradiction between rare show-off moments and his generally reserved nature. "Uncharacteristic" (not typical), "inexplicable" (not able to be explained), "continual" (frequent), and "blatant" (obvious) paired with their respective adjectives do not as precisely capture the infrequent yet evident desire to show off juxtaposed with a reserved personality.

SAT sentence completion **practice test 11**

1. The employer blamed the staff member's lack of productivity on ----- rather than incompetence, claiming that the man knew how to do his job but was too lazy to apply himself.

A. infatuation

B. tension

C. indigence

D. indolence

E. ineptitude

2. The audience recognized the officer's characteristic ----- when he attributed his achievements to ----- rather than bravery.

A. pedantry . . chance

B. gallantry . . whimsy

C. humility . . fortune

D. bravado . . accident

E. effrontery . . discretion

3. The strong ----- the professor was able to establish with his students made him ----- confidant for those on campus seeking advice beyond the purely academic.

A. program . . an occasional

B. rapport . . a respected

C. confidence . . an unappreciated

D. community . . an unusual

E. ambition . . a valued

4. After David left him waiting for the third consecutive time, Kirk realized that the same behavior he had initially valued as spontaneous and carefree was, in fact, simply -----.

A. capricious

B. incontrovertible

C. extraneous

D. captivating

E. inscrutable

A. indicated

5. The border between the two properties, never
----- by legal means, had long been the subject of
----- between the antagonistic neighbors.

B. appointed

C. denuded

A. determined . . concord

D. conflated

B. undermined . . hostility

E. venerated

C. verified . . consonance

D. quantified . . diversion

E. established . . disputation

9. Named in honor of the school's founder, the
Richard Brownstone Community Service
Fellowship is one of the highest awards -----
Brownstone School graduates.

A. conscripted to

6. Even though Charlie was in apparently good
health, the doctor prescribed for him some -----
medication due to his familial history of high blood
pressure.

B. redeemed for

C. conferred on

A. presumptive

D. relegated to

B. predictive

E. deprived of

C. preliminary

D. premeditated

E. preventative

10. The anthropology professor hoped that his
latest book would appeal to popular as well as to
----- readers, thereby earning him ----- in both
realms.

A. general . . disdain

7. Though earlier anatomists had touched on the
idea, Paul Broca was the first to ----- fully the
modern notion that specific behaviors are
controlled by particular areas of the human brain.

B. lay . . attention

C. academic . . anonymity

A. articulate

D. avid . . remuneration

B. derogate

E. scholarly . . acclaim

C. represent

D. refute

E. iterate

11. As if intended to squelch rumors of cutbacks,
the company's annual celebration was as ----- as
ever.

A. sparing

8. Designed as a gathering place, the new student
lounge was appropriately ----- with tables, chairs,
and even sofas where groups could assemble
comfortably.

B. tawdry

C. belated

D. lavish

E. sated

12. The professor's ----- lecture on American history served more to confuse the students than to clarify the difficult material.

A. perspicacious

B. exhaustive

C. cogent

D. scintillating

E. disjointed

13. Since the foreign correspondent was accustomed to completing his assignments under ----- conditions, the commotion of the subway at rush hour presented no ----- his creativity.

A. squalid . . boon for

B. tranquil . . obstruction to

C. tumultuous . . impediment to

D. destructive . . demonstration of

E. flagrant . . benefit to

14. Unlike the ----- presentations of the other students in class, Mary Catherine's presentation demonstrated a thorough and mature grasp of the material.

A. astute

B. sophomoric

C. incredulous

D. cloying

E. scintillating

15. Sadly, the author never ----- the rewards of literary success during her lifetime; public

recognition and appreciation of her talent were completely -----.

A. predicted . . conclusive

B. reaped . . posthumous

C. acknowledged . . fulsome

D. appreciated . . gratuitous

E. pursued . . discredited

16. Edmund White is a ----- author: he has written novels, essays, short stories, a travel book, and a biography.

A. demonstrative

B. nebulous

C. meticulous

D. versatile

E. metaphoric

17. The archaeologist believed the coin she unearthed was ----- evidence, unquestionable proof that the site dated to the fourth century.

A. immaterial

B. potential

C. incriminating

D. nominal

E. indisputable

Solutions:

1. Answer: D. indolence - "Indolence" refers to laziness or avoidance of activity, fitting the context where the employer attributes the staff member's lack of productivity to laziness rather than lack of competence ("incompetence"). "Infatuation" (an intense but short-lived passion), "tension" (mental or emotional strain), "indigence" (poverty), and

"ineptitude" (lack of skill) do not align with the described cause of poor performance due to a lack of effort.

2. Answer: C. humility . . fortune - "Humility" describes a modest view of one's own importance, and "fortune" implies luck, fitting the description of the officer attributing his achievements to luck rather than personal bravery. "Pedantry" (excessive concern with minor details), "gallantry" (courageous behavior), "bravado" (a show of boldness), and "effrontery" (insolent or impertinent behavior) paired with their respective second words do not reflect the modest attribution as well as "humility" and "fortune."

3. Answer: B. rapport . . a respected - "Rapport" refers to a friendly, harmonious relationship, making it suitable for describing the strong connection the professor had with his students, making him a "respected" confidant. "Program" (a planned series of events), "confidence" (self-assurance), "community" (a group of people living together), and "ambition" (a strong desire to achieve something) do not describe personal relationships that garner respect and trust as accurately.

4. Answer: A. capricious - "Capricious" means given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior, accurately describing the initially admired spontaneity as actually being unpredictably whimsical. "Incontrovertible" (not able to be denied), "extraneous" (irrelevant), "captivating" (capturing interest), and "inscrutable" (impossible to understand) do not capture the notion of whimsical unreliability as precisely.

5. Answer: E. established . . disputation - "Established" means set up on a firm or permanent basis, and "disputation" refers to debate or argument, which fits the context of an unresolved boundary causing ongoing disputes between neighbors. "Determined" (decided), "undermined" (weakened), "verified" (confirmed), and "quantified" (measured) paired with their respective second words do not describe an unresolved legal matter leading to disputes as effectively.

6. Answer: E. preventative - "Preventative" means designed to keep something undesirable from occurring, fitting the description of medication prescribed to prevent potential health issues due to familial risk, even in the absence of current symptoms. "Presumptive" (based on presumption), "predictive" (foretelling), "preliminary" (initial), and "premeditated" (planned in advance) do not specifically relate to prevention as well as "preventative."

7. Answer: A. articulate - "Articulate" means having or showing the ability to speak fluently and coherently, fitting for describing Paul Broca's clear expression of the modern concept that specific brain areas control specific behaviors. "Derogate" (disparage), "represent" (be a symbol of), "refute" (prove to be wrong), and "iterate" (repeat) do not convey the pioneering clarity of expression as well as "articulate."

8. Answer: B. appointed - "Appointed" means provided with the necessary equipment or furnishings, fitting for describing how the new student lounge was equipped for gatherings. "Indicated" (pointed out), "denuded" (stripped), "conflated" (combined), and "venerated" (regarded with great respect) do not capture the practical furnishing of a space as precisely.

9. Answer: C. conferred on - "Conferred on" means to grant or bestow, suitable for describing how an award is given to graduates. "Conscripted to" (enlisted), "redeemed for" (exchanged for), "relegated to" (assigned to an inferior rank), and "deprived of" (denied) do not fit the context of an award being given as well as "conferred on."

10. Answer: E. scholarly . . acclaim - "Scholarly" refers to having or showing knowledge, learning, or devotion to academic pursuits, and "acclaim" means enthusiastic and public praise, fitting the description of an anthropology professor hoping his book will be recognized favorably in both popular and academic circles. "General" (widespread), "lay" (non-specialist), "academic" (related to education), and "avid" (enthusiastic) paired with their

respective second words do not as directly target the dual audience or the desired acclaim.

11. Answer: D. lavish - "Lavish" means very generous or extravagant, fitting for describing a company's annual celebration that was intended to counteract rumors of cutbacks. "Sparing" (restrictive), "tawdry" (showy but cheap), "belated" (late), and "sated" (satisfied to the full) do not capture the extravagant nature of the celebration as effectively.

12. Answer: E. disjointed - "Disjointed" means lacking a coherent sequence or connection, suitable for describing a lecture that confuses rather than clarifies. "Perspicacious" (having a ready insight into things), "exhaustive" (thorough), "cogent" (clear, logical), and "scintillating" (sparkling or shining brightly) do not describe the confusing nature of the lecture as aptly.

13. Answer: C. tumultuous . . impediment to - "Tumultuous" means loud, confused, and disorderly, aligning with working under chaotic conditions, and "impediment to" means a hindrance or obstruction to, fitting the context where the chaos does not hinder the correspondent's creativity. "Squalid" (dirty), "tranquil" (peaceful), "destructive" (causing great and irreparable harm), and "flagrant" (conspicuously offensive) paired with their respective second words do not as accurately describe the non-obstructive nature of the noisy conditions.

14. Answer: B. sophomoric - "Sophomoric" means pretentious or juvenile, contrasting with Mary Catherine's thorough and mature understanding. "Astute" (clever), "incredulous" (unwilling to believe), "cloying" (disgustingly or distastefully sweet), and "scintillating" (brilliantly and excitingly clever or skillful) do not as effectively highlight the immaturity of the other presentations compared to Mary Catherine's mature approach.

15. Answer: B. reaped . . posthumous - "Reaped" means to gather or receive (something, such as a benefit or reward), and "posthumous" means occurring or appearing after the death of the originator, fitting the context of an author who did not enjoy success during her lifetime but was recognized after her death. "Predicted" (foretold), "acknowledged" (recognized), "appreciated" (valued), and "pursued" (followed) paired with

their respective second words do not capture the delayed recognition as vividly.

16. Answer: D. versatile - "Versatile" means able to adapt or be adapted to many different functions or activities, describing Edmund White's broad range of literary works. "Demonstrative" (openly expressive), "nebulous" (vague), "meticulous" (very careful and precise), and "metaphoric" (using or characteristic of metaphor) do not as effectively convey the variety in his writing.

17. Answer: E. indisputable - "Indisputable" means unable to be challenged or denied, fitting for describing archaeological evidence that provides unquestionable proof of dating. "Immaterial" (irrelevant), "potential" (possible, as opposed to actual), "incriminating" (suggesting guilt), and "nominal" (existing in name only) do not accurately describe evidence that definitively establishes a historical date.

SAT sentence completion **practice test 12**

1. Although the rigors of ballet dancing are primarily -----, this art is also emotionally and spiritually -----.

- A. illusory . . taxing
- B. exaggerated . . balanced
- C. physical . . demanding
- D. appealing . . indulgent
- E. strenuous . . dubious

2. Studies of ----- among turtles are sometimes ----- by the fact that the subjects live so long that researchers retire before the studies can be completed.

- A. extinction . . enhanced
- B. longevity . . hampered
- C. behavior . . belied

D. mortality . . bolstered

E. reproduction . . confirmed

3. A model of ----- behavior, Cunningham never ate or drank to excess.

A. temperate

B. laconic

C. duplicitous

D. aesthetic

E. voluble

4. The entrepreneur had a well-deserved reputation for -----, having accurately anticipated many changes unforeseen by established business leaders.

A. prescience

B. sincerity

C. avarice

D. complicity

E. mendacity

5. Scientists require observable data, not -----, to support a hypothesis; sound science is grounded in ----- results rather than speculation.

A. induction . . diminutive

B. experimentation . . pragmatic

C. intuition . . fiscal

D. bombast . . theoretical

E. conjecture . . empirical

6. The director complained that the sitcom's theme song was downright -----, having no more pep and vigor than a -----.

A. tedious . . jingle

B. inchoate . . lullaby

C. lugubrious . . dirge

D. facetious . . ballad

E. sprightly . . eulogy

7. The success of Notes of a Native Son ----- author James Baldwin as one of the most ----- essayists of his time.

A. buoyed . . irrelevant

B. established . . prominent

C. surrendered . . prolific

D. decried . . cynical

E. categorized . . mundane

8. In many parts of the world, people use rice as a central rather than a ----- part of their daily diets.

A. pivotal

B. ritualistic

C. salient

D. supplementary

E. solemn

9. Victor gained a reputation for being a ----- because he constantly bullied other children.

A. bungler

B. ruffian

C. stickler

D. daredevil

E. naysayer

10. Paradoxically, the senator was both a ----- and -----: she publicly defended the rights and wisdom of the people, but she often spoke with a disdainful air of superiority.

- A. demagogue . . a maverick
- B. conservative . . an anarchist
- C. populist . . an elitist
- D. moderate . . a reactionary
- E. partisan . . a snob

11. The geologist speculated that eons ago, before the area was -----, the present-day island was actually a hilltop in a vast forest.

- A. inundated
- B. situated
- C. rejuvenated
- D. supplanted
- E. excavated

12. The new vaccine is ----- preventing certain forms of pneumonia and should, therefore, be more widely ----- in order to prevent outbreaks of the disease.

- A. required for . . constrained
- B. unsuccessful in . . distributed
- C. instrumental in . . reconstituted
- D. effective in . . administered
- E. unverified for . . disseminated

13. In an effort to ----- the ----- theater, the troupe members contributed thousands of dollars to keep the playhouse operating.

- A. qualify . . obsolete

B. salvage . . floundering

C. exacerbate . . defunct

D. revitalize . . prosperous

E. commandeer . . lucrative

14. In her writings about language, the poet Gloria Anzaldua celebrates the ----- of English and Spanish dialects spoken by Mexican Americans, arguing that such ----- lends an empowering flexibility to expression.

- A. multiplicity . . variety
- B. proliferation . . moderation
- C. ambivalence . . focus
- D. dearth . . depletion
- E. abridgment . . imitation

15. The mountain road was distinctly -----: it twisted back and forth along the contours of the hillside.

- A. panoramic
- B. precipitous
- C. serpentine
- D. circumscribed
- E. retrograde

16. At the family reunion Hiroko found her cousin charming and gentle, the ----- of his formerly rude and overbearing self.

- A. remnant
- B. antithesis
- C. consequence
- D. extremity

E. mainstay

17. His conduct at the state dinner was a cavalcade of blunders, one ----- following another until the evening ended.

A. query

B. gibe

C. gaffe

D. tryst

E. tribute

Solutions:

1. Answer: C. physical . . demanding - Ballet dancing, though primarily "physical" (relating to the body), involves significant emotional and spiritual effort, making it also "demanding" (requiring much effort or attention). Other options like "illusory" (not real), "exaggerated" (overstated), "appealing" (attractive), "strenuous" (requiring great effort), and "dubious" (doubtful) do not comprehensively capture both the physical exertion and the emotional investment.

2. Answer: B. longevity . . hampered - The study of "longevity" (long life) among turtles can be "hampered" (hindered) because the turtles outlive the researchers, affecting the completion of the study. Other pairs like "extinction . . enhanced" (improved), "behavior . . belied" (contradicted), "mortality . . bolstered" (supported), and "reproduction . . confirmed" (verified) do not address the unique challenge of studying long-lived creatures.

3. Answer: A. temperate - "Temperate" behavior, characterized by moderation, fits Cunningham's lifestyle of not indulging in excess eating or drinking. Other options like "laconic" (using few words), "duplicious" (deceitful), "aesthetic" (concerned with beauty), and "voluble" (talkative) do not correctly describe moderation in consumption.

4. Answer: A. prescience - "Prescience" means having foreknowledge or foresight, accurately

describing the entrepreneur's ability to predict business trends. Other options such as "sincerity" (honesty), "avarice" (greed), "complicity" (being involved with others in wrongdoing), and "mendacity" (untruthfulness) do not align with foresight in business.

5. Answer: E. conjecture . . empirical - "Conjecture" (guesswork) cannot support scientific hypotheses, which require "empirical" (based on observation or experience) results. Other pairs like "induction . . diminutive" (small), "experimentation . . pragmatic" (practical), "intuition . . fiscal" (financial), and "bombast . . theoretical" (speculative) do not contrast speculation with solid evidence as effectively.

6. Answer: C. lugubrious . . dirge - Describing the theme song as "lugubrious" (sad and mournful) and comparing it to a "dirge" (a mournful song) criticizes its lack of liveliness. Other options like "tedious" (boring), "inchoate" (not fully developed), "facetious" (joking inappropriately), and "sprightly" (lively) do not effectively convey the described lack of pep and vigor.

7. Answer: B. established . . prominent - "Established" (recognized) and "prominent" (well-known) accurately describe how James Baldwin became regarded as an influential essayist through his work. "Buoyed" (supported), "surrendered" (gave up), "decried" (publicly denounced), and "categorized" (classified) paired with their respective adjectives do not capture his rise to prominence.

8. Answer: D. supplementary - Rice as a "supplementary" (additional) part contrasts with its central role in many diets. Other choices like "pivotal" (crucial), "ritualistic" (ceremonial), "salient" (most noticeable), and "solemn" (serious) do not effectively denote something that is secondary or in addition to the main component of a diet.

9. Answer: B. ruffian - Describing Victor as a "ruffian" (a violent person, especially one involved in crime) aligns with his bullying behavior. "Bungler" (a person who habitually makes mistakes), "stickler" (person who insists on a certain quality), "daredevil" (a reckless person),

and "naysayer" (someone who opposes something) do not aptly describe bullying behavior.

10. Answer: C. populist . . an elitist - Being a "populist" (supporter of the rights and power of the people) who also behaves as an "elitist" (believing in the rule by an elite) captures the paradoxical nature of the senator's public stance versus personal demeanor. Other pairs like "demagogue" (a political leader who seeks support by appealing to popular desires), "conservative" (averse to change), "moderate" (average in amount), and "partisan" (a strong supporter of a party) do not encapsulate this duality as effectively.

11. Answer: A. inundated - "Inundated" (flooded) suggests that the area was underwater, transforming a hilltop into an island. Other options like "situated" (located), "rejuvenated" (made new or fresh again), "supplanted" (replaced), and "excavated" (dug up) do not convey the change from land to island due to flooding.

12. Answer: D. effective in . . administered - The vaccine being "effective in" preventing pneumonia should be "administered" (given medically) widely. Other combinations like "required for . . constrained" (limited), "unsuccessful in . . distributed" (spread), "instrumental in . . reconstituted" (reformed), and "unverified for . . disseminated" (spread) do not as directly suggest successful prevention and necessary action.

13. Answer: B. salvage . . floundering - To "salvage" (save from loss or destruction) the "floundering" (struggling to survive) theater fits the context of financial contributions to keep a struggling playhouse operating. Other choices like "qualify" (make eligible), "exacerbate" (worsen), "revitalize" (give new life to), and "commandeer" (take control of) paired with their respective nouns do not reflect the efforts to save a failing theater as clearly.

14. Answer: A. multiplicity . . variety - Celebrating the "multiplicity" (a large number) and "variety" of dialects underscores the diversity and flexibility in language expression. "Proliferation" (rapid increase), "ambivalence" (mixed feelings), "dearth" (a lack), and "abridgment" (a shortened version) do

not capture the positive aspects of linguistic diversity as effectively.

15. Answer: C. serpentine - "Serpentine" (winding or twisting like a serpent) perfectly describes the mountain road that follows the contours of the hillside. Other options like "panoramic" (wide view), "precipitous" (steep), "circumscribed" (restricted), and "retrograde" (moving backward) do not depict the winding nature of the road.

16. Answer: B. antithesis - "Antithesis" (direct opposite) aptly describes how his cousin's current demeanor is the complete opposite of his past rude self. "Remnant" (remaining part), "consequence" (result), "extremity" (the furthest point or limit), and "mainstay" (a chief support) do not convey the contrast in personality traits.

17. Answer: C. gaffe - A "gaffe" (an unintentional act or remark causing embarrassment) sequentially ruining a formal event fits the description of a series of blunders. Other options like "query" (question), "gibe" (an insulting remark), "tryst" (a private romantic rendezvous), and "tribute" (an act, statement, or gift intended to show gratitude) do not reflect the accidental embarrassing actions described.

SAT sentence completion **practice test 13**

1. The----- of Maria Irene Fornes' play *Mud*—a realistic room perched on a dirt pile—challenges conventional interpretations of stage scenery.

- A. appeal
- B. plot
- C. mood
- D. setting
- E. rehearsal

2. Ironically, an affluent society that purchases much more food than it actually needs suffers because of that -----, since in conditions of

affluence diseases relate to overeating and a poor nutrition seem to -----.

- A. lavishness... adapt
- B. overabundance... thrive
- C. corpulence... vex
- D. practicality... awaken
- E. commonness... abound

3. Because of the ----- effects of the hot springs, tourists suffering from various ailments flocked to the village's thermal pools.

- A. succulent
- B. redolent
- C. cerebral
- D. mandatory
- E. therapeutic

4. More valuable and comprehensive than any previously proposed theory of the phenomenon, Salarza's research has ----- the basis for all subsequent----- in their field.

- A. undermine... advancements
- B. prepared... debacles
- C. provided... investigations
- D. dissolved... experiments
- E. reinforced... misconceptions

5. Dangerously high winds ----- attempts to begin the space shuttle mission on schedule, delaying the launch by nearly a week.

- A. thwarted
- B. forfeited

C. implemented

- D. discharged
- E. redoubled

6. The guest speaker on Oprah Winfrey's talk show offended the audience by first ----- them and then refuse to moderate these ----- remarks.

- A. flattering... commendable
- B. haranguing... intemperate
- C. praising... radical
- D. enraging... conciliatory
- E. accommodating... indulgent.

7. By the end of the long, arduous hike, Chris was walking with a ----- gait, limping slowly back to the campsite.

- A. halting
- B. robust
- C. constant
- D. prompt

E. facile

8. Actors in melodramas often emphasized tense moments by being -----, for example, raising their voices and pretending to swoon.

- A. imperious
- B. inscrutable
- C. convivial
- D. histrionic
- E. solicitous

9. Soon after the first visitors arrived, increasing numbers of the residents of the remote island

thought it possible that the outside world, instead of being -----, could be ----- and worth exploring.

A. insular... unlimited

B. friendly...wicked

C. amiable...cooperative

D. threatening...fascinating

E. forbidding...harmful

10. Her dislike of ----- made her regard people who tried to win her approval through praise as -----.

A. autocrats... dictators

B. defiance... toadies

C. tyrants... connoisseurs

D. adulation... superiors

E. flattery... sycophants

11. Some scientists speculate that a small pterosaur of the Jurassic period known as Sordes pilous had----- wings that were thin, pliable and somewhat transparent.

A. callous

B. arable

C. inflexible

D. membranous

E. viscous

12. To reflect the ----- of nation's spoken languages, its writers often make use of a mixture of dialects.

A. articulation

B. intonation

C. spontaneity

D. profundity

E. heterogeneity

13. She apologized profusely, only to discover that her self-serving excuses failed to have a ----- effect.

A. reprehensible

B. palliative

C. depreciatory

D. litigious

E. compendious

14. A swindler's ----- is usually a gullible person who is unable to resist the swindler's traps.

A. peer

B. ally

C. prey

D. nemesis

E. superior

15. Improvements in refrigeration and transportation in the nineteenth century ----- the ----- of available food for many families in United States.

A. slowed...distribution

B. accelerate... perishability

C. expanded... variety

D. lowered... amount

E. created...dearth

Solutions:

1. Answer: D. setting - The "setting" of a play refers to the physical and temporal backdrop against which the story unfolds. In this case, describing a realistic room perched on a dirt pile as the "setting" emphasizes its role in challenging conventional stage scenery. "Appeal" (attraction), "plot" (storyline), "mood" (atmosphere), and "rehearsal" (practice) do not directly relate to the physical aspects of the stage design.

2. Answer: B. overabundance...thrive - "Overabundance" refers to an excessive quantity, and "thrive" implies flourishing or prospering, which fits the paradox of an affluent society suffering from diseases due to excessive food consumption. "Lavishness" (excess), "corpulence" (obesity), "practicality" (usefulness), and "commonness" (ordinariness) paired with their respective verbs don't adequately capture the specific scenario of health issues stemming from too much food.

3. Answer: E. therapeutic - "Therapeutic" means having a healing effect, perfectly describing the beneficial properties of hot springs that attract tourists with ailments. "Succulent" (juicy), "redolent" (fragrant), "cerebral" (intellectual), and "mandatory" (required) do not relate to the healing qualities that would attract those seeking health benefits.

4. Answer: C. provided...investigations - "Provided" means to supply or make available, and "investigations" refers to detailed inquiries or research. This choice best captures how Salarza's research serves as a foundational element for further study in their field. "Undermine" (weaken), "prepared" (readied), "dissolved" (disintegrated), and "reinforced" (strengthened) do not fit as well with the follow-up activities described by "advancements," "debacles," "experiments," and "misconceptions."

5. Answer: A. thwarted - "Thwarted" means to prevent someone from accomplishing something, accurately describing how high winds delayed the space shuttle launch. "Forfeited" (given up), "implemented" (put into effect), "discharged" (released), and "redoubled" (doubled the effort) do not correctly describe the hindrance caused by the winds.

6. Answer: B. haranguing...intemperate - "Haranguing" means scolding or criticizing forcefully, and "intemperate" describes behavior that is excessive or lacking moderation, fitting the scenario where the speaker's aggressive remarks offended the audience. "Flattering" (praising), "praising" (complimenting), "enraging" (making angry), and "accommodating" (being helpful or obliging) paired with their respective adjectives do not capture the offensive nature of the remarks as directly.

7. Answer: A. halting - "Halting" refers to a slow or hesitant manner of walking, fitting the description of Chris's movement after a long hike. "Robust" (strong), "constant" (consistent), "prompt" (quick), and "facile" (easy) do not convey the difficulties experienced by Chris as effectively as "halting."

8. Answer: D. histrionic - "Histrionic" refers to overly theatrical or melodramatic behavior, perfectly describing the exaggerated actions of actors in melodramas during tense moments. "Imperious" (domineering), "inscrutable" (impossible to understand), "convivial" (friendly), and "solicitous" (showing concern) do not specifically relate to the theatrical exaggeration typical of melodrama.

9. Answer: D. threatening...fascinating - "Threatening" means appearing dangerous or harmful, which contrasts effectively with "fascinating" (extremely interesting), describing how perceptions of the outside world changed among the island residents. "Insular" (isolated), "friendly" (kind), "amiable" (pleasant), and "forbidding" (unfriendly) paired with their respective adjectives do not capture the transformation from fear to intrigue as vividly.

10. Answer: E. flattery...sycophants - "Flattery" is excessive and insincere praise, and "sycophants" are people who flatter others to gain favor. This pairing aptly describes her contempt for those who try to win her approval with undue praise. "Autocrats" (dictators), "defiance" (resistance), "tyrants" (oppressive leaders), and "adulation" (excessive admiration) paired with their respective nouns do not directly relate to the distaste for insincere flattery.

11. Answer: D. membranous - "Membranous" means relating to or resembling

a membrane, fitting the description of the pterosaur's wings as thin, pliable, and somewhat transparent. "Callous" (emotionally hardened), "arable" (suitable for farming), "inflexible" (rigid), and "viscous" (thick and sticky) do not accurately describe the delicate and flexible nature of the wings.

12. Answer: E. heterogeneity - "Heterogeneity" means diversity or variety, accurately describing the linguistic landscape of a nation with multiple spoken languages. "Articulation" (clarity in speech), "intonation" (tone of voice), "spontaneity" (impulsive action), and "profundity" (depth of knowledge) do not specifically relate to the linguistic diversity implied by the use of different dialects.

13. Answer: B. palliative - "Palliative" means relieving pain without dealing with the cause of the condition, fitting the context where her excuses were meant to soothe but failed. "Reprehensible" (deserving censure), "depreciatory" (devaluing), "litigious" (prone to engaging in lawsuits), and "compendious" (succinct) do not convey the intended but unachieved soothing effect as effectively.

14. Answer: C. prey - "Prey" refers to a victim or target of a predator, capturing the concept of a gullible person easily trapped by a swindler. "Peer" (equal), "ally" (partner), "nemesis" (opponent), and "superior" (higher in rank) do not as clearly depict the vulnerable position of someone deceived by a swindler.

15. Answer: C. expanded... variety - "Expanded" means increased, and "variety" refers to a range or diversity, perfectly describing how improvements in technology led to a wider array of food options. "Slowed" (decreased the speed), "accelerate" (increase the speed), "lowered" (reduced), and "created" (produced) paired with their respective nouns do not as effectively capture the impact of technological advances on food availability.

SAT sentence completion **practice test 14**

1. Although Eudora Welty and William Faulkner wrote in distinctively different style, ----- between the two is ----- because they both lived in and wrote about Mississippi.

A. comparison... inevitable

B. cooperation... destructive

C. discord... legendary

D. similarity... unlikely

E. rivalry... redundant

2. Cito Gaston, one of the least ----- baseball managers, surprised reporters by weeping openly after his team won the play-offs.

A. somber

B. demonstrative

C. insufferable

D. bountiful

E. wistful

3. The critic's writing is so obscure and dense that upon first reading, one finds its ----- hard to penetrate.

A. brevity

B. rigidity

C. floridity

D. harmony

E. opacity

4. Oil companies seeking permission to drill in Alaskan wildlife refuge areas argued that, for

animals, the effects of previous drilling in comparable areas have been ----- .

- A. irrepressible
- B. counterproductive
- C. negligible
- D. momentous
- E. magnanimous

5. To avoid being -----, composer Stephen Sondheim strives for an element of surprise in his songs.

- A. erratic
- B. informal
- C. elaborate
- D. predictable
- E. idiosyncratic

6. Because the pandas had already been weakened by the disease and drought, a harsh winter would have had ----- consequences for them.

- A. preventive
- B. regressive
- C. catastrophic
- D. unforeseen
- E. moderate

7. For many of the villagers, marriage was a practical -----, one not necessarily ----- of love but nevertheless grounded largely in economic advantage.

- A. arrangement... devoid
- B. entertainment... disparaging

C. attitude... consisting

- D. bargain... worthy
- E. misfortune... trusting

8. Maggie is a procrastinator, inclined to ----- and to ----- discussions.

- A. meddle... scoff at
- B. temporize... prolong
- C. misbehave... disrupt
- D. sneer... terminate
- E. withdraw... intrude in

9. Just as glass windows offer buildings both light and insulation, certain atmospheric gases ----- incoming sunlight and ----- heat radiated from the ground, preventing warmth from escaping.

- A. conduct... release
- B. deflect... transmit
- C. admit... contain
- D. absorb... dispense
- E. resist... trap

10. The speaker, praised for her style yet ridiculed for her vacuity, often moved naive listeners with ----- alone and led them to believe that her speech had -----.

- A. reason... dalliance
- B. infelicity... conviction
- C. rhetoric... substance
- D. pragmatism... futility
- E. boorishness... integrity

11. The actor was note for his ----- behavior; he quickly became irritated if his every whim was not immediately satisfied.

A. fastidious

B. sedulous

C. vindictive

D. petulant

E. mercenary

12. Hayley Mill's films have been called -----, although most of them are not so sentimental as to deserve that description.

A. treacly

B. cursory

C. prosaic

D. meticulous

E. consecrated

13. Predictably, the detail-oriented workers are ----- keeping track of the myriad particulars of a situation.

A. remiss in

B. adept at

C. humorous about

D. hesitant about

E. contemptuous about

14. The controversial tax fueled a sustained ----- that could not be ----- by the Prime Minister's impassioned speeches.

A. rebellion... challenged

B. interrogation... fortified

C. conflagration... fostered

D. denial... restrained

E. uprising... quelled

15. Inbreeding can promote the expression of ----- genes, those that make an animal subject to disease or impair reproductive efficiency.

A. ineffable

B. articulated

C. consummate

D. presumptive

E. deleterious

Solutions:

1. Answer: A. comparison... inevitable - A "comparison" (an examination of similarities and differences) between Eudora Welty and William Faulkner is "inevitable" (certain to happen) due to their shared geographical and thematic focus on Mississippi, making discussions about their work naturally drawn together. "Cooperation" (working together), "discord" (disagreement), "similarity" (likeness), and "rivalry" (competition) paired with their respective outcomes do not capture the inevitability of comparing their literary styles as well.

2. Answer: B. demonstrative - "Demonstrative" means openly expressive of emotions, which contrasts with Gaston being among the least expressive managers, hence his tears were surprising. "Somber" (grave), "insufferable" (intolerable), "bountiful" (generous), and "wistful" (having or showing a feeling of vague or regretful longing) do not as accurately describe the unexpected emotional display.

3. Answer: E. opacity - "Opacity" refers to the quality of being difficult to understand or not transparent, fitting for a description of dense, obscure writing that's hard to penetrate. "Brevity" (conciseness), "rigidity" (stiffness), "floridity" (excessively ornate), and "harmony" (agreement)

do not suit the context of difficult-to-understand text as well as "opacity."

4. Answer: C. negligible - "Negligible" means so small or unimportant as to be not worth considering, which aligns with the argument that the impact on wildlife from drilling is minimal. "Irrepressible" (not able to be controlled), "counterproductive" (having the opposite of the desired effect), "momentous" (of great importance), and "magnanimous" (generous) do not correctly describe the minimal impact as "negligible" does.

5. Answer: D. predictable - "Predictable" means expected or easily anticipated, and avoiding being predictable is a goal for a composer seeking to surprise his audience. "Erratic" (unpredictable), "informal" (casual), "elaborate" (detailed), and "idiosyncratic" (peculiar or individual) do not emphasize the need for surprise as "predictable" does.

6. Answer: C. catastrophic - "Catastrophic" means involving or causing sudden great damage or suffering, fitting the dire consequences for the already weakened pandas. "Preventive" (designed to keep something undesirable from occurring), "regressive" (returning to a less developed state), "unforeseen" (not anticipated), and "moderate" (average in amount) do not express the severity of impact as "catastrophic" does.

7. Answer: A. arrangement... devoid - "Arrangement" (an agreement) that is "devoid" (entirely lacking) of love but based on economic advantage fits the description of marriage as a practical matter in the village. "Entertainment" (amusement), "attitude" (a settled way of thinking), "bargain" (agreement), and "misfortune" (bad luck) paired with their respective outcomes do not suit the pragmatic nature of marriage described.

8. Answer: B. temporize... prolong - "Temporize" means to delay or procrastinate, and "prolong" means to extend the duration of something, perfectly describing Maggie's inclination to put things off and extend discussions. "Meddle" (interfere), "misbehave" (act badly), "sneer" (mock), and "withdraw" (retreat) paired with their respective actions do not capture her procrastination as accurately.

9. Answer: C. admit... contain - "Admit" means to allow to enter, and "contain" means to hold within, describing how atmospheric gases let sunlight in and keep heat from escaping, similar to the dual function of windows. "Conduct" (transmit), "deflect" (turn aside), "absorb" (take in), and "resist" (withstand) paired with their respective actions do not illustrate the dual role of atmospheric gases as effectively as "admit" and "contain."

10. Answer: C. rhetoric... substance - "Rhetoric" (the art of persuasive speaking or writing) alone influencing listeners indicates that they believed her speeches had "substance" (significant or meaningful content) even if they might not have. "Reason" (logical thinking), "infelicity" (unsuitability), "pragmatism" (practical approach), and "boorishness" (rudeness) paired with their respective outcomes do not convey the same sense of deceptive persuasion as "rhetoric" and "substance."

11. Answer: D

. petulant - "Petulant" means childishly sulky or bad-tempered, fitting the description of the actor who becomes easily irritated if not immediately satisfied. "Fastidious" (very attentive to detail), "sedulous" (showing dedication), "vindictive" (seeking revenge), and "mercenary" (motivated by financial gain) do not describe the temperament as specifically as "petulant."

12. Answer: A. treacly - "Treacly" means excessively sentimental, fitting the criticism that Mills' films might receive, even if they don't fully merit such a label. "Cursory" (hasty and not thorough), "prosaic" (lacking poetic beauty), "meticulous" (very careful and precise), and "consecrated" (made or declared sacred) do not convey the sentimentality implied by "treacly."

13. Answer: B. adept at - "Adept at" means skilled at, which fits the context of detail-oriented workers being good at managing numerous small details. "Remiss in" (negligent in), "humorous about" (finding humor in), "hesitant about" (uncertain about), and "contemptuous about" (scornful of) do not suit the proficiency described as "adept at."

14. Answer: E. uprising... quelled - An "uprising" (an act of resistance or rebellion) that cannot be "quelled" (put an end to, usually by force) describes the sustained public resistance against the tax, unaffected by the Prime Minister's efforts. "Rebellion" (active opposition), "interrogation" (questioning), "conflagration" (large destructive fire), and "denial" (refusal to admit the truth) paired with their respective outcomes do not capture the specific unyielding nature of the public's response as "uprising" and "quelled."

15. Answer: E. deleterious - "Deleterious" means causing harm or damage, accurately describing genes that negatively affect an animal's health or reproductive efficiency. "Ineffable" (too great to be expressed in words), "articulated" (expressed clearly), "consummate" (perfect), and "presumptive" (presumed but not yet confirmed) do not specifically denote the harmful characteristics as "deleterious" does.

SAT sentence completion **practice test 15**

1. The doctor ----- so frequently on disease-prevention techniques that his colleagues accused him of -----.

- A. vacillated... inconsistency
- B. sermonized... fertility
- C. wavered...steadfastness
- D. experimented... inflexibility
- E. relied... negligence

2. A judicious biography must be ----- representation that depicts both the strengths and weaknesses of the subject, avoiding the two extremes of ----- and indictment.

- A. a polarized... vindication
- B. an imaginative... discernment
- C. a holistic... censure

D. a complimentary... animosity

E. an equitable... eulogy

3. Though Luis eagerly sought her -----, he subsequently chose not to heed that advice.

- A. secretiveness
- B. cooperation
- C. understanding

D. counsel

E. concord

4. As a young physics instructor, Richard Feynman had discovered that he had the gift of sharing his ----- his subject and making the excitement -----.

- A. passion for... contagious
- B. knowledge for... inaudible
- C. contempt for... praiseworthy
- D. propensity for... futile
- E. commitment to... impersonal

5. As ----- as disintegration of the Roman Empire must have seemed, that disaster nevertheless presented some ----- aspects.

- A. momentous... formidable
- B. decisive... unavoidable
- C. unexpected... ambiguous
- D. advantageous... beneficial
- E. catastrophic... constructive

6. The beauty of Mount McKinley is usually cloaked: the clouds ----- the summit nine days out of ten.

A. release

B. elevate

C. entangle

D. shroud

E. attain

7. Madame C. J. Walker introduced her first hair-care product just as demand was reaching its peak; this ----- marketing made her a millionaire.

A. opportune

B. instantaneous

C. intermittent

D. dubious

E. extravagant

8. A scientist should not automatically reject folkways that might at first seem silly or superstitious; scientific qualifications are not license for -----, nor do they ----- prejudice or bias.

A. experimentation... eliminate

B. arrogance... pursue

C. humility... advocate

D. smugness... legitimate

E. rigidity... console

9. For a long time, most doctors maintained that taking massive vitamins was relatively harmless; now, however, some are warning that excessive dosages can be -----.

A. healthy

B. expensive

C. wasteful

D. toxic

E. inane

10. In Jamaica Kincaid's novel *Lucy*, the West Indian heroine ----- her employer's world, critically examining its assumptions and values.

A. idealizes

B. avoids

C. beautifies

D. scrutinizes

E. excludes

11. The frequent name changes that the country has undergone ----- the political turbulence that has attended its recent history.

A. argue against

B. contrast with

C. testify to

D. jeopardize

E. sustain

12. Brachiopods, clamlike bivalves of prehistoric times, were one of the most ----- forms of life on the Earth: more than 30,000 species have been ----- from the fossil records.

A. plentiful... subtracted

B. ornate... retrieved

C. multifarious... catalogued

D. scarce... extracted

E. anachronistic... extrapolated

13. Some interactive computer games are so elaborately contrived and require such ----- strategies and even the most ----- player can master them.

A. byzantine... adroit

B. nefarious... conscientious

C. devious... lackadaisical

D. onerous... slipshod

E. predictable... compulsive

14. Commerce on the remote island was conducted exclusively by -----, exchanging goods

A. credit

B. loan

C. faith

D. patronage

E. barter

15. The existence of the environmental contamination is no longer a point of -----; government, industry and public agree that it is a serious problem.

A. concern

B. cooperation

C. urgency

D. relevance

E. dispute

Solutions:

1. Answer: B. sermonized... fertility - The doctor "sermonized" (preached or lectured tediously) on disease-prevention techniques, which likely led his colleagues to accuse him of "fertility" (creativity or productivity in ideas, though oddly used here). "Vacillated" (wavered), "wavered" (hesitated), "experimented" (tried out new ideas), and "relied" (depended) paired with their respective outcomes do not align as neatly with the idea of frequent, possibly repetitive, lecturing on a single topic.

2. Answer: E. an equitable... eulogy - A "judicious" (wise and thoughtful) biography should be "equitable" (fair and impartial), presenting a balanced view that avoids "eulogy" (excessive praise) and indictment (accusation). "Polarized" (divided into sharply contrasting groups), "imaginative" (creative), "holistic" (comprehensive), and "complimentary" (flattering) do not capture the need for balanced representation as precisely as "equitable."

3. Answer: D. counsel - Luis sought her "counsel" (advice or guidance), but chose not to follow it. "Secretiveness" (the quality of being secretive), "cooperation" (working together), "understanding" (comprehension), and "concord" (agreement) do not fit the scenario of seeking and then ignoring advice as accurately as "counsel."

4. Answer: A. passion for... contagious - Richard Feynman shared his "passion for" (strong enthusiasm for) physics in such an engaging way that his excitement became "contagious" (spreading from one person to another). "Knowledge for," "contempt for," "propensity for," and "commitment to" paired with their respective outcomes do not resonate with the infectious nature of his teaching style as "passion for... contagious" does.

5. Answer: E. catastrophic... constructive - The "catastrophic" (disastrously harmful) disintegration of the Roman Empire presented some "constructive" (helping to improve or develop) aspects. "Momentous" (of great importance), "decisive" (settling an issue), "unexpected" (not anticipated), and "advantageous" (beneficial) do not combine with their paired outcomes to reflect the disastrous yet opportunistic nature of the event as well as "catastrophe... constructive."

6. Answer: D. shroud - The clouds "shroud" (cover or envelop so as to conceal from view) the summit of Mount McKinley most of the time. "Release," "elevate," "entangle," and "attain" do not accurately describe the concealing effect of the clouds on the mountain summit.

7. Answer: A. opportune - Madame C. J. Walker's timing was "opportune" (done or occurring at a favorable or useful time), leading to her financial success. "Instantaneous" (immediate),

"intermittent" (occurring at irregular intervals), "dubious" (doubtful), and "extravagant" (lacking restraint in spending) do not capture the timely aspect of her business acumen as effectively as "opportune."

8. Answer: D. smugness... legitimate - Scientific training should not lead to "smugness" (excessive pride in oneself), nor does it "legitimate" (make legitimate) prejudice or bias. "Experimentation," "arrogance," "humility," and "rigidity" paired with their respective outcomes do not address the ethical considerations against pride and legitimizing bias as directly as "smugness... legitimate."

9. Answer: D. toxic - Excessive vitamin dosages can be "toxic" (poisonous), contrasting with earlier beliefs that they were harmless. "Healthy," "expensive," "wasteful," and "inane" (silly) do not as clearly communicate the potential danger of vitamin overdoses.

10. Answer: D. scrutinizes - In the novel, Lucy "scrutinizes" (examines or observes carefully) her employer's world, critically examining its underlying assumptions and values. "Idealizes" (views or represents as perfect), "avoids" (keeps away from), "beautifies" (makes beautiful), and "excludes" (leaves out) do not capture the critical examination as "scrutinizes" does.

11. Answer: C. testify to - The frequent name changes "testify to" (provide evidence for) the political turbulence in the country's recent history. "Argue against," "contrast with," "jeopardize," and "sustain" do not accurately reflect the idea of evidence supporting the notion of political instability.

12. Answer

: C. multifarious... catalogued - Brachiopods were "multifarious" (many and of various types) and have been "catalogued" (listed or recorded systematically) in fossil records. "Plentiful," "ornate," "scarce," and "anachronistic" paired with their respective verbs do not as accurately describe the diversity and systematic recording of these organisms.

13. Answer: A. byzantine... adroit - Some games require "byzantine" (excessively complicated) strategies, and even the most "adroit" (skillful) players can find them challenging. "Nefarious" (wicked), "devious" (sly), "onerous" (burdensome), and "predictable" do not convey the complexity and skill required as effectively as "byzantine... adroit."

14. Answer: E. barter - Commerce on the remote island was conducted by "barter" (exchange of goods and services for other goods and services without using money). "Credit," "loan," "faith," and "patronage" do not accurately describe the direct exchange system as "barter" does.

15. Answer: E. dispute - The existence of environmental contamination is no longer a "dispute" (argument or disagreement), as it is universally recognized as a serious issue. "Concern," "cooperation," "urgency," and "relevance" do not specifically denote the previously contentious nature of the topic as effectively as "dispute."

SAT sentence completion **practice test 16**

1. In rock climbing, survival depends as much on -----, the ability to perceive without conscious reasoning, as on physical strength.

- A. autonomy
- B. incoherence
- C. intuition
- D. sophistry
- E. receptivity

2. Using computer labs to ----- classroom instruction is most effective when the curriculum ----- lab exercises and classroom teaching in a coordinated manner.

- A. supplement... integrates
- B. substantiate... undermines

C. remedy... compromises

D. disparage... reinforces

E. foster... curtails

3. Many ----- of the style of the paintings exemplified by Marcel Duchamp's work focused on Duchamp's Nude Descending a Staircase as the ----- of what they detested about the modern art.

A. critics... epitome

B. proponents... realization

C. advocates... embodiment

D. debunkers... rejection

E. belittler... reversal

4. Colonial American playwright Mercy Otis Warren was known for her political -----; her keen judgment and insight were widely acknowledged.

A. partisanship

B. intemperance

C. acumen

D. irreverence

E. interest

5. Johnson's writing is considered ----- and ----- because it is filled with obscure references and baffling digressions.

A. deceiving... ingenuous

B. arcane... abstruse

C. spare... didactic

D. lucid... definitive

E. concise... esoteric

6. Because the congresswoman has been so openhanded with many of her constituents, it is difficult to reconcile this ----- with her private -----.

A. selfishness... inattention

B. insolence... virtue

C. magnanimity... pettiness

D. opportunism... ambition

E. solicitousness... generosity

7. As sea urchins become scarcer, divers are ----- to more dangerous depths to retrieve them, ----- the potential for diving injuries.

A. swimming... lessening

B. descending... increasing

C. removing... avoiding

D. returning... seeing

E. climbing... creating

8. Anne mentioned John's habitual boasting about his wardrobe as an example of his ----- ways.

A. erratic

B. egotistical

C. flexible

D. tactful

E. inconspicuous

9. His peers respected him because ----- both -----; steadfast in his beliefs and tactful in his negotiations.

A. Resourceful... courteous

B. Tenacious... manipulative

C. Determined... demonstrative

D. Resolute... diplomatic

E. Outspoken... indiscriminate

10. Considering that many women had little control over their own lives in medieval England, Margery Kempe's fifteenth-century autobiography demonstrates a remarkable degree of -----.

A. consecration

B. rationalism

C. autonomy

D. effacement

E. simplicity

11. Following the decree banning ----- acts, suspected ----- could be forcibly detained without the filing of the formal charges.

A. Rebellious... conformists

B. Apolitical... loyalists

C. Seditious... insurrectionists

D. Subversive... nonpartisans

E. Supportive... opponents

12. By portraying a wide spectrum of characters in his one-man show, John Leguizamo provides a ----- to the theatre's tendency to offer a limited range of roles to Latino actors.

A. corrective

B. tribute

C. corollary

D. stimulus

E. precursor

13. The rebels saw the huge statue of the dictator as ----- of the totalitarian and swiftly toppled the monument.

A. an indictment

B. an illusion

C. a copy

D. a symbol

E. a mockery

14. Residents of the isolated island were forced to master the art of the navigation, becoming the most ----- sailors.

A. adept

B. temperamental

C. congenial

D. vulnerable

E. reclusive

15. The spotted bowerbird has a ----- for amassing the bright shiny objects it needs for decorating its bower: it will enter houses to ----- cutlery, coins, thimbles, nails, screws, even car keys.

A. Knack... assess

B. Penchant... pilfer

C. Purpose... dispense

D. Predilection... disturb

E. Remedy...raid

Solutions:

1. Answer: D. penalties . . illicit - "Penalties" refers to punishments imposed for breaking laws or rules, relevant in the context of curbing illegal trade, while "illicit" describes something forbidden by law, which aptly applies to the continued illegal

trade in monkeys despite the penalties. "Commendations" (praises), "consultations" (discussions), "restrictions" (limitations), and "prohibitions" (official forbiddances) don't quite capture the ongoing nature of the illegal trade despite efforts to curb it as well as "penalties" and "illicit."

2. Answer: C. distortion - "Distortion" means a change, twist, or exaggeration that misrepresents the truth, which perfectly matches the description of a map misrepresenting the actual sizes of countries. "Oversight" (unnoticed error), "simplification" (the act of making something simpler), "sophistication" (complexity), and "superficiality" (lacking depth) do not directly address the inaccuracies inherent in projecting a three-dimensional world onto a two-dimensional surface.

3. Answer: B. cosmetic - "Cosmetic" means superficial or external changes, which precisely describes the car's redesign that updated only the exterior while leaving the engine unchanged. "Intuitive" (based on what one feels to be true), "incoherent" (not logically connected), "consequential" (having significant consequences), and "retroactive" (taking effect from a date in the past) do not aptly describe changes that are merely superficial.

4. Answer: A. elusive - "Elusive" means difficult to find, catch, or achieve, fitting the description of memories that escape us when we try to recall specific details. "Pervasive" (spreading widely), "unvaried" (not diverse), "insensitive" (not responsive), and "impractical" (not practical or realistic) do not capture the fleeting and evasive nature of certain memories as effectively.

5. Answer: E. entertaining . . exhibited - "Entertaining" implies something that is amusing or enjoyable, and "exhibited" means shown or displayed, perfectly capturing how Gordon's private correspondence revealed her capacity for sharp social commentary. "Incisive" (analytically sharp), "eloquent" (fluent or persuasive), "dispassionate" (unemotional), and "exuberant" (filled with lively energy) paired with their respective verbs do not as effectively highlight the lively nature of her correspondence.

6. Answer: D. principal . . peripheral - "Principal" means main or most important, which should be the focus in debates, and "peripheral" means secondary or less important, referring to the arguments that should be avoided to maintain focus on the central issue. "Equivocal" (ambiguous), "designated" (specified), "comprehensive" (complete), and "subtle" (delicate) paired with their respective verbs do not as clearly articulate the strategy of concentrating on the main issue while sidelining minor ones.

7. Answer: A. avidness . . sought - "Avidness" means great enthusiasm or eagerness, and "sought" indicates actively looking for or seeking out, effectively describing how Johnston's services were in high demand due to his artistic skill. "Diffidence" (hesitancy due to lack of confidence), "patience" (the capacity to accept delay), "elegance" (grace and stylishness), and "zealousness" (fervent partisanship) do not convey the same degree of enthusiastic pursuit.

8. Answer: D. cantankerous - "Cantankerous" means bad-tempered, argumentative, and uncooperative, fitting the description of someone who is irritable and quarrelsome. "Tyrannical" (oppressive and controlling), "disingenuous" (not candid or sincere), "sanctimonious" (making a show of being morally superior), and "morose" (sullen and ill-tempered) do not as specifically depict an argumentative disposition.

9. Answer: A. flaunting . . desirability - "Flaunting" means displaying something ostentatiously, especially to provoke envy or admiration or to show defiance, and "desirability" refers to qualities that make something wanted or wished for, precisely illustrating how John's showy lifestyle after winning the lottery could alienate friends. The sentence lacks coherence with the other options, making "flaunting" and "desirability" the most fitting choice to express how his actions affected his social relationships.

10. Answer: B. flaunting . . prosperity - "Flaunting" here might indicate the ostentatious display or showcasing, but it doesn't match well with "prosperity" (the state of being prosperous), as the context involves the

complexity of nature revealed by biology. The options provided do not coherently fit into the context of biology emphasizing the complexities or mysteries of nature, suggesting potential ambiguity or error in the setup of the options.

11. Answer: B. commemorate . . plague - "Commemorate" means to recall and show respect for someone or something in a ceremony, and "plague" refers to a contagious bacterial disease or any calamitous event, fitting the historical context of remembering the end of a devastating event such as a plague. "Lament" (express grief), "eulogize" (praise highly in speech or writing), "hail" (greet enthusiastically), and "solemnize" (duly perform a ceremony) paired with their respective nouns do not match the act of memorializing the end of a plague as effectively as "commemorate."

12. Answer: D. vapid - "Vapid" means offering nothing that is stimulating or challenging, apt for describing lyrics that are devoid of depth or substance, which Lena Horne could transform with dramatic meaning. "Harmonious" (tuneful), "sensational" (causing great public excitement), "impeccable" (in accordance with the highest standards), and "esteemed" (respected and admired) do not convey the simplicity or lack of depth implied by "vapid."

13. Answer: E. repudiated . . acrimony - "Repudiated" means refused to accept or be associated with, and "acrimony" refers to bitterness or ill feeling, effectively describing how a marine biologist's new theory might replace an old one while avoiding bitterness by honoring the original researcher. "Instigated" (brought about or initiated), "renounced" (formally declared one's abandonment of), "displaced" (cause to move from its proper or usual place), and "enhanced" (intensify, increase, or further improve) paired with their respective nouns do not as clearly capture the dynamic of replacing an old theory while minimizing conflict.

14. Answer: E. skirted . . hazardous - "Skirted" means to go around something, and "hazardous" means dangerous, capturing the idea of pioneers avoiding a dangerous valley. "Flanked" (be situated on each side of), "avoided" (keep away from), "encompassed" (surround and have or hold within), and "enjoyed" (take delight or pleasure in) do not

as precisely describe the cautious maneuvering around a dangerous area.

15. Answer: D. admirable . . unjust - "Admirable" means deserving respect or approval, and "unjust" means not based on or behaving according to fairness or justice, fitting the description of ballads that celebrate figures who stand against unfair treatment. "Modest" (unassuming), "inescapable" (unable to be avoided), "insufficient" (not enough), and "unbelievable" (difficult to believe) do not capture the narrative of heroism against injustice as effectively.

SAT sentence completion **practice test 17**

1. Not only was the science of Hildegard Bingen ----- her theology, but her religious visions helped give her scientific works ----- by winning her the support of the medieval church authorities.

- A. inseparable from... legitimacy
- B. unconcerned with... prestige
- C. derived from... profundity
- D. related to ... accuracy
- E. diminished by... detachment

2. Opponents of the research institute label it ----- anachronism; its scholars, they allege, have ----- rivaling those of pre-Revolutionary French nobility.

- A. An elitist... perquisites
- B. A monarchical... tribulations
- C. An irreproachable... luxuries
- D. A reprehensible... afflictions
- E. A commendable... privileges

3. O'Leary tolerates worms and snakes but is ----- about insects: he has an exaggerated fear of them.

- A. agnostic
- B. eclectic
- C. empire
- D. phobic
- E. quixotic

4. The challenge facing the public health officials is to ----- an outbreak of disease and then ----- that school children are immunized.

- A. Foster... provide
- B. Predict... allege
- C. Sustain... question
- D. Effect... ascertain
- E. Anticipate... ensure

5. Guests at the party found the general merriment infectious and were won over by the party's -----.

- A. presumption
- B. gaiety
- C. conspicuousness
- D. unexpectedness
- E. brevity

6. Demagogues do not deserve full blame for last summer's public hysteria: although they turned the mood to the political advantage, they did not actually ----- it.

- A. oppose
- B. subdue
- C. create
- D. postpone
- E. confirm

7. Orangutans are ----- apes: they typically conduct most of their lives up in the trees of tropical rain forests.

- A. indigenous
- B. transitory
- C. recessive
- D. pliant
- E. arboreal

8. Since establishing the Children's Defense Fund in 1973, Marian Wright Edelman has been an ----- advocate, steadfast and constant.

- A. unwitting
- B. unswerving
- C. inhibiting
- D. elusive
- E. antagonistic

9. The author ----- the last act of her play to appease those critics who ----- the work for its brevity.

- A. Eliminated... extolled
- B. Condensed... censured
- C. Expanded... disparaged
- D. Intensified... glorified
- E. Rearranged... endorsed

10. The editorial claimed that the gubernatorial candidate lacked worldly wisdom and that this ----- would likely be his undoing.

- A. naïveté
- B. furtiveness
- C. venality
- D. indecisiveness
- E. sarcasm

11. In the 1960's Americans ----- Jean Toomer's 1923 book Cane when an interest in Black culture ----- many of them to read the classics of Black fiction.

- A. Neglected... coerced
- B. Rediscovered... inspired
- C. Limited... required
- D. Collected... allowed
- E. Circulated... disinclined

12. In addition to ----- stacks of resumes and references, some employers want to ----- the hiring process by employing graphologists to study applicants' handwriting for character analysis.

- A. Evaluating... supplement
- B. Envisioning... circumvent
- C. Ignoring... depersonalize
- D. Ameliorating... revisit
- E. Condoning... belabor

13. Tame koala handled by tourists are -----, but wild koalas are hard to control and typically require two people to hold them.

- A. mischievous
- B. gluttonous
- C. supple
- D. adroit
- E. docile

14. Ms. Rivers gave a performance of noteworthy -----: her piano repertoire ranged from classical music to jazz.

- A. intensity
- B. precision
- C. scope
- D. polish
- E. duration

15. The skepticism of some ancient philosophers ----- and helps to elucidate varieties of nihilism that appeared in the early nineteenth century.

- A. suppresses
- B. disseminates
- C. undermines
- D. confounds
- E. foreshadows

Solutions:

1. Answer: A. inseparable from... legitimacy - "Inseparable from" indicates a close connection that cannot be divided between Hildegard Bingen's science and her theology. "Legitimacy" means genuine and justified acceptance or recognition. This combination suggests that her intertwined scientific and theological works gained credibility, supported by the church. "Unconcerned with... prestige," "derived from... profundity," "related to... accuracy," and "diminished by... detachment" don't as clearly connect her science and theology to the support she received from the church.

2. Answer: A. An elitist... perquisites - "Elitist" refers to a belief that a society or system should be led or dominated by the elite. "Perquisites" are benefits or privileges. This pairing fits the criticism that the research institute is out-of-touch or privileged, much like the nobility, and not aligned with current values. Other options like "A monarchical... tribulations," "An irreproachable... luxuries," "A reprehensible... afflictions," and "A commendable... privileges" do not capture the critique as effectively.

3. Answer: D. phobic - "Phobic" means having an extreme or irrational fear or aversion. This fits the description of O'Leary's exaggerated fear of insects. Other choices such as "agnostic"

(undecided), "eclectic" (selecting from various sources), "empire" (a large group of states), and "quixotic" (unrealistically idealistic) do not relate to fear.

4. Answer: E. Anticipate... ensure - "Anticipate" means to expect or predict, and "ensure" means to make certain that something occurs. This pairing aligns with the responsibility of public health officials to foresee health risks and confirm that protective measures, like vaccinations, are implemented. "Foster... provide," "Predict... allege," "Sustain... question," and "Effect... ascertain" do not accurately describe the proactive and preventative role in managing public health.

5. Answer: B. gaiety - "Gaiety" means the state or quality of being light-hearted or cheerful. This choice best describes the infectious happiness at the party that won over the guests. The other options "presumption" (assuming something to be true), "conspicuousness" (state of being obvious), "unexpectedness" (not anticipated), and "brevity" (shortness of duration) do not fit the context of infectious joy as well.

6. Answer: C. create - "Create" means to bring something into existence. This choice reflects that while demagogues exploited the situation, they were not the originators of the public hysteria. "Oppose," "subdue," "postpone," and "confirm" do not accurately describe the role of not initiating the hysteria but capitalizing on it.

7. Answer: E. arboreal - "Arboreal" means living in trees, perfectly describing the lifestyle of orangutans in rain forests. "Indigenous" (originating in a particular place), "transitory" (temporary), "recessive" (not dominant), and "pliant" (flexible) do not specifically relate to the life in trees as accurately as "arboreal."

8. Answer: B. unswerving - "Unswerving" means steady or constant, reflecting Marian Wright Edelman's consistent advocacy through the Children's Defense Fund. "Unwitting" (not aware), "inhibiting" (hindering), "elusive" (difficult to catch or achieve), and "antagonistic" (showing opposition) do not capture her dedicated advocacy as well as "unswerving."

9. Answer: C. Expanded... disparaged - "Expanded" means to make larger or more extensive, fitting the context where the author lengthens the last act of her play. "Disparaged" means criticized or devalued, matching the critics' negative reception due to its brevity. Other combinations such as "Eliminated... extolled," "Condensed... censured," "Intensified... glorified," and "Rearranged... endorsed" do not capture the scenario of responding to criticism about the play's length as well.

10. Answer: A. naïveté - "Naïveté" means a lack of experience, wisdom, or judgment. This trait is described as potentially detrimental to the gubernatorial candidate, suggesting it could lead to his political failure. Other options like "furtiveness" (sneakiness), "venality" (openness to bribery), "indecisiveness" (hesitation), and "sarcasm" (use of irony to mock) do not specifically relate to lacking worldly wisdom as directly as "naïveté."

11. Answer: B. Rediscovered... inspired - "Rediscovered" means found again or brought back to

attention, and "inspired" means motivated or stimulated to do something. This combination fits the context of a renewed interest in black culture leading Americans to revisit a classic book. "Neglected... coerced," "Limited... required," "Collected... allowed," and "Circulated... disinclined" do not as effectively describe the cultural resurgence and voluntary engagement with the literature.

12. Answer: A. Evaluating... supplement - "Evaluating" means assessing or appraising, and "supplement" means to add to something else, typically to improve it. Employers using graphologists to add to the insights gained from resumes aligns with these meanings. Other options like "Envisioning... circumvent," "Ignoring... depersonalize," "Ameliorating... revisit," and "Condoning... belabor" do not accurately describe this enhancement of the hiring process.

13. Answer: E. docile - "Docile" means ready to accept control or instruction; submissive, which contrasts with the behavior of wild koalas. This fits the description of tame koalas being easy to

manage. "Mischievous" (playfully naughty), "gluttonous" (greedy), "supple" (flexible), and "adroit" (skillful) do not capture the aspect of manageability as well as "docile."

14. Answer: C. scope - "Scope" means the extent of the area or subject matter that something deals with. This term fits the description of Ms. Rivers' wide-ranging musical performance. "Intensity" (extreme force), "precision" (exactness), "polish" (refinement), and "duration" (length of time) do not as directly describe the variety of music genres covered.

15. Answer: E. foreshadows - "Foreshadows" means to show or indicate beforehand, suggesting that the skepticism of ancient philosophers predicted or was indicative of later nihilistic beliefs. "Suppresses" (forcibly put an end to), "disseminates" (spread widely), "undermines" (lessen the effectiveness), and "confounds" (confuse) do not convey the notion of a precursor to later ideas as effectively as "foreshadows."

SAT sentence completion **practice test 18**

1. Some critics of the congressional proceedings contend that important debates on issues are marred by a ----- of denunciations and accusations that precludes ----- discourse.

- A. repertory... expendable
- B. paucity... meaningful
- C. barrage... libelous
- D. rehash... repetitive
- E. cacophony... orderly

2. Like many other groups of people in the United States who have needed laws to ----- equal rights, Americans with disabilities have had to ----- legislation addressing their concerns.

- A. Guarantee... lobby for
- B. Preclude... enact
- C. Ascertain... consolidate
- D. Compound... contend with
- E. Suppress... ratify

3. The cafe attracts a ----- clientele: a startlingly heterogeneous group of people collects here.

- A. motley
- B. callous
- C. languid
- D. mysterious
- E. humane

4. The second edition of the textbook provides ----- footnotes; since the first edition, the editors have apparently ----- a great deal of background data.

- A. Meager... accumulated
- B. Illegible... clarified
- C. Copious... amassed
- D. Voluminous... excised
- E. Monotonous... embellished

5. Professor Fernandez has been ----- about most of the purportedly humanitarian aspects of the colonial government and has insisted its actions were, on the contrary, -----.

- A. Dubious... self-serving
- B. Enthusiastic... contemptible
- C. Disparaging... sporadic
- D. Excited... gratuitous
- E. Disillusioned... benevolent

6. Concrete is ----- of many materials, a composite of rocks, pebbles, sand and cement.

- A. a conflagration
- B. a distillation
- C. a concordance
- D. an aberration
- E. a amalgamation

7. The depiction of the ----- wolf is largely a misconception; wolves are ----- creatures that prefer to run in packs.

- A. Howling...noisy
- B. Maternal... shy
- C. Lone... social
- D. Vicious... dangerous
- E. Hungry... famished

8. Jazz pioneer Louis Armstrong is renowned for his improvisations on the trumpet; his innovations as a vocalist are equally ----- .

- A. obscure
- B. severe
- C. conventional
- D. erroneous
- E. noteworthy

9. Andrew's hunch that Ms. Smith would lose the election was ----- when her opponent won in a landslide, proving Andrew's ----- to be correct.

- A. Compromised... prediction
- B. Rejected... insolence
- C. Substantiated... endorsement
- D. Confirmed... intuition
- E. Belied... Retraction

10. The medicine does not have a salutary effect by ----- pain, even if recent studies prove that it cannot eliminate such discomfort entirely.

- A. alleviating
- B. distracting
- C. revitalizing
- D. eradicating
- E. augmenting

11. The intern was almost too -----; he felt the suffering of his patients as if it were his own.

- A. candid
- B. disarming
- C. empathetic
- D. insightful
- E. hysterical

12. As the charismatic speaker left the podium, she was surrounded by ----- of zealous supporters who ----- our attempts to approach her.

- A. An entourage... interfered with
- B. A debacle... concurred with
- C. A faction... pertained to
- D. A dearth... intercepted
- E. A coalition... encompassed

13. Sally was a lighthearted and even-tempered woman; she had none of her sister's -----.

- A. affluence
- B. affability
- C. equanimity
- D. resilience
- E. truculence

14. Because postmodernist critics often rely on ----- language, their prose seems ----- to nonspecialists who fail to comprehend its meaning.

- A. accessible... abstruse
- B. arcane... unequivocal
- C. esoteric... impenetrable
- D. (D)hackneyed... exotic
- E. (E)lucid... grating

15. Eduardo was ----- to find the editorial he has written was ----- by several typographical errors.

- A. Dismayed... authenticated
- B. Overjoyed... exacerbated
- C. Intrigued... enveloped
- D. Prepared... enhanced
- E. Embarrassed... marred

Solutions:

1. Answer: E. cacophony... orderly - A "cacophony" refers to a harsh, discordant mixture of sounds, aptly describing a disruptive atmosphere in debates, which impedes "orderly" (neatly and systematically arranged) discourse. "Repertory" (a stock of plays), "paucity" (scarcity), "barrage" (a concentrated artillery bombardment), and "rehash" (to repeat old material without significant change) do not effectively describe a chaotic debate environment that disrupts constructive dialogue.

2. Answer: A. Guarantee... lobby for - To "guarantee" means to provide a formal assurance or promise, and "lobby for" means to attempt to influence legislators. This phrase correctly captures the efforts of Americans with disabilities to secure legal assurances for equal rights. Other options such as "preclude" (prevent), "ascertain" (find out), "compound" (make worse), and "suppress" (forcibly put an end to) do not accurately describe the advocacy process for rights.

3. Answer: A. motley - "Motley" describes a varied mixture, fitting well to depict a diverse and

heterogeneous clientele. "Callous" (emotionally hardened), "languid" (slow and relaxed), "mysterious" (difficult or impossible to understand), and "humane" (showing compassion) do not aptly describe a varied group of people.

4. Answer: C. Copious... amassed - "Copious" means abundant in quantity, which aligns with "amassed" (gathered together or accumulated over a period of time), describing a situation where extensive footnotes have been added due to accumulated data. "Meager" (lacking in quantity), "illegible" (not clear enough to be read), "voluminous" (occupying much space), and "monotonous" (dull, tedious) do not effectively communicate the expansion of content.

5. Answer: A. Dubious... self-serving - "Dubious" means hesitating or doubting, fitting the context where the professor doubts the humanitarian portrayal of colonial actions, viewing them instead as "self-serving" (serving one's own interests often in disregard of the truth). Other pairs do not as aptly describe this critical perspective on historical actions.

6. Answer: E. amalgamation - "Amalgamation" means the action, process, or result of combining or uniting, perfectly describing concrete as a composition of various materials. "Conflagration" (a large destructive fire), "distillation" (the action of purifying a liquid by heating or cooling), "concordance" (an agreement), and "aberration" (a departure from what is normal) do not fit the description of concrete.

7. Answer: C. Lone... social - The "lone wolf" stereotype is a misconception, as wolves are inherently "social" creatures that prefer the company of others. "Howling" (making a loud, wailing noise), "maternal" (relating to a mother), "vicious" (deliberately cruel or violent), and "hungry" (feeling or showing hunger) do not effectively contrast with the idea of wolves as social beings.

8. Answer: E. noteworthy - "Noteworthy" means worthy of attention or notice, accurately describing the significance of Armstrong's vocal innovations as well as his trumpet improvisations. "Obscure" (not discovered or known about), "severe" (very

great; intense), "conventional" (based on or in accordance with what is generally done), and "erroneous" (wrong or incorrect) do not suitably reflect his influential contributions.

9. Answer: D. Confirmed... intuition - "Confirmed" means proved true, and "intuition" refers to the ability to understand something instinctively. This correctly describes Andrew's correct instinct about the election result. Other options like "compromised" (weakened), "rejected" (dismissed), "substantiated" (supported with proof), and "belied" (contradicted) do not accurately capture the scenario of a prediction being validated.

10. Answer: A. alleviating - "Alleviating" means making a problem less severe, fitting the context of a medicine that reduces but doesn't completely eliminate pain. "Distracting" (preventing concentration), "revitalizing" (imparting vitality), "eradicating" (completely removing), and "augmenting" (making something greater) do not describe the partial effectiveness of the medication as accurately as "alleviating."

11. Answer: C. empathetic - "Empathetic" means showing an ability to understand and share the feelings of another, fitting the description of an intern deeply feeling his patients' suffering. "Candid" (truthful and straightforward), "disarming" (tending to all

ay suspicion), "insightful" (having or showing an accurate and deep understanding), and "hysterical" (deriving from or affected by uncontrolled extreme emotion) do not precisely capture the emotional connection described.

12. Answer: A. An entourage... interfered with - "An entourage" refers to a group of people attending or surrounding an important person, and "interfered with" means to prevent a process or activity from continuing or being carried out properly. This correctly describes the scenario of supporters blocking access to the speaker. "Debacle" (a sudden failure), "faction" (a small organized dissenting group), "dearth" (a scarcity or lack of something), and "coalition" (an alliance) paired with their respective verbs do not as effectively describe the intervention by supporters.

13. Answer: E. truculence - "Truculence" means eager or quick to argue or fight, contrasting sharply with Sally's even-tempered nature. "Affluence" (wealth), "affability" (friendliness), "equanimity" (mental calmness), and "resilience" (the capacity to recover quickly) do not highlight a contrast as distinctly as "truculence."

14. Answer: C. esoteric... impenetrable - "Esoteric" means intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with specialized knowledge, and "impenetrable" means impossible to understand, accurately describing the obscure nature of postmodernist criticism. "Accessible" (able to be reached), "arcane" (understood by few), "hackneyed" (lacking significance through having been overused), and "lucid" (expressed clearly) paired with their respective adjectives do not as clearly capture the complexity and exclusivity of postmodernist prose.

15. Answer: E. Embarrassed... marred - "Embarrassed" means feeling ashamed or shy, and "marred" means impaired the appearance of; spoiled. This fits the reaction to discovering typographical errors in a written piece. "Dismayed" (cause someone to feel consternation and distress), "overjoyed" (extremely happy), "intrigued" (arouse the curiosity or interest of), and "prepared" (ready for an event or situation) paired with their respective verbs do not as effectively describe the negative impact of the errors on the editorial.

SAT sentence completion **practice test 19**

1. In order to ----- the loss of natural wetland used by migrating snow geese, the conservationists in the 1960's and 1970's ----- wetland refuges in the northern prairies.

- A. Standardize... ignored
- B. Offset... surrendered
- C. Explain... dismantled
- D. Compensate for... established
- E. Account for... administered

2. Frequently used as a spice, ginger also has ----- properties: it can be used to treat coughs, colds, and upset stomachs.

- A. timeworn
- B. invariable
- C. edible
- D. curative
- E. descriptive

3. The scientific organization ----- the newspaper for prominently covering the predictions of a psychic while ----- to report on a major research conference.

- A. Celebrated... failing
- B. Promoted... refusing
- C. Denounced... neglecting
- D. Spurned... hastening
- E. Honored... opting

4. The colors and patterns on butterflies' wings may seem merely -----, but they are actually ----- the survival of these insects, enabling them to attract mates and to hide from predators.

- A. Artificial... dependent on
- B. Unique... unnecessary to
- C. Decorative... instrumental in
- D. Beautiful... results of
- E. Unrelated... precursors of

5. A discerning publishing agent can ----- promising material from a mass of submissions, separating the good from the bad.

- A. supplant
- B. dramatize
- C. finagle
- D. winnow
- E. overhaul

6. Residents of the secluded island fear that ----- commercial development will ----- their quiet way of life.

- A. Widespread... reinforce
- B. Waning... harm
- C. Diminishing... reform
- D. Encroaching... disturb
- E. Further... aid

7. Thought it is often exclusively ----- Brazil, the Amazon jungle actually ----- parts of eight other South American countries.

- A. Protected by... threatens
- B. Located in... bypasses
- C. Limited to... touches
- D. Surrounded by... borders
- E. Associated with... covers

8. Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar's recent book presents a ----- of detail, providing far more information than one can easily digest.

- A. modicum
- B. discrepancy
- C. surfeit
- D. deficit
- E. juxtaposition

9. More ----- than his predecessor, Superintendent Reynolds would, many predicted, have a far less ----- term of office.

- A. Phlegmatic... apathetic
- B. Conciliatory... confrontational
- C. Empathetic... compassionate
- D. Vigilant... reputable
- E. Penurious... frugal

10. Galloping technological progress has made consumers -----: advances undreamed of a generation ago are so common that they seem humdrum.

- A. flabbergasted
- B. miffed
- C. jaded
- D. wary
- E. embittered

11. They use language not to explain but to -----; each statement is like a reflection in a warped mirror.

- A. preserve
- B. distort
- C. enlighten
- D. negate
- E. destroy

12. Colonial South Carolina was characterized by cultural -----: Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans each absorbed some customs of the other groups.

- A. tension
- B. conservatism
- C. integrity
- D. convergence
- E. eradication

13. Anna Freud's impact on psychoanalysis was -----, coming not from one brilliant discovery but from a lifetime first-rate work.

- A. tangential
- B. premature
- C. exorbitant
- D. indiscernible
- E. cumulative

14. Francis learned that by ----- his anger and resentment and so avoiding -----, he could overcome opponents more successfully than those who openly defied their adversaries.

- A. Expressing.... Hostility
- B. Suppressing... conflict
- C. Stifling... temperance
- D. Disguising... deceit
- E. Rousing... wrath

15. Sleep actually occurs -----, though one may receive clues signaling its ----- for several minutes before one falls asleep.

- A. Gradually... abruptness
- B. Erratically... solace
- C. Temporarily... length
- D. Inevitably... approach
- E. Instantaneously... onset

Solutions:

1. Answer: D. Compensate for... established - "Compensate for" means to make up for a deficiency or loss, fitting the context of making up for lost wetland. "Established" means to set up or create, matching the action of setting up new refuges. The other options, such as "Standardize... ignored" (make uniform... disregarded), "Offset... surrendered" (counterbalance... gave up), "Explain... dismantled" (clarify... took apart), and "Account for... administered" (justify... managed), don't convey the intended restoration action as accurately as "Compensate for... established."

2. Answer: D. curative - "Curative" means having the ability to cure, fitting the context of ginger's health benefits. Other options such as "timeworn" (old and used), "invariable" (never changing), "edible" (fit to be eaten), and "descriptive" (serving as a description), do not specifically relate to the healing properties described.

3. Answer: C. Denounced... neglecting - "Denounced" means to publicly declare to be wrong or evil, and "neglecting" means failing to care for something properly. This pair accurately reflects the organization's criticism of the newspaper's choices. Other options like "Celebrated... failing" (praised... not succeeding), "Promoted... refusing" (encouraged... denying), "Spurned... hastening" (rejected... accelerating), and "Honored... opting" (respected... choosing), do not fit the criticism context as well as "Denounced... neglecting."

4. Answer: C. Decorative... instrumental in - "Decorative" implies something is for ornamentation, while "instrumental in" means playing a crucial role in. This combination aptly describes how butterfly wings, though seemingly just for decoration, are crucial for survival. Other options like "Artificial... dependent on" (man-made... reliant on), "Unique... unnecessary to" (one of a kind... not essential to), "Beautiful... results of" (attractive... outcomes of), and "Unrelated... precursors of" (not connected... forerunners of), do not as accurately capture the functional aspect of the wings.

5. Answer: D. winnow - "Winnow" means to remove from a group until only the best ones are left; perfectly describes a publishing agent's task of selecting the best from many submissions. "Supplant" (replace), "dramatize" (exaggerate), "finagle" (obtain by trickery), and "overhaul" (take apart in order to examine and repair if necessary) don't accurately describe the selective process of identifying quality writing.

6. Answer: D. Encroaching... disturb - "Encroaching" means intruding on a person's territory or rights, and "disturb" means to interfere with the normal arrangement or functioning of something. This pair best captures the fear of residents about intrusive development disrupting

their peaceful life. "Widespread... reinforce" (common... strengthen), "Waning... harm" (decreasing... damage), "Diminishing... reform" (reducing... change for better), and "Further... aid" (additional... help) don't as effectively convey the negative impact anticipated.

7. Answer: E. Associated with... covers - "Associated with" means connected with, typically in people's minds, and "covers" means includes or encompasses. This fits the description of the Amazon being widely recognized in relation to Brazil but actually spanning multiple countries. Other pairs like "Protected by... threatens" (safeguarded by... poses a danger to), "Located in... bypasses" (situated in... avoids), "Limited to... touches" (restricted to... reaches slightly), and "Surrounded by... borders" (encircled by... edges), don't accurately reflect the geographical spread.

8. Answer: C. surfeit - "Surfeit" means an excessive amount of something, fitting the description of a book that provides more information than one can easily handle. "Modicum" (a small quantity), "discrepancy" (a lack of compatibility), "deficit" (a shortage), and "juxtaposition" (the fact of two things being seen or placed close together with contrasting effect), don't as effectively convey the overwhelming abundance of detail.

9. Answer: B. Conciliatory... confrontational - "Conciliatory" means intended or likely to placate or pacify, contrasting with "confrontational" which implies aggressive or disputatious behavior. This pair effectively describes how Reynolds's approach could lead to a less contentious term compared to his predecessor. Other pairs like "Phlegmatic... apathetic" (calm... indifferent), "Empathetic... compassionate" (understanding feelings... sympathetic), "V

igilant... reputable" (keeping careful watch... respected), and "Penurious... frugal" (extremely poor... economical), do not capture the contrast as clearly.

10. Answer: C. jaded - "Jaded" means tired or bored, especially because of overexposure. This aptly describes the consumer's reaction to rapid technological advancements, which have become

so commonplace that they no longer impress. Other options like "flabbergasted" (astounded), "miffed" (annoyed), "wary" (cautious), and "embittered" (made bitter), do not as precisely capture the sense of ennui described.

11. Answer: B. distort - "Distort" means to twist the meaning or interpretation of something, fitting the description of using language to manipulate reality. "Preserve" (maintain), "enlighten" (educate), "negate" (nullify), and "destroy" (completely ruin), do not reflect the misleading use of language as accurately as "distort."

12. Answer: D. convergence - "Convergence" means the process of converging or coming together, accurately describing the cultural blending in colonial South Carolina. "Tension" (mental or emotional strain), "conservatism" (resistance to change), "integrity" (moral uprightness), and "eradication" (complete removal), don't reflect the mutual cultural influence as well.

13. Answer: E. cumulative - "Cumulative" means increasing or increased in quantity, degree, or force by successive additions, describing Anna Freud's significant but gradual impact on psychoanalysis. "Tangential" (only slightly relevant), "premature" (occurring too early), "exorbitant" (excessively high), and "indiscernible" (not able to be seen or understood), don't as accurately describe the nature of her contributions.

14. Answer: B. Suppressing... conflict - "Suppressing" means forcibly putting an end to, and "conflict" means serious disagreement or argument. This describes Francis's strategy of managing his emotions to avoid overt confrontations. "Expressing... hostility" (showing... aggression), "Stifling... temperance" (quelling... moderation), "Disguising... deceit" (hiding... dishonesty), and "Rousing... wrath" (provoking... anger), do not describe the strategy as effectively as "Suppressing... conflict."

15. Answer: E. Instantaneously... onset - "Instantaneously" means occurring or done instantly, and "onset" means the beginning of something, especially something unpleasant. This pair describes the sudden beginning of sleep, aligning with the description of receiving clues just

before sleep begins abruptly. "Gradually... abruptness" (slowly... suddenness), "Erratically... solace" (unpredictably... comfort), "Temporarily... length" (for a limited time... duration), and "Inevitably... approach" (unavoidably... coming near), do not capture the sudden transition to sleep as accurately as "Instantaneously... onset."

SAT sentence completion **practice test 20**

1. Ellen Swallow Richards, a ----- environmental preservation in the United States, campaigned during the nineteenth century to ----- responsible practice in the discipline that has come to be known as ecology.

- A. Foil for... expose
- B. Pioneer of Implement
- C. Resource on... squelch
- D. Mitigator... promote
- E. Critic of... exploit

2. Laila performed her tasks at the office with -----, completing all her projects in record time.

- A. alacrity
- B. conformity
- C. deliberation
- D. recrimination
- E. exasperation

3. Critics say that autobiographical work *Brothers and Keepers* by John Edgar Wideman is surprising in that it celebrates and yet ----- his own role in the life of his brother.

- A. censures
- B. exacerbates
- C. explores
- D. duplicates
- E. delineates

4. Many writers associated with Harlem Renaissance were not originally from Harlem; drawn by artistic community it provided, they ----- the place as home.

- A. neglected
- B. adopted

- C. avoided
- D. criticized
- E. encountered

5. Nicknamed the "contact lens", the device installed on the Hubble telescopes successfully ----- its flawed vision, the result of a faulty mirror.

- A. corrected
- B. displayed
- C. generated
- D. scrutinized
- E. accentuated

6. As an architect who rehabilitates older buildings, Robert Washington objected to a city policy that resulted in the mass ----- of clearly ----- structures.

- A. Demolition... inconsequential
- B. Renovation... derelict
- C. Razing... salvageable
- D. Protection... venerable
- E. Scouring... grimy

7. The treasurer was intimidated by the ----- demeanor of the auditors who neither spoke nor smile when they arrived

- A. amiable
- B. ethical
- C. glacial
- D. taunting
- E. nondescript

8. Rodolfo Gonzales was once described as ----- in body and mind because of the flexibility and grace apparent in both his boxing and his writing of poetry and plays. (bingo+因果关系)

- A. unyielding
- B. tremulous
- C. emphatic
- D. lithe
- E. fickle

9. On the verge of financial collapse, the museum was granted a -----, receiving a much-needed ----- of cash in the form of government loan.

- A. Reprieve... infusion
- B. Deferment... inducement
- C. Rebate... advance
- D. Hearing... security
- E. Procurement... account

10. Initially only the carpeting outside the restroom was ----- by water from the burst pipe; eventually the entire hallway flooded.

- A. diverted
- B. confined
- C. scuttled
- D. cleansed
- E. drenched

11. Communal nests have advantages and disadvantages for animals like voles and mice: they enable the animals to ----- body heat, but leave them more ----- to discovery by predators.

- A. Insure... inclined
- B. Maintain... vulnerable
- C. Squander... liable
- D. Stimulate... resistant
- E. Retain... immune

12. He displayed a nearly pathological -----, insisting on knowing every details of his friends' lives.

- A. orderliness
- B. credulity
- C. curiosity
- D. shyness
- E. morbidity

13. Despite global efforts to ----- malaria, this mosquito-borne disease continues to -----; the World Health Organization estimates that it still affects up 500 million people a year.

- A. Cure... flag
- B. Foster... thrive
- C. Combat... abate
- D. Scrutinize... prosper
- E. Eradicate... flourish

14. Although condemned by the review panel, to film critic Pauline Kael the movie seemed entirely ----- and unlikely to offend.

- A. impressionable
- B. innocuous
- C. unsuitable
- D. insensitive
- E. unapproachable

15. The reviewer characterized Modanna Swan-Abdalla's autobiography as a portrait of a ----- person, one who prevailed against great odds.

- A. empathetic
- B. indomitable
- C. expeditious
- D. idiosyncratic
- E. astute

Solutions:

1. Answer: B. Pioneer of... Implement - Ellen Swallow Richards is recognized as a "pioneer of" (someone who is among the first to explore, develop, or be involved in something) environmental preservation and her efforts to "implement" (put into action) responsible practices in ecology fit the historical account of her contributions. "Foil for" (contrast to), "resource on" (source of information), "mitigator" (one who reduces severity), and "critic of" (one who expresses disapproval) do not capture her proactive and foundational role as effectively as "pioneer of" and "implement."

2. Answer: A. alacrity - Laila performed her tasks with "alacrity" (brisk and cheerful readiness), indicating efficiency and promptness in her work. "Conformity" (compliance with standards), "deliberation" (careful consideration), "recrimination" (mutual accusations), and "exasperation" (a feeling of intense irritation) do not describe the positive and swift manner in which she completed her tasks.

3. Answer: A. censures - While the work celebrates his life, it also "censures" (expresses severe disapproval of) his own role, highlighting a critical self-examination. "Exacerbates" (makes worse), "explores" (examines), "duplicates" (copies), and "delineates" (describes or portrays precisely) do not suggest the critical tone implied by "censures."

4. Answer: B. adopted - The artists "adopted" (chose and used as one's own) Harlem as home, drawn by its artistic community. "Neglected" (failed to care for), "avoided" (kept away from), "criticized" (expressed disapproval of), and "encountered" (unexpectedly experienced) do not convey the sense of acceptance and making a place one's home like "adopted" does.

5. Answer: A. corrected - The "contact lens" device "corrected" (fixed or made right) the Hubble telescope's flawed vision due to a faulty mirror. "Displayed" (showed), "generated" (produced), "scrutinized" (examined closely), and "accentuated" (made more noticeable) do not fit the context of fixing an error in the telescope's optics.

6. Answer: C. Razing... salvageable - Robert Washington objected to the "razing" (complete destruction) of "salvageable" (capable of being saved) buildings, arguing against the policy. "Demolition" (destruction), "renovation" (restoration), "protection" (preservation), and "scouring" (cleaning thoroughly) paired with their respective adjectives do not align as well with the context of preventable destruction.

7. Answer: C. glacial - The auditors' "glacial" (cold and unfriendly) demeanor intimidated the treasurer, describing their unapproachable and stern presence. "Amiable" (friendly), "ethical" (morally good), "taunting" (provocatively insulting), and "nondescript" (lacking distinctive features) do not convey the cold sternness as "glacial."

8. Answer: D. lithe - Described as "lithe" (thin, supple, and graceful), Rodolfo Gonzales exhibited flexibility and grace in both physical and creative expressions. "Unyielding" (not giving way to pressure), "tremulous" (shaking or quivering), "emphatic" (showing emphasis), and "fickle" (changing frequently) do not capture the grace and adaptability implied in both his boxing and writing.

9. Answer: A. Reprieve... infusion - The museum received a "reprieve" (a cancellation or postponement of a punishment) with an "infusion" (introduction of a new element or quality into something) of cash, effectively describing the temporary relief and financial aid provided. "Deferment" (postponement), "rebate" (return of

part of a payment), "hearing" (a session at which a committee listens to reports), and "procurement" (action of obtaining something) paired with their respective nouns do not as precisely describe the situation of receiving emergency financial help.

10. Answer: E. drenched - Initially, only the carpeting was "drenched" (wet thoroughly) by water, but eventually, more areas were affected. "Diverted" (redirected), "confined" (restricted), "scuttled" (sabotaged or hindered), and "cleansed" (made clean) do not accurately describe the extent of water spread initially as "drenched."

11. Answer: B. Maintain... vulnerable - Communal nests allow animals to

"maintain" (continue or preserve) body heat but make them more "vulnerable" (susceptible to harm) to predators. "Insure" (provide insurance), "squander" (waste), "stimulate" (encourage development), and "retain" (continue to have) paired with their respective adjectives do not as effectively capture the benefits and risks as "maintain" and "vulnerable."

12. Answer: C. curiosity - His nearly pathological "curiosity" (strong desire to know or learn something) about his friends' lives indicates an excessive interest. "Orderliness" (neatness), "credulity" (tendency to be too ready to believe), "shyness" (nervousness or timidity), and "morbidity" (an abnormal interest in disturbing subjects) do not describe the obsessive need to know details like "curiosity."

13. Answer: E. Eradicate... flourish - Efforts to "eradicate" (destroy completely) malaria have not stopped it from continuing to "flourish" (grow or develop in a healthy way), indicating the ongoing challenge despite global efforts. "Cure" (relieve a person or animal of the symptoms of a disease), "foster" (encourage the development of), "combat" (fight against), and "scrutinize" (examine closely) paired with their respective verbs do not convey the continued prevalence despite eradication efforts as well as "eradicate" and "flourish."

14. Answer: B. innocuous - Pauline Kael found the movie "innocuous" (not harmful or offensive), contrary to the review panel's condemnation.

"Impressionable" (easily influenced), "unsuitable" (not fitting), "insensitive" (showing a lack of sensitivity), and "unapproachable" (not friendly or easy to talk to) do not reflect the harmlessness perceived by Kael as effectively as "innocuous."

15. Answer: B. indomitable - Modanna Swan-Abdalla is described as an "indomitable" (impossible to subdue or defeat) person, highlighting her resilience against odds. "Empathetic" (showing an ability to understand and share feelings of another), "expeditious" (done with speed and efficiency), "idiosyncratic" (peculiar or individual), and "astute" (having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people) do not capture her tenacious spirit as effectively as "indomitable."

SAT sentence completion **practice test 21**

1. Although it stayed in business for several months, the company was actually ----- and met its financial obligations only by engaging in ----- activities.

- A. Insolvent... fraudulent
- B. Prudent... speculative
- C. Autonomous... subordinate
- D. Bankrupt... charitable
- E. Stable... manipulative

2. Mary Shelley's Frankenstein centers on a scientist's -----, the overweening pride that makes him believe he can usurp nature.

- A. obstinacy
- B. hubris
- C. impetuosity
- D. valor
- E. callousness

3. May Sarton had a ----- career: it ----- from 1929, when Poetry magazine published her early sonnets, to 1994, when her last collection of poems came out.

- A. Limited.... Developed
- B. Diverse... foundered
- C. Variable... declined

- D. Lengthy... lasted
- E. Sedate... soared

4. A recent data recording a bottlenose whale's phenomenal dive of over 4700 feet ----- earlier ----- that such whales were among the sea's deepest divers.

- A. Refuted... theories
- B. Challenged... predictions
- C. Confirmed... speculations
- D. Validated... disclaimers
- E. Substantiated... doubts

5. The residents of town lived ----- lives; no one indulged in wild or ----- life

- A. Rambunctious... indecent
- B. Extravagant... excessive
- C. Secluded... scrupulous
- D. Circumscribed.... Impulsive
- E. Irreverent... animated

6. The study's warning that monkey populations were declining in Guatemala and Mexico was ----- by new evidence that nearby populations along the Belize River were -----.

- A. Corroborated... prospering
- B. Confirmed... extant
- C. Belied... dwindling
- D. Diminished... debilitated
- E. Tempered... thriving

7. The staff complained the management was -----, focusing on short-term profits while disregarding the long-term welfare of the corporation.

- A. irresolute
- B. officious
- C. rancorous
- D. punctilious
- E. myopic

8. Efforts are finally being made to ----- the traffic congestion that plagues the downtown area.

- A. engage
- B. alleviate
- C. transport

- D. regenerate
E. trivialize

9. Though outwardly -----, the speaker was actually quite disturbed by the tumultuous crowd.

- A. apprehensive
B. agitated
C. furious
D. serene
E. considerate

10. K'ang-hsi, emperor of China from 1661 to 1722, expressed his private thoughts with a ----- rarely found in the usually ----- rulers of great empire.

- A. Peacefulness... placid
B. Forthrightness... reserved
C. Fairness... dilatory
D. Meticulousness... accessible
E. Peevishness... irritable

11. Farming has been profitable on the Great Plains for many decades, but by 1938 ----- agricultural practices and years of inadequate precipitation had ----- the land.

- A. Conscientious... despoiled
B. Incompetent... sustained
C. Shrewd... debilitated
D. Innovative... fertilized
E. Imprudent... denuded

12. Cathedrals usually take decades, even centuries, to complete; thus no one expected the National Cathedral to be built with -----.

- A. dispatch
B. presumption
C. durability
D. deliberation
E. reverence

13. New York designer Anna Sui creates eclectic clothes that represent an ----- of playful, 1970's funky style fused with an edgy, urban sensibility.

- A. induction
B. amalgam
C. immersion

- D. occlusion
E. estrangement

14. Once the principal ----- that the fire alarm had been set off by accident, she apologized to the the suspected students and announced that they had been -----.

- A. Realized... exonerated
B. Denied... reprimanded
C. Perceived... enlightened
D. Understood... apprehended
E. Confirmed... obligated

15. Although the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall had ----- that his papers be available only to scholars, the Library of Congress ----- his wishes and exhibited them to the general public.

- A. implied... publicized
B. denied... repealed
C. stipulated... disregarded
D. revealed... executed
E. insisted... honored

16. Royal garments found in the tombs of ancient Egyptians reveal no evidence of having been mended: this discovery suggests that the rulers of Egypt opted for ----- rather than -----.

- A. Disposal... repair
B. Sacrifice... opulence
C. Wastefulness... comfort
D. Spirituality... worldliness
E. Humiliation... charity

Solutions:

1. Answer: A. Insolvent... fraudulent - "Insolvent" means unable to pay debts, and "fraudulent" means involving deceit or trickery. This combination indicates that the company could only meet its financial obligations through deceitful activities. "Prudent" (wise), "speculative" (risky), "autonomous" (independent), "subordinate" (less important), "bankrupt" (unable to pay debts), "charitable" (generous), "stable" (steady), and "manipulative" (controlling) do not fit as well to describe a company that is struggling financially but staying in business through deceitful means.

2. Answer: B. hubris - "Hubris" means excessive pride or self-confidence, fitting the context of a scientist overstepping natural boundaries. "Obstinacy" (stubbornness), "impetuosity" (rashness), "valor" (courage), and "callousness" (insensitivity) do not convey the specific concept of pride leading to downfall as effectively as "hubris."

3. Answer: D. Lengthy... lasted - "Lengthy" means having considerable duration, and "lasted" means continued for a long time, accurately describing Sartre's extensive career. "Limited" (restricted), "developed" (grew), "diverse" (varied), "founded" (failed), "variable" (changeable), "declined" (decreased), "sedate" (calm), and "soared" (increased rapidly) do not reflect the continuous and extensive nature of her career as effectively.

4. Answer: C. Confirmed... speculations - "Confirmed" means established as true, and "speculations" means beliefs or guesses, indicating that the new data supported existing beliefs about whale diving depths. "Refuted" (disproved), "theories" (explanations), "challenged" (questioned), "predictions" (forecasts), "validated" (proved valid), "disclaimers" (denials), "substantiated" (supported with evidence), and "doubts" (uncertainties) do not fit as well in the context of supporting evidence.

5. Answer: D. Circumscribed... Impulsive - "Circumscribed" means restricted within limits, and "impulsive" means acting without thought, describing a community living restrained lives without indulgence. "Rambunctious" (uncontrollably exuberant), "indecent" (improper), "extravagant" (spending excessively), "excessive" (more than necessary), "secluded" (isolated), "scrupulous" (meticulous), "irreverent" (showing lack of respect), and "animated" (lively) do not convey the same sense of restrained and controlled lifestyle.

6. Answer: E. Tempered... thriving - "Tempered" means moderated or mitigated, and "thriving" means flourishing, indicating that the warning was balanced by evidence of healthy populations. "Corroborated" (supported), "prospering" (doing well), "confirmed" (proved), "extant" (still existing), "belied" (contradicted), "dwindling"

(declining), "diminished" (reduced), "debilitated" (weakened) do not capture the idea of balancing a warning with positive evidence.

7. Answer: E. myopic - "Myopic" means short-sighted, fitting the description of management focusing only on short-term profits. "Irresolute" (uncertain), "officious" (meddlesome), "rancorous" (bitter), and "punctilious" (meticulous) do not accurately reflect the focus on immediate gains at the expense of long-term welfare.

8. Answer: B. alleviate - "Alleviate" means to make less severe, fitting the context of reducing traffic congestion. "Engage" (participate), "transport" (move), "regenerate" (renew), and "trivialize" (make less important) do not accurately describe the action of reducing traffic problems.

9. Answer: D. serene - "Serene" means calm, fitting the contrast between outward appearance and inner disturbance. "Apprehensive" (anxious), "agitated" (disturbed), "furious" (angry), and "considerate" (thoughtful) do not capture the outward calmness that hides inner turmoil.

10. Answer: B. Forthrightness... reserved - "Forthrightness" means being direct and honest, fitting the description of expressing private thoughts candidly, which contrasts with typically "reserved" (restrained) rulers. "Peacefulness" (calmness), "placid" (calm), "fairness" (justice), "dilatatory" (slow), "meticulousness" (attention to detail), "accessible" (approachable), "peevishness" (irritability), and "irritable" (easily annoyed) do not fit as well.

11. Answer: E. Imprudent... denuded - "Imprudent" means lacking caution, and "denuded" means stripped of its covering, describing the harmful agricultural practices that led to barren land. "Conscientious" (careful), "despoiled" (plundered), "incompetent" (inept), "sustained" (maintained), "shrewd" (clever), "debilitated" (weakened), "innovative" (new), "fertilized" (enriched) do not capture the negligence leading to environmental degradation.

12. Answer: A. dispatch - "Dispatch" means promptness or speed, which is not expected in building cathedrals known for taking a long time.

"Presumption" (assumption), "durability" (lasting quality), "deliberation" (careful consideration), and "reverence" (respect) do not accurately reflect the expectation of speed in construction.

13. Answer: B. amalgam - "Amalgam" means a mixture or blend, fitting the description of combining different styles. "Induction" (introduction), "immersion" (deep involvement), "occlusion" (blockage), and "estrangement" (alienation) do not fit as well in the context of creating eclectic clothes.

14. Answer: A. Realized... exonerated - "Realized" means understood clearly, and "exonerated" means cleared from blame, fitting the context of the principal acknowledging a mistake and clearing the students. "Denied" (refused), "reprimanded" (criticized), "perceived" (observed), "enlightened" (informed), "understood" (grasped), "apprehended" (arrested), "confirmed" (established), and "obligated" (bound) do not fit the context of acknowledging and correcting an error.

15. Answer: C. stipulated... disregarded - "Stipulated" means specified as a condition, and "disregarded" means ignored, fitting the context of Marshall's wishes being ignored by the Library of Congress. "Implied" (suggested), "publicized" (made public), "denied" (refused), "repealed" (revoked), "revealed" (disclosed), "executed" (carried out), "insisted" (demanded), and "honored" (respected) do not accurately describe the condition and its neglect.

16. Answer: A. Disposal... repair - "Disposal" means getting rid of, and "repair" means fixing, suggesting that rulers chose to discard garments rather than mend them. "Sacrifice" (giving up), "opulence" (luxury), "wastefulness" (excessive use), "comfort" (ease), "spirituality" (religious focus), "worldliness" (concern with material values), "humiliation" (shame), and "charity" (generosity) do not fit as well in the context of choosing new over repaired garments.

SAT sentence completion **practice test 22**

1. The author used a rhetorical question as a terminal flourish to ----- the section of text.

- A. disclose
- B. rearrange
- C. simplify
- D. conclude
- E. ascertain

2. Foamy viruses cause cells in laboratories to swell but produce no much ----- in cells of living organisms.

- A. compression
- B. disintegration
- C. distension
- D. deflation
- E. dehydration

3. The two sisters selflessly dedicated their lives to the nursing profession; their ----- made them -----, ones whose ways are worthy of imitation.

- A. Aptitude... eccentrics
- B. Morality... emancipators
- C. Erudition... enigmas
- D. Devotion... egotists
- E. Altruism... exemplars

4. Annoyed by the new employee's excessively ----- manner, the supervisor advised him that such fawning was inappropriate.

- A. obsequious
- B. mysterious
- C. lackadaisical
- D. argumentative
- E. aggressive

5. Conservationists argue that unconstrained ----- of natural resources, which might deplete them forever, should be replaced by a policy of -----.

- A. Dismissal... preparation
- B. Consumption... dispersion
- C. Harvesting... gathering

- D. Exploitation... husbandry
E. Stockpiling... extirpation

6. Much interpersonal communication is implicit in -----, expressive movement.

- A. exposes
B. verbalization
C. gestures
D. cognitions
E. intuitions

7. By virtue of her extensive experience and her ----- of practical knowledge, 87-year-old Louisa Vigil was ----- by her family in New Mexico as its chief advice-giver and matriarch.

- A. Store... condemned
B. Supply... dismissed
C. Wealth... regarded
D. Modicum... abandoned
E. Deficit... praised

8. Castillo's poetry has generated only enthusiastic reponse: praise from the general public and ----- from the major critics.

- A. condemnation
B. sarcasm
C. plaudits
D. irony
E. pathos

9. The twigs of this shrub have a signature ----- whose pungency enables people to ----- shrub even in winter when its leaves have fallen.

- A. Scent... cultivate
B. Flavor... conceal
C. Appearance... recognize
D. Texture... locate
E. Aroma... identify

10. The announcement that the city would raze the landmark school building was such a distressing ----- that it provoked an outcry.

- A. disclosure
B. evaluation
C. liberation

- D. instance
E. inquiry

11. Louise Erdrich and Michael Dorris co-wrote The Crown of Columbus, a ----- effort successfully mingling their individual styles as writers.

- A. stratified
B. fitful
C. collaborate
D. vicarious
E. corresponding

12. The eager members of the audience found the lecture topic -----, but unfortunately the lecturer' droning voice had a ----- effect.

- A. Interesting... rousing
B. Advantageous... beneficial
C. Rudimentary... reassuring
D. Insipid... bland
E. Stimulating... soporific

13. Displays in the Australian Museum's exhibition on dinosaurs are designed to be touched, offering visitors ----- experience.

- A. an odoriferous
B. an archaic
C. an aural
D. a rustic
E. a tactile

14. The magician's ----- astonished us; her deft performance proved the old saying that the hand is quicker than the eye.

- A. discernment
B. tenacity
C. hilarity
D. adroitness
E. insecurity

15. Although Keller achieved national ----- as a hero, hie lamentable ----- in the political arena soon became painfully apparent.

- A. Recognition... versatility
B. Ignominy... inadequacy
C. Prestige... finesse

- D. Prominence... ineptitude
E. Notoriety... rectitude

16. The professor argued that every grassroots movement needs -----; without this public declaration of motives, there can be no cohesive organization.

- A. an invocation
B. a prospectus
C. a manifesto
D. an arbitration
E. a mandate

Solutions:

1. Answer: D. conclude - "Conclude" means to bring something to an end, which fits the use of a rhetorical question to finish a section of text. "Disclose" (reveal), "rearrange" (change the order), "simplify" (make easier), and "ascertain" (find out) do not align with the purpose of ending a section.

2. Answer: C. distension - "Distension" means the state of being stretched or swollen, which contrasts with the lack of such effects in living organisms. "Compression" (pressing together), "disintegration" (breaking apart), "deflation" (reduction in size), and "dehydration" (loss of water) do not fit the context of laboratory effects versus living organisms.

3. Answer: E. Altruism... exemplars - "Altruism" means selfless concern for others, making them "exemplars" (models to be imitated). "Aptitude" (natural ability) and "eccentrics" (odd people), "Morality" (principles concerning right and wrong) and "emancipators" (liberators), "Erudition" (knowledge) and "enigmas" (mysteries), and "Devotion" (dedication) and "egotists" (self-centered people) do not capture the selfless dedication and exemplary status.

4. Answer: A. obsequious - "Obsequious" means overly submissive or fawning, fitting the context of inappropriate excessive manner. "Mysterious" (difficult to understand), "lackadaisical" (lacking enthusiasm), "argumentative" (quarrelsome), and "aggressive" (hostile) do not align with the excessive submissiveness described.

5. Answer: D. Exploitation... husbandry - "Exploitation" means using resources selfishly, and "husbandry" means the careful management of resources, fitting the conservationists' argument. "Dismissal" (rejection) and "preparation" (getting ready), "consumption" (using up) and "dispersion" (spreading out), "harvesting" (gathering) and "gathering" (collecting), and "stockpiling" (accumulating) and "extirpation" (eradication) do not fit the context of resource management.

6. Answer: C. gestures - "Gestures" means movements that express ideas or feelings, fitting the context of non-verbal communication. "Exposes" (reveals), "verbalization" (putting into words), "cognitions" (thoughts), and "intuitions" (instinctive feelings) do not describe expressive movements.

7. Answer: C. Wealth... regarded - "Wealth" means a large amount, and "regarded" means considered or thought of in a certain way, fitting the description of her being highly valued. "Store" (supply) and "condemned" (disapproved), "supply" and "dismissed" (ignored), "modicum" (small amount) and "abandoned" (left behind), and "deficit" (shortage) and "praised" (commended) do not capture the extensive knowledge and high regard.

8. Answer: C. plaudits - "Plaudits" means praise or approval, fitting the context of positive responses from critics. "Condemnation" (strong disapproval), "sarcasm" (mocking), "irony" (opposite of what is meant), and "pathos" (evoking pity) do not match the enthusiastic response described.

9. Answer: E. Aroma... identify - "Aroma" means a distinctive smell, and "identify" means recognize, fitting the context of using the scent to recognize the shrub. "Scent" (smell) and "cultivate" (grow), "flavor" (taste) and "conceal" (hide), "appearance" (look) and "recognize" (identify), and "texture" (feel) and "locate" (find) do not fit as well.

10. Answer: A. disclosure - "Disclosure" means the act of revealing something, fitting the context of announcing the demolition of a building. "Evaluation" (assessment), "liberation" (setting free), "instance" (example), and "inquiry"

(investigation) do not convey the sense of a distressing announcement.

11. Answer: C. collaborate - "Collaborate" means to work together, fitting the context of co-writing a successful book. "Stratified" (arranged in layers), "fitful" (irregular), "vicarious" (experienced through another), and "corresponding" (similar) do not capture the joint effort.

12. Answer: E. Stimulating... soporific - "Stimulating" means interesting and exciting, while "soporific" means causing drowsiness, fitting the context of an interesting topic with a boring delivery. "Interesting" (engaging) and "rousing" (exciting), "advantageous" (beneficial) and "beneficial" (helpful), "rudimentary" (basic) and "reassuring" (comforting), and "insipid" (dull) and "bland" (lacking flavor) do not capture the contrast.

13. Answer: E. a tactile - "Tactile" means related to touch, fitting the context of interactive displays. "Odoriferous" (having a strong smell), "archaic" (old), "aural" (related to hearing), and "rustic" (rural) do not fit as well.

14. Answer: D. adroitness - "Adroitness" means skill and dexterity, fitting the context of the magician's impressive performance. "Discernment" (good judgment), "tenacity" (persistence), "hilarity" (amusement), and "insecurity" (lack of confidence) do not capture the skill described.

15. Answer: D. Prominence... ineptitude - "Prominence" means fame or importance, and "ineptitude" means lack of skill, fitting the context of someone achieving national hero status but failing in politics. "Recognition" (acknowledgment) and "versatility" (ability to adapt), "ignominy" (shame) and "inadequacy" (lack of quality), "prestige" (respect) and "finesse" (skill), and "notoriety" (fame for bad reasons) and "rectitude" (moral integrity) do not capture the contrast as well.

16. Answer: C. a manifesto - "Manifesto" means a public declaration of intentions, fitting the context of needing a clear statement of motives for cohesive organization. "Invocation" (calling upon), "prospectus" (summary of a proposal), "arbitration"

(settling a dispute), and "mandate" (official order) do not fit the need for a declaration of motives.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 23**

1. Despite our best efforts to protect the environment and keep it safe, until the problems of pollution are _____, the future of our environment seems, at best, _____.

- A. created ... gloomy
- B. revoked ... secure
- C. solved ... uncertain
- D. replaced ... revered
- E. increased ... unknown

2. Knowledgeable dog owners recommend obtaining a purebred dog from a _____ breeder, one who is _____ and respected by customers and breeders alike.

- A. discerning ... equivocal
- B. demanding ... flexible
- C. churlish ... charming
- D. reputable ... admired
- E. humble ... feared

3. The model of _____, he displayed impeccable manners and excellent taste.

- A. duplicity
- B. decorum
- C. depravity
- D. versatility
- E. efficiency

4. The detectives believed that the fingerprint on the glass was _____ evidence; it definitely placed the defendant at the scene of the crime.

- A. negligible
- B. incorrigible
- C. incriminating
- D. inevitable
- E. inadmissible

5. Carl had a reputation for being a _____ because he fearlessly skied down the steepest trails.

- A. leader
- B. dreamer
- C. coward
- D. clown
- E. daredevil

6. Paradoxically, the effects of the hurricane were both _____ and _____; it demolished homes and businesses in its wake, but it spurred an economic revival by creating jobs for many previously unemployed workers.

- A. destructive ... constructive
- B. tangible ... intangible
- C. empirical ... scientific
- D. practical ... theoretical
- E. fearsome ... dreaded

7. The museum's panel of experts was _____ collection of former curators and art historians; so each of them had _____ knowledge of the Renaissance.

- A. an erudite ... ample
- B. a tenacious ... extensive
- C. a scholarly ... scant
- D. an educated ... corpulent
- E. a diversified ... sparse

8. During her _____ career, author Elfriede Jelinek has received numerous _____, including the 2004 Nobel Prize in Literature.

- A. auspicious ... accolades
- B. inefficacious ... awards
- C. prosperous ... censures
- D. pernicious ... citations
- E. successful ... invectives

9. Although the seminar's participants _____ for a morning introduction, they soon _____ until later on in the afternoon.

- A. assembled ... plundered
- B. convened ... adjourned
- C. petitioned ... repealed
- D. gathered ... assembled
- E. converged ... integrated

10. The company's hope was to _____ short-term sales expectations in order to reward investors and properly _____ the staff.

- A. suspend ... compensate
- B. exceed ... remunerate
- C. surpass ... indemnify
- D. forecast ... reward
- E. determine ... enervate

11. Having suffered numerous injuries over the course of her career, the gymnast demonstrated her _____ by overcoming adversity and winning the gold medal.

- A. consternation
- B. apprehension
- C. viscosity
- D. resilience
- E. dexterity

12. During the soccer championship, the star midfielder fooled her defender as she _____ to the left and _____ dribbled the ball down the right side of the field.

- A. lunged ... ascetically
- B. fainted ... deftly
- C. careened ... maladroitly
- D. staggered ... haphazardly
- E. lumbered ... assiduously

Solutions:

1. **Answer: C. solved ... uncertain -**

"Solved" means finding a solution to a problem, and "uncertain" means not sure or definite, fitting the context where solving pollution problems would remove uncertainty about the future environment. "Created" (made) and "gloomy" (dark and depressing), "revoked" (cancelled) and "secure" (safe), "replaced" (substituted) and "revered" (respected), and "increased" (made more) and "unknown" (not known) do not convey the same logical connection between solving pollution and ensuring environmental security.

2. **Answer: D. reputable ... admired -**

"Reputable" means having a good

reputation, and "admired" means respected and approved. This describes a breeder who is trustworthy and well-regarded. "Discerning" (showing good judgment) and "equivocal" (ambiguous), "demanding" (requiring much) and "flexible" (adaptable), "churlish" (rude) and "charming" (pleasant), and "humble" (modest) and "feared" (afraid of) do not fit the context as well as "reputable" and "admired."

3. **Answer: B. decorum** - "Decorum" means behavior in keeping with good taste and propriety, fitting the description of someone with impeccable manners and excellent taste. "Duplicity" (deceitfulness), "depravity" (moral corruption), "versatility" (ability to adapt), and "efficiency" (effectiveness) do not describe the impeccable manners and taste as accurately as "decorum."
4. **Answer: C. incriminating** - "Incriminating" means making someone appear guilty of a crime, fitting the context of evidence that places the defendant at the scene. "Negligible" (insignificant), "incurable" (not able to be corrected), "inevitable" (certain to happen), and "inadmissible" (not accepted as valid) do not describe the definitive nature of the evidence as well as "incriminating."
5. **Answer: E. daredevil** - "Daredevil" means a person who enjoys doing dangerous things, fitting the description of someone who fearlessly skis down steep trails. "Leader" (someone who leads), "dreamer" (someone who dreams), "coward" (someone who is easily scared), and "clown" (someone who behaves comically) do not accurately describe the fearless behavior.
6. **Answer: A. destructive ... constructive** - "Destructive" means causing great damage, and "constructive" means serving a useful purpose. This paradox captures the dual nature of the hurricane's effects. "Tangible" (perceptible by touch) and "intangible" (not having a physical

presence), "empirical" (based on observation) and "scientific" (relating to science), "practical" (useful) and "theoretical" (based on theory), and "fearsome" (causing fear) and "dreaded" (feared greatly) do not capture the paradox as effectively.

7. **Answer: A. an erudite ... ample** - "Erudite" means having or showing great knowledge, and "ample" means more than enough, fitting the context of experts with extensive knowledge. "Tenacious" (persistent) and "extensive" (comprehensive), "scholarly" (academic) and "scant" (barely sufficient), "educated" (informed) and "corpulent" (fat), and "diversified" (varied) and "sparse" (thinly dispersed) do not fit the description as precisely as "erudite" and "ample."
8. **Answer: A. auspicious ... accolades** - "Auspicious" means conducive to success, and "accolades" means awards or honors, fitting the context of a successful career with many recognitions. "Inefficacious" (ineffective) and "awards" (prizes), "prosperous" (successful) and "censures" (criticisms), "pernicious" (harmful) and "citations" (honorable mentions), and "successful" (achieving desired results) and "invectives" (verbal attacks) do not capture the positive recognition as effectively.
9. **Answer: B. convened ... adjourned** - "Convened" means to come together for a meeting, and "adjourned" means to suspend until a later time, fitting the context of participants meeting in the morning and continuing later. "Assembled" (gathered) and "plundered" (robbed), "petitioned" (made a formal request) and "repealed" (revoked), "gathered" (came together) and "assembled" (put together), and "converged" (came together) and "integrated" (combined) do not fit as precisely.
10. **Answer: B. exceed ... remunerate** - "Exceed" means to go beyond, and

"remunerate" means to pay for services, fitting the context of surpassing sales expectations and rewarding staff. "Suspend" (temporarily stop) and "compensate" (reimburse), "surpass" (exceed) and "indemnify" (compensate for harm), "forecast" (predict) and "reward" (give something in recognition), and "determine" (decide) and "enervate" (weaken) do not capture the context of achieving and paying as effectively.

11. **Answer: D. resilience** - "Resilience" means the ability to recover quickly from difficulties, fitting the context of overcoming adversity. "Consternation" (feelings of anxiety), "apprehension" (fear), "viscosity" (thickness), and "dexterity" (skill in performing tasks) do not capture the overcoming of adversity as effectively as "resilience."
12. **Answer: B. feinted ... deftly** - "Feinted" means made a deceptive movement, and "deftly" means skillfully, fitting the context of fooling a defender and skillfully dribbling the ball. "Lunged" (made a sudden forward thrust) and "ascetically" (self-discipline), "careened" (moved swiftly in an uncontrolled way) and "maladroitly" (clumsily), "staggered" (walked unsteadily) and "haphazardly" (in a random manner), and "lumbered" (moved in a slow, heavy way) and "assiduously" (with great care) do not capture the skill and deception as effectively.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 24**

1. When Clara saw the actor at the airport, she could not help noticing that everything about him seemed unreal; his skin appeared more orange than suntanned and his teeth were _____ white.

- A. tautly
- B. intrepidly
- C. preternaturally
- D. propitiously
- E. unavailingly

2. Despite its innocuous appearance, the fish has a _____ sting.

- A. deadly
- B. benign
- C. persistent
- D. complacent
- E. predictable

3. To help her unwind after a _____ week, there was nothing Celia enjoyed more than a drive through Vermont's _____ countryside.

- A. hectic ... bromidic
- B. harried ... fatuous
- C. frenetic ... obstreperous
- D. sedate ... bucolic
- E. tumultuous ... pastoral

4. After the floodwaters receded, the townspeople began the long and _____ task of repairing and rebuilding in an attempt to get back to some _____ of life as they had previously known it.

- A. arduous ... semblance
- B. difficult ... consanguinity
- C. affable ... normalcy
- D. rudimentary ... affinity
- E. despotic ... modicum

5. The drive to the beach house had been _____; however, once they arrived the family enjoyed a(n) _____ vacation.

- A. heinous ... virulent
- B. verbose ... churlish
- C. rancorous ... acrimonious
- D. placid ... carefree
- E. disastrous ... idyllic

6. Upon learning that their reservation had been canceled because their payment did not clear, the angry couple became _____, shouting at the desk clerk and threatening to sue the management.

- A. amiable
- B. belligerent
- C. morose
- D. extraneous
- E. lavish

7. The sun had already set, and as Amanda walked down the sidewalk she could not help but notice how peaceful her neighborhood looked in the faint _____ light.

- A. fervid
- B. glowing
- C. abstract
- D. crepuscular
- E. luminous

8. A strong yet _____ stone, cantera is ideal for architectural applications such as fountains, fireplaces, and columns.

- A. obstinate
- B. contumacious
- C. absorbent
- D. pestilent
- E. malleable

9. Sam was always impeccably dressed at work; however, at home his _____ style seemed to limited to jeans and T-shirts.

- A. leisurely
- B. impetuous
- C. wanton
- D. sartorial
- E. fallacious

10. After waiting patiently for an extraordinarily long period of time, the crowd was infuriated by the extreme _____ of the concise announcement that said simply, "Tonight's concert is cancelled."

- A. coarseness
- B. affluence
- C. brevity
- D. congruity
- E. denial

11. Although she had a modest upbringing, the entrepreneur now lives in the most _____ building in the city.

- A. spartan
- B. factious
- C. salubrious
- D. opulent
- E. exiguous

12. Unfortunately, the campers encountered unexpectedly _____ weather, making them wish they had brought outerwear that was more _____.

- A. propitious ... conspicuous
- B. arctic ... chromatic
- C. frigid ... substantial
- D. gelid ... delicate
- E. temperate ... durable

Solutions:

1. Answer: C. preternaturally - "Preternaturally" means beyond what is normal or natural, fitting the description of unrealistically white teeth. "Tautly" (tightly), "intrepidly" (fearlessly), "propitiously" (favorably), and "unavailingly" (without success) do not describe an unnatural level of whiteness as effectively as "preternaturally."

2. Answer: A. deadly - "Deadly" means causing or able to cause death, which aligns with the dangerous nature of the fish's sting. "Benign" (harmless), "persistent" (continuing firmly), "complacent" (self-satisfied), and "predictable" (expected) do not convey the danger implied by a harmful sting.

3. Answer: E. tumultuous ... pastoral - "Tumultuous" means involving confusion or disorder, and "pastoral" means related to the countryside, fitting the context of a chaotic week contrasted with a calm, rural drive. "Hectic" (very busy) and "bromidic" (trite), "harried" (stressed) and "fatuous" (silly), "frenetic" (frantic) and "obstreperous" (noisy), and "sedate" (calm) and "bucolic" (relating to the countryside) do not contrast as well as the chosen pair.

4. Answer: A. arduous ... semblance - "Arduous" means requiring strenuous effort, and "semblance" means the outward appearance, fitting the context of difficult repairs to restore some normalcy. "Difficult" (hard to do) and "consanguinity" (kinship), "affable" (friendly) and "normalcy" (state of being normal), "rudimentary" (basic) and "affinity" (a natural liking), and "despotic" (tyrannical) and "modicum" (small amount) do not fit the context as well.

5. Answer: E. disastrous ... idyllic - "Disastrous" means causing great damage, fitting the drive, while "idyllic" means extremely happy and peaceful, fitting the vacation. "Heinous" (wicked) and "virulent" (extremely severe), "verbose" (wordy) and "churlish" (rude), "rancorous" (bitter) and "acrimonious" (angry), and "placid" (calm) and "carefree" (free from anxiety) do not fit as well.

6. Answer: B. belligerent - "Belligerent" means hostile and aggressive, fitting the couple's reaction. "Amiable" (friendly), "morose" (sullen), "extraneous" (irrelevant), and "lavish" (extravagant) do not describe the aggressive behavior as accurately.

7. Answer: D. crepuscular - "Crepuscular" means relating to twilight, fitting the peaceful, faint light description. "Fervid" (intensely passionate), "glowing" (shining brightly), "abstract" (theoretical), and "luminous" (bright or shining) do not specifically capture the twilight ambiance.

8. Answer: E. malleable - "Malleable" means easily shaped or formed, ideal for architectural uses. "Obstinate" (stubborn), "contumacious" (rebellious), "absorbent" (able to soak up liquid), and "pestilent" (harmful) do not describe a material suited for shaping as effectively.

9. Answer: D. sartorial - "Sartorial" means related to clothing, fitting the context of Sam's dressing style. "Leisurely" (unhurried), "impetuous" (impulsive), "wanton" (reckless), and "fallacious" (based on a mistaken belief) do not relate to clothing style.

10. Answer: C. brevity - "Brevity" means concise and exact use of words, fitting the brief announcement that angered the crowd. "Coarseness" (rudeness), "affluence" (wealth), "congruity" (harmony), and "denial" (refusal) do not describe the shortness of the message.

11. Answer: D. opulent - "Opulent" means luxurious, fitting the description of the entrepreneur's residence. "Spartan" (simple and austere), "factionous" (causing disagreement), "salubrious" (healthy), and "exiguous" (very small) do not describe a luxurious living condition.

12. Answer: C. frigid ... substantial - "Frigid" means extremely cold, and "substantial" means of considerable importance, size, or worth, fitting the context of unexpected cold weather requiring significant outerwear. "Propitious" (favorable) and "conspicuous" (easily seen), "arctic" (extremely cold) and "chromatic" (related to color), "gelid" (icy) and "delicate" (fragile), and "temperate" (mild) and "durable" (long-lasting) do not fit the context as well.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 25**

1. Either _____ or _____, every story the dinner guest told was crude or dull.

- A. lascivious ... vapid
- B. ribald ... succinct
- C. lubricious ... vibrant
- D. salacious ... provocative
- E. capricious ... vacuous

2. The supervisor forced his subordinates to _____ with his every whim, lest they find themselves _____ from his good graces.

- A. accord ... garnered
- B. comply ... banished
- C. assent ... abetted
- D. concur ... sanctioned
- E. contend ... exiled

3. After missing the bus, Mitch was saved from a 3-mile trudge to school by the _____ appearance of his next-door neighbor's car heading into town.

- A. luxurious
- B. serene
- C. requisite
- D. fortuitous
- E. commodious

4. Once the pizza parlor opened down the street, a strong, _____ scent of garlic _____ the neighborhood.

- A. palatable ... saturated
- B. acrid ... abdicated
- C. benign ... infiltrated

- D. pungent ... permeated
E. inconspicuous ... pervaded

5. Although the management's relationship with the union had never turned adversarial it had always been _____ at best.

- A. convivial
B. apathetic
C. tempestuous
D. oblique
E. copasetic

6. _____ even from a distance, Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world, and certainly one of nature's wonders.

- A. Prodigious
B. Deceptive
C. Resplendent
D. Gilded
E. Exquisite

7. A talented _____, she had a wide array of stories and loved to get the crowd laughing with one of her hilarious anecdotes.

- A. pundit
B. raconteur
C. sybarite
D. pugilist
E. thespian

8. Miles Davis, the _____ jazz trumpeter, was renowned as much for his enigmatic style as his _____ playing.

- A. legendary ... pedestrian
B. obscure ... exceptional
C. arcane ... transcendent
D. ubiquitous ... plebeian
E. acclaimed ... virtuosic

9. Despite the _____ tone of the play, the subject matter was rather _____.

- A. grave ... pensive
B. ominous ... morbid
C. effervescent ... jocund
D. sober ... farcical
E. solemn ... bleak

10. Even though he lost, the results were so close that the candidate was _____ about his chances of winning the next election.

- A. felicitous
B. sanguine
C. peripatetic
D. precipitous
E. virulent

11. Even after two weeks in the Caribbean sun, Denise still had the _____ of a researcher accustomed to spending her days in the dim recesses of the science library.

- A. countenance
B. repose
C. comportment
D. gait
E. pallor

12. Luis twisted his ankle Wednesday afternoon, but it was not until Thursday morning that he noticed the ankle had become _____ and uncomfortable to walk on.

- A. desiccated
B. tumescent
C. bilious
D. trenchant
E. sullied

Solutions:

1. Answer: A. lascivious ... vapid - "Lascivious" means showing an overt and often offensive sexual desire, and "vapid" means offering nothing stimulating or challenging, fitting the description of stories that are crude or dull. "Ribald" (referring to sexual matters in an amusingly rude way) and "succinct" (brief and clear) do not both fit the context. "Lubricious" (offensively displaying sexual desire) and "vibrant" (full of energy) do not pair well to describe both crude and dull stories. "Salacious" (having undue interest in sexual matters) and "provocative" (causing a reaction) are more aligned with crude but not dull. "Capricious" (unpredictable) and "vacuous" (lacking intelligence) do not fit as effectively as "lascivious" and "vapid."

2. Answer: B. comply ... banished - "Comply" means to act in accordance with a wish or command, and "banished" means sent away as punishment, fitting the context of subordinates needing to follow whims to avoid negative consequences. "Accord" (agree) and "garnered" (gathered) do not fit the context of avoiding disfavor. "Assent" (agree) and "abetted" (encouraged) are not fitting for the punishment context. "Concur" (agree) and "sanctioned" (approved) do not fit the negative consequence. "Contend" (struggle) and "exiled" (expelled) do not fit the forced agreement context.

3. Answer: D. fortuitous - "Fortuitous" means happening by chance and is fitting for an unexpected appearance saving Mitch from a long walk. "Luxurious" (comfortable), "serene" (calm), "requisite" (necessary), and "commodious" (spacious) do not fit the context of a lucky or chance occurrence as effectively as "fortuitous."

4. Answer: D. pungent ... permeated - "Pungent" means having a sharply strong taste or smell, and "permeated" means spread throughout, fitting the description of a strong garlic scent spreading through the neighborhood. "Palatable" (pleasant to taste) and "saturated" (soaked thoroughly) do not fit the context of a strong smell. "Acrid" (sharp or bitter) and "abdicated" (gave up) do not fit the context. "Benign" (harmless) and "infiltrated" (entered secretly) do not match the strong, noticeable scent. "Inconspicuous" (not noticeable) and "pervaded" (spread through) do not fit the strong scent context.

5. Answer: C. tempestuous - "Tempestuous" means characterized by strong and turbulent or conflicting emotion, fitting the description of a relationship that, while not adversarial, was still stormy or unsettled. "Convivial" (friendly), "apathetic" (showing no interest), "oblique" (indirect), and "copasetic" (in excellent order) do not capture the tension described as well as "tempestuous."

6. Answer: A. prodigious - "Prodigious" means remarkably or impressively great in extent, size, or degree, fitting the description of Mount Everest's notable height and grandeur. "Deceptive" (misleading), "resplendent" (attractive and impressive), "gilded" (covered thinly with gold),

and "exquisite" (extremely beautiful) do not convey the sheer size and wonder of Everest as well as "prodigious."

7. Answer: B. raconteur - "Raconteur" means a person who tells anecdotes in a skillful and amusing way, fitting the description of someone who loves to tell hilarious stories. "Pundit" (expert), "sybarite" (lover of luxury), "pugilist" (boxer), and "thespian" (actor) do not fit the context of a storyteller.

8. Answer: E. acclaimed ... virtuosic - "Acclaimed" means praised enthusiastically, and "virtuosic" means showing great skill in music, fitting the description of Miles Davis as a renowned and highly skilled jazz trumpeter. "Legendary" (famous) and "pedestrian" (ordinary) do not fit together. "Obscure" (not well known) and "exceptional" (unusually good) are contradictory. "Arcane" (understood by few) and "transcendent" (surpassing) do not fit well together. "Ubiquitous" (present everywhere) and "plebeian" (common) do not match the description of a renowned artist.

9. Answer: D. sober ... farcical - "Sober" means serious, and "farcical" means absurdly ridiculous, fitting the contrast between a serious tone and ridiculous subject matter. "Grave" (serious) and "pensive" (thoughtful) do not contrast. "Ominous" (threatening) and "morbid" (gruesome) do not contrast. "Effervescent" (lively) and "jocund" (cheerful) do not fit the context of a contrast. "Solemn" (serious) and "bleak" (dreary) do not contrast.

10. Answer: B. sanguine - "Sanguine" means optimistic or positive, especially in a difficult situation, fitting the candidate's hopeful attitude despite a loss. "Felicitous" (well-chosen), "peripatetic" (traveling), "precipitous" (dangerously high), and "virulent" (severe or harmful) do not fit the context of optimism about future chances.

11. Answer: E. pallor - "Pallor" means an unhealthy pale appearance, fitting the description of someone who looks like they spend their days indoors. "Countenance" (facial expression), "repose" (rest), "comportment" (behavior), and "gait" (manner of walking) do not fit the context of describing a physical appearance.

12. Answer: B. tumescent - "Tumescent" means swollen, fitting the description of an ankle that became swollen and uncomfortable. "Desiccated" (dried out), "bilious" (affected by nausea), "trenchant" (vigorous or incisive), and "sullied" (dirty) do not fit the context of describing a swollen ankle.

SAT Sentence Completion

Practice Test 26

1. Boxing legend Muhammad Ali was often described as _____ and _____, because his ability to land a knockout punch inspired fear and commanded respect.

- A. formidable ... redoubtable
- B. petulant ... intimidating
- C. menacing ... facile
- D. tactical ... stupefying
- E. fierce ... exacting

2. Reports of the senator's _____ displays of wealth have done little to _____ her standing among working-class families or help her bid for re-election.

- A. flagrant ... undermine
- B. ostentatious ... promote
- C. unobtrusive ... solidify
- D. garish ... curtail
- E. strident ... truncate

3. One would think that the _____ bear, fresh from months of hibernation would eat everything in sight, but he is surprisingly picky.

- A. hirsute
- B. servile
- C. ravenous
- D. insatiable
- E. omnivorous

4. According to the editorial, the most _____ error the governor made was _____ the public's trust in him by trying to cover up the scandal.

- A. grievous ... appeasing
- B. deplorable ... gleaning
- C. abhorrent ... placating

- D. defenseless ... effectuating
- E. egregious ... breaching

5. Before the book was _____, references to several living people were _____.

- A. banned ... deleted
- B. published ... expurgated
- C. printed ... informed
- D. reviewed ... added
- E. denounced ... clarified

6. History has shown that two of the most _____ patriots of the Revolutionary War were Samuel Adams and John Hancock.

- A. destitute
- B. dolorous
- C. captious
- D. eminent
- E. spontaneous

7. Despite her _____ temper, the actress typically displayed a _____ demeanor.

- A. modest ... humble
- B. caustic ... maniacal
- C. explosive ... timid
- D. irascible ... insolent
- E. manageable ... courteous

8. As her guests warmly _____ themselves in front of the fireplace, the hostess returned to the kitchen.

- A. ensconced
- B. expounded
- C. remitted
- D. immolated
- E. capitulated

9. The _____ buffet featured an array of sandwiches, salads, and desserts, which the guests _____ within minutes.

- A. enigmatic ... extrapolated
- B. fanciful ... ascertained
- C. fetid ... consumed
- D. enticing ... devoured
- E. sumptuous ... imbibed

10. For Maurice to arrive on time, he had to _____ himself from the web of traffic in which he was currently stuck.

- A. recuse
- B. extricate
- C. buttress
- D. disavow
- E. elucidate

11. Knowing that the bonuses being offered were not easily _____, the union decided not to _____ the new contract.

- A. attainable ... ratify
- B. reachable ... nullify
- C. restricted ... validate
- D. limited ... certify
- E. obtainable ... repudiate

12. The ending of the movie was so _____ that many questions the audience had were left unanswered.

- A. derivative
- B. lucid
- C. explicit
- D. indubitable
- E. equivocal

Solutions:

1. **Answer: A. formidable ... redoubtable** - "Formidable" means inspiring fear or respect through being impressively powerful, and "redoubtable" means formidable, especially as an opponent. Both words highlight Ali's fearsome and respected presence in boxing. "Petulant" (childishly sulky), "menacing" (threatening), "tactical" (strategic), "stupefying" (stunning), "fierce" (intense), and "exacting" (demanding) do not capture the combination of fear and respect as effectively as "formidable" and "redoubtable."
2. **Answer: B. ostentatious ... promote** - "Ostentatious" means characterized by vulgar or pretentious display, designed to impress or attract notice, and "promote"

means to advance or raise to a higher position or rank. Reports of lavish displays would hinder her standing among working-class families, making "promote" ironic and therefore effective. "Flagrant" (obviously offensive), "unobtrusive" (not conspicuous), "garish" (obtrusively bright and showy), and "strident" (loud and harsh) do not pair well with the context of her standing and bid for re-election.

3. **Answer: C. ravenous** - "Ravenous" means extremely hungry, fitting the context of a bear after hibernation expected to eat a lot but surprisingly picky. "Hirsute" (hairy), "servile" (submissive), "insatiable" (impossible to satisfy), and "omnivorous" (eating both plants and animals) do not match the described behavior as accurately.
4. **Answer: E. egregious ... breaching** - "Egregious" means outstandingly bad, and "breaching" means breaking or failing to observe a law, agreement, or code of conduct. This fits the context of the governor breaking public trust. "Grievous" (very severe or serious), "deplorable" (deserving strong condemnation), "abhorrent" (inspiring disgust and loathing), and "defenseless" (without defense) do not align as closely with the error described.
5. **Answer: B. published ... expurgated** - "Published" means to prepare and issue for public distribution, and "expurgated" means to remove matter thought to be objectionable or unsuitable. Before publication, references to living people are often censored. "Banned" (officially prohibited), "printed" (produced in print), "reviewed" (assessed), and "denounced" (publicly declared to be wrong) do not fit as logically with the removal of references.
6. **Answer: D. eminent** - "Eminent" means famous and respected within a particular sphere, fitting the context of notable patriots. "Destitute" (extremely poor), "dolorous" (feeling or expressing great

sorrow), "captious" (tending to find fault), and "spontaneous" (performed as a result of a sudden impulse) do not accurately describe their prominent status.

7. **Answer: C. explosive ... timid -**

"Explosive" means likely to erupt in anger, fitting the context of a temper, while "timid" means showing a lack of courage or confidence, highlighting a contrast in demeanor. "Modest" (unassuming), "caustic" (sarcastic in a scathing way), "irascible" (easily angered), "manageable" (controllable), "humble" (having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's importance), "maniacal" (exhibiting extremely wild or violent behavior), "insolent" (showing a rude and arrogant lack of respect), and "courteous" (polite) do not capture the stark contrast as effectively.

8. **Answer: A. ensconced -** "Ensconced"

means settled comfortably or snugly, fitting the context of guests settling in front of the fireplace. "Expounded" (explained in detail), "remitted" (sent money as a payment), "immolated" (sacrificed by burning), and "capitulated" (surrendered) do not describe the act of settling comfortably.

9. **Answer: D. enticing ... devoured -**

"Enticing" means attractive or tempting, and "devoured" means eaten quickly and eagerly, fitting the context of a buffet enjoyed by guests. "Enigmatic" (mysterious), "fanciful" (overimaginative), "fetid" (smelly), "sumptuous" (splendid and expensive-looking), "extrapolated" (extended), "ascertained" (found out), "consumed" (eaten), and "imbibed" (drank) do not describe the scenario as effectively.

10. **Answer: B. extricate -** "Extricate" means

to free from a constraint or difficulty, fitting the context of freeing oneself from traffic. "Recuse" (excuse oneself), "buttress" (support), "disavow" (deny responsibility for), and "elucidate" (make clear) do not fit the context as well.

11. **Answer: A. attainable ... ratify -**

"Attainable" means able to be achieved, and "ratify" means to sign or give formal consent to, making it valid. If bonuses are not easily achieved, the union would not agree to the contract. "Reachable" (able to be reached), "restricted" (limited), "limited" (confined), "obtainable" (able to be obtained), "nullify" (invalidate), "validate" (confirm), "certify" (confirm), and "repudiate" (reject) do not fit the context as accurately.

12. **Answer: E. equivocal -** "Equivocal"

means open to more than one interpretation or ambiguous, fitting the context of an ending that leaves questions unanswered. "Derivative" (imitative), "lucid" (clear), "explicit" (stated clearly), and "indubitable" (unquestionable) do not match the described uncertainty of the ending.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 27**

1. The first speaker gave such a _____ speech on the subject that every speaker who followed her seemed _____.

- A. detailed ... problematic
- B. comprehensive ... redundant
- C. narrow ... repetitive
- D. thorough ... reasonable
- E. generic ... superfluous

2. Both _____ and _____, the river's path was quiet and winding.

- A. tranquil ... sinuous
- B. turbulent ... circuitous
- C. cacophonous ... meandering
- D. serene ... rigid
- E. raucous ... convoluted

3. The court's refusal to reverse the decision, despite overwhelming evidence, led many to believe it had _____ justice.

- A. impelled
- B. accelerated
- C. impeded
- D. hastened
- E. expedited

4. Based on almost no research, the company's plan to go ahead with the expansion seemed rather _____.

- A. judicious
- B. heedful
- C. circumspect
- D. arbitrary
- E. prudent

5. Although the effects of the tornado were _____, it brought the town together through a sense of _____.

- A. ruinous ... camaraderie
- B. destructive ... aversion
- C. deleterious ... apostasy
- D. innocuous ... goodwill
- E. benign ... fellowship

6. Lacking any interesting qualities, the _____ movie featured cheap special effects, an unlikely plot, and ridiculously bad acting.

- A. classic
- B. hilarious
- C. insipid
- D. optimistic
- E. uproarious

7. Because of her _____ handling of the case, the lawyer was asked if she would be interested in becoming a junior partner in the _____ law firm.

- A. idiosyncratic ... reverent
- B. callous ... punitive
- C. adroit ... humble
- D. deft ... venerable
- E. inept ... estimable

8. Leaving the computer store with an armload of merchandise, Amir could not help but feel that the _____ salesperson had misled him into buying more than he really needed.

- A. beguiling
- B. anachronistic
- C. industrious
- D. observant
- E. disparate

9. Although financial analysts had initially praised the company's president for his business _____, they soon realized his ethical conduct was _____ lacking.

- A. development ... refreshingly
- B. acumen ... woefully
- C. decisions ... innocuously
- D. finesse ... timorously
- E. strategy ... provincially

10. One of the most _____ songwriters of her generation, Joni Mitchell has written and recorded over three hundred songs since 1968.

- A. successful
- B. independent
- C. prolific
- D. pretentious
- E. inscrutable

11. The Underground Railroad was a network of _____ routes, often informal and _____, by which slaves were able to escape from the southern United States.

- A. clandestine ... impromptu
- B. public ... extemporaneous
- C. covert ... organized
- D. surreptitious ... convenient
- E. train ... improvised

12. Considering she'd only read a synopsis, Marian's critique of the book seemed _____.

- A. sensible
- B. benevolent
- C. recalcitrant
- D. justified
- E. premature

Solutions:

1. Answer: B. comprehensive ... redundant - "Comprehensive" means complete and covering all

aspects, making every following speaker seem "redundant" (unnecessary due to repetition of what has already been said). "Detailed" (thorough), "narrow" (limited), "thorough" (complete), and "generic" (general) paired with their respective adjectives do not capture the sense of exhaustiveness and resulting redundancy as effectively.

2. Answer: A. tranquil ... sinuous - "Tranquil" means peaceful and calm, and "sinuous" means having many curves and turns, fitting the description of a quiet, winding river. "Turbulent" (agitated), "circuitous" (roundabout), "cacophonous" (harsh-sounding), "meandrous" (winding), "serene" (calm), "rigid" (stiff), "raucous" (loud), and "convoluted" (complicated) do not align with the peaceful and winding nature of the river as well as "tranquil" and "sinuous."

3. Answer: C. impeded - "Impeded" means obstructed or delayed, which fits the context of the court obstructing justice despite evidence. "Impelled" (driven), "accelerated" (increased speed), "hastened" (hurried), and "expedited" (sped up) do not convey the idea of hindering justice as effectively.

4. Answer: D. arbitrary - "Arbitrary" means based on random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system, fitting the context of the company's poorly researched expansion plan. "Judicious" (having good judgment), "heedful" (attentive), "circumspect" (cautious), and "prudent" (wise) do not describe a plan lacking research.

5. Answer: A. ruinous ... camaraderie - "Ruinous" means causing great harm or destruction, and "camaraderie" means mutual trust and friendship among people. This fits the context of a destructive event bringing people together. "Destructive" (causing destruction), "aversion" (dislike), "deleterious" (harmful), "apostasy" (abandonment of a belief), "innocuous" (harmless), "goodwill" (friendly intent), "benign" (gentle), and "fellowship" (friendly association) do not match the combination of harm and unity as effectively.

6. Answer: C. insipid - "Insipid" means lacking flavor or interest, fitting the description of a boring movie with cheap effects and bad acting. "Classic" (timeless), "hilarious" (very funny), "optimistic" (hopeful), and "uproarious" (extremely funny) do not describe a dull and uninteresting movie.

7. Answer: D. deft ... venerable - "Deft" means skillful, and "venerable" means accorded a great deal of respect, especially due to age, wisdom, or character. This fits the context of skillful handling leading to an offer from a respected law firm. "Idiosyncratic" (peculiar), "reverent" (showing respect), "callous" (insensitive), "punitive" (intended as punishment), "adroit" (clever or skillful), "humble" (modest), "inept" (unskilled), and "estimable" (worthy of esteem) do not match the scenario as precisely.

8. Answer: A. beguiling - "Beguiling" means charming or enchanting, often in a deceptive way, fitting the context of a salesperson who misleads the customer. "Anachronistic" (out of place in time), "industrious" (hard-working), "observant" (perceptive), and "disparate" (different) do not describe the deceptive charm of the salesperson.

9. Answer: B. acumen ... woefully - "Acumen" means the ability to make good judgments and quick decisions, and "woefully" means in a manner that is very bad or serious, fitting the context of initial praise followed by a realization of ethical shortcomings. "Development" (growth), "refreshingly" (pleasingly fresh), "decisions" (choices), "innocuously" (harmlessly), "finesse" (delicate skill), "timorously" (fearfully), "strategy" (plan), and "provincially" (narrowly) do not convey the combination of business skill and ethical deficiency as effectively.

10. Answer: C. prolific - "Prolific" means producing much fruit or foliage or many offspring, fitting the context of a songwriter who has written and recorded over three hundred songs. "Successful" (achieving success), "independent" (free from outside control), "pretentious" (attempting to impress), and "inscrutable" (impossible to understand) do not capture the productivity implied.

11. Answer: A. clandestine ... impromptu - "Clandestine" means kept secret or done secretly, and "impromptu" means done without being planned, fitting the description of secret

routes used for escaping slavery. "Public" (open), "extemporaneous" (spoken or done without preparation), "covert" (not openly acknowledged), "organized" (arranged), "surreptitious" (kept secret), "convenient" (easy to reach), "train" (a connected series of railroad cars), and "improvised" (created spontaneously) do not match the secretive and unplanned nature as well.

12. Answer: E. premature - "Premature" means occurring or done before the proper time, fitting the context of Marian's critique based on only a synopsis. "Sensible" (practical), "benevolent" (kind), "recalcitrant" (resistant), and "justified" (having a good reason) do not describe the early and uninformed nature of the critique.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 28**

1. Perhaps the best known constellation in the sky, Orion is occasionally visible throughout the northern hemisphere and _____ with the naked eye.

- A. imperceptible
- B. audible
- C. discernible
- D. diminished
- E. subjugated

2. Often described as _____ and _____, the candidate was unwilling to compromise and prone to dividing the sides over an issue.

- A. reticent ... divisive
- B. intransigent ... factious
- C. reserved ... pugnacious
- D. taciturn ... quarrelsome
- E. opinionated ... conciliatory

3. After _____ denying all allegations of impropriety, the senator sheepishly _____ that his accusers were, in fact, right all along.

- A. listlessly ... agreed
- B. vociferously ... repudiated
- C. vehemently ... conceded
- D. apathetically ... acquiesced
- E. ardently ... disputed

4. Clearly trying to _____ the lawyer in front of the court, the judge _____ him for arriving at the trial unprepared.

- A. compliment ... ridiculed
- B. belittle ... lauded
- C. commend ... denigrated
- D. disparage ... derided
- E. discredit ... extolled

5. For _____ results with the product, the manufacturer advised customers to carefully read the manual or download the _____ tutorial from its Web site.

- A. optimum ... comprehensive
- B. superior ... abbreviated
- C. unparalleled ... selective
- D. median ... compendious
- E. conventional ... extensive

6. By the time Abe sat down for dinner, the biscuits had vanished, the gravy had _____, and the roast had dried out.

- A. protruded
- B. debilitated
- C. disintegrated
- D. coagulated
- E. eviscerated

7. Once the scouts realized they had left their water behind, Julia and Marie, ever the _____, set out to look for the nearest stream.

- A. ingénues
- B. prodigies
- C. thespians
- D. prognosticators
- E. pragmatists

8. After staying up all night and working _____ to finish the project, Gerard finally _____ to sleep.

- A. haltingly ... deferred
- B. interminably ... succumbed
- C. incessantly ... dissented
- D. perpetually ... refuted
- E. intermittently ... surrendered

9. The decision to go whitewater rafting was ultimately _____; once on board, there would be no turning back.

- A. misguided
- B. didactic
- C. ponderous
- D. inculpable
- E. irrevocable

10. For much of his career, Andy Warhol was considered a _____ artist for _____ other people's images in his own work, often without acknowledgment.

- A. treacly ... ignoring
- B. conciliatory ... allocating
- C. questionable ... bestowing
- D. controversial ... appropriating
- E. contentious ... mocking

11. The mayor's suggestion to raise property taxes in order to _____ a new stadium was met with _____ response from homeowners.

- A. construct ... an exuberant
- B. eradicate ... a desiccate
- C. subsidize ... an ambivalent
- D. suppress ... a disdainful
- E. build ... an encouraging

12. A regular at rummage sales, who was often seen carting away boxfuls of books, Ms. Tompkins could be said to have a _____ for accumulation.

- A. propensity
- B. repulsion
- C. consortium
- D. knack
- E. perspective

Solutions:

1. Answer: C. discernible - "Discernible" means perceptible or visible, which is appropriate since Orion is visible to the naked eye. "Imperceptible" (not able to be seen or noticed) is the opposite of the needed meaning. "Audible" (able to be heard), "diminished" (reduced), and

"subjugated" (brought under control) do not fit the context of visibility.

2. Answer: B. intransigent ... factious - "Intransigent" means unwilling to compromise, and "factious" means causing division. These words fit the description of a candidate who is divisive and uncompromising. "Reticent" (reserved) and "divisive" (causing division) would also work but not as strongly as "intransigent" and "factious." "Reserved" (not open) and "pugnacious" (eager to fight), "taciturn" (silent) and "quarrelsome" (argumentative), and "opinionated" (stubborn) and "conciliatory" (intending to pacify) do not match the uncompromising nature and divisive outcome.

3. Answer: C. vehemently ... conceded - "Vehemently" means with intense emotion, and "conceded" means admitted reluctantly, which fits the scenario of a senator strongly denying allegations but then admitting guilt. "Listlessly" (without energy) and "agreed" (consented) do not convey the intense denial followed by reluctant admission. "Vociferously" (loudly) and "repudiated" (rejected), "apathetically" (without interest) and "acquiesced" (accepted), and "ardently" (passionately) and "disputed" (argued) do not match the context as well.

4. Answer: D. disparage ... derided - "Disparage" means to belittle, and "derided" means mocked, fitting the context of a judge criticizing a lawyer. "Compliment" (praise) and "ridiculed" (mocked), "belittle" (demean) and "lauded" (praised), "commend" (praise) and "denigrated" (criticized), and "discredit" (disprove) and "extolled" (praised) do not fit the intent of criticism.

5. Answer: A. optimum ... comprehensive - "Optimum" means the best, and "comprehensive" means thorough, fitting the advice for achieving the best results with a product. "Superior" (better) and "abbreviated" (shortened), "unparalleled" (unequaled) and "selective" (choosing),

"median" (middle) and "compendious" (concise), and "conventional" (standard) and "extensive" (detailed) do not fit as well.

6. Answer: D. coagulated - "Coagulated" means thickened or clotted, fitting the context of gravy solidifying over time. "Protruded" (stuck out), "debilitated" (weakened), "disintegrated" (broken into parts), and "eviscerated" (disemboweled) do not describe the process of thickening.
7. Answer: E. pragmatists - "Pragmatists" are practical and sensible, fitting the description of Julia and Marie looking for a practical solution. "Ingénues" (naive women), "prodigies" (young geniuses), "thespians" (actors), and "prognosticators" (predictors) do not fit the practical approach.
8. Answer: B. interminably ... succumbed - "Interminably" means endlessly, and "succumbed" means gave in, fitting the context of working tirelessly and finally giving in to sleep. "Haltingly" (hesitantly) and "deferred" (postponed), "incessantly" (constantly) and "dissented" (disagreed), "perpetually" (continuously) and "refuted" (disproved), and "intermittently" (sporadically) and "surrendered" (gave up) do not match the continuous effort and eventual sleep.
9. Answer: E. irrevocable - "Irrevocable" means cannot be changed, fitting the context of a decision with no turning back. "Misguided" (wrong), "didactic" (instructive), "ponderous" (heavy), and "inculpable" (blameless) do not fit the finality of the decision.
10. Answer: D. controversial ... appropriating - "Controversial" means causing public disagreement, and "appropriating" means taking without permission, fitting the description of Warhol's method. "Treacly" (overly sweet) and "ignoring" (disregarding), "conciliatory" (pacifying) and "allocating" (distributing), "questionable" (doubtful) and "bestowing" (giving), and "contentious"

(argumentative) and "mocking" (ridiculing) do not describe the artist's method as effectively.

11. Answer: C. subsidize ... an ambivalent - "Subsidize" means support financially, and "ambivalent" means having mixed feelings, fitting the context of mixed reactions to tax increases for a stadium. "Construct" (build) and "an exuberant" (excited), "eradicate" (remove) and "a desiccate" (dried up), "suppress" (end) and "a disdainful" (disrespectful), and "build" (construct) and "an encouraging" (supportive) do not fit the mixed feelings described.
12. Answer: A. propensity - "Propensity" means a natural tendency, fitting the context of Ms. Tompkins' habit of collecting books. "Repulsion" (strong dislike), "consortium" (association), "knack" (skill), and "perspective" (viewpoint) do not fit the description of a habit or inclination.

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 29

1. When the owner provided a _____ certificate of authenticity, the art historian declared the painting a forgery.

- A. legitimate
- B. spurious
- C. perfunctory
- D. substantiated
- E. incantational

2. Much of Langston's Hughes' poetry tries to _____ the rhythms of blues music, the music he _____ to be the true expression of his spirit.

- A. emulate ... believed
- B. abjure ... deemed
- C. capture ... doubted
- D. forgo ... considered
- E. eschew ... maintained

3. Although the rain was torrential, Sheila stayed dry in her new raincoat that was _____ to water.

- A. susceptible
- B. elliptical
- C. impervious
- D. salient
- E. ostensible

4. The curator was _____ in her care of the museum, often working late into the night to keep the galleries in _____ condition.

- A. fastidious ... imprudent
- B. meticulous ... impeccable
- C. negligent ... pristine
- D. unscrupulous ... flawless
- E. vituperative ... immaculate

5. Wary of defeat, the rebel factions _____ into a single army to fight the approaching invaders.

- A. coalesced
- B. diffused
- C. assuaged
- D. importuned
- E. supplicated

6. Initially standing by his _____ alibi, the main suspect in the embezzlement scandal later _____ it and agreed to cooperate with the prosecution.

- A. improbable ... abated
- B. solid ... voided
- C. unshakable ... retracted
- D. tenuous ... recanted
- E. dubious ... relented

7. The Consumer Electronics Association forecasts that in 2011, _____ sales of personal electronic equipment will surpass the \$180 billion mark for the first time.

- A. insurgent
- B. electoral
- C. dissipate
- D. aggregate
- E. feasible

8. With the vote split evenly, the commissioners waited for the mayor to stop _____ and decide the outcome of the proposal.

- A. deliberating
- B. ruminating
- C. vacillating
- D. ameliorating
- E. circumscribing

9. Although she has a _____ voice, Nina had to be _____ by her friend Marco to join the choir.

- A. mellifluous ... permitted
- B. reprehensible ... coerced
- C. prosaic ... begged
- D. commanding ... immured
- E. sublime ... compelled

10. Arguably the modern world's most infamous dictator, Fidel Castro's _____ to power began in 1959 when he helped _____ the opposition government of Fulgencio Batista.

- A. rise ... institute
- B. addiction ... depose
- C. quest ... authorize
- D. ascent ... subvert
- E. claim ... affirm

11. After the band failed to _____ the audience or sell many tickets, the offer for an extended engagement was _____.

- A. overcome ... negated
- B. impress ... rescinded
- C. accept ... approved
- D. inspire ... established
- E. rouse ... protracted

12. After losing for the sixth time in a row, the basketball team hoped it had reached the _____ of its season.

- A. penultimate
- B. nadir
- C. apex
- D. pinnacle
- E. conclusion

Solutions:

1. Answer: B. spurious - "Spurious" means not genuine, fitting the context of a fake certificate leading to the painting being

declared a forgery. "Legitimate" (genuine), "perfunctory" (done with minimum effort), "substantiated" (proven), and "incantational" (related to a spell) do not describe a fake certificate.

2. Answer: A. emulate ... believed - "Emulate" means to imitate, fitting the context of trying to reproduce blues rhythms, and "believed" means held a firm opinion, fitting the context of Hughes' belief in blues music. "Abjure" (reject) and "deemed" (considered), "capture" (catch) and "doubted" (questioned), "forgo" (give up) and "considered" (thought), and "eschew" (avoid) and "maintained" (asserted) do not fit the context as well.
3. Answer: C. impervious - "Impervious" means not affected by, fitting the context of a raincoat that keeps water out. "Susceptible" (likely to be influenced), "elliptical" (oval-shaped), "salient" (prominent), and "ostensible" (apparent) do not fit the context of waterproofing.
4. Answer: B. meticulous ... impeccable - "Meticulous" means showing great attention to detail, and "impeccable" means flawless, fitting the curator's careful work. "Fastidious" (very attentive) and "imprudent" (unwise), "negligent" (careless) and "pristine" (unspoiled), "unscrupulous" (unethical) and "flawless" (perfect), and "vituperative" (bitter) and "immaculate" (perfectly clean) do not fit as well.
5. Answer: A. coalesced - "Coalesced" means came together, fitting the context of rebel factions joining forces. "Diffused" (spread out), "assuaged" (calmed), "importuned" (begged), and "supplicated" (prayed) do not describe the unification of factions.
6. Answer: D. tenuous ... recanted - "Tenuous" means weak, fitting the context of an alibi that is not strong, and "recanted" means took back, fitting the context of retracting a statement. "Improbable" (unlikely) and "abated"

(reduced), "solid" (strong) and "voided" (cancelled), "unshakable" (firm) and "retracted" (took back), and "dubious" (doubtful) and "relented" (gave in) do not fit as well.

7. Answer: D. aggregate - "Aggregate" means total, fitting the context of total sales surpassing a mark. "Insurgent" (rebellious), "electoral" (related to elections), "dissipate" (scatter), and "feasible" (possible) do not fit the context of total sales.
8. Answer: C. vacillating - "Vacillating" means wavering, fitting the context of waiting for the mayor to make a decision. "Deliberating" (considering), "ruminating" (thinking deeply), "ameliorating" (improving), and "circumscribing" (restricting) do not fit the context of indecision.
9. Answer: E. sublime ... compelled - "Sublime" means of great excellence, fitting the description of Nina's voice, and "compelled" means forced, fitting the context of being urged to join the choir. "Mellifluous" (sweet-sounding) and "permitted" (allowed), "reprehensible" (deserving condemnation) and "coerced" (forced), "prosaic" (ordinary) and "begged" (implored), and "commanding" (authoritative) and "immured" (confined) do not fit as well.
10. Answer: D. ascent ... subvert - "Ascent" means rise, fitting the context of rising to power, and "subvert" means overthrow, fitting the context of overthrowing a government. "Rise" (go up) and "institute" (establish), "addiction" (dependence) and "depose" (overthrow), "quest" (search) and "authorize" (give permission), and "claim" (assertion) and "affirm" (confirm) do not fit as well.
11. Answer: B. impress ... rescinded - "Impress" means to make a positive impact, fitting the context of failing to impress the audience, and "rescinded" means revoked, fitting the context of an offer being withdrawn. "Overcome"

(defeat) and "negated" (cancelled), "accept" (take) and "approved" (agreed), "inspire" (motivate) and "established" (set up), and "rouse" (awaken) and "protracted" (extended) do not fit as well.

12. Answer: B. nadir - "Nadir" means the lowest point, fitting the context of the team hoping it had reached its lowest point in the season. "Penultimate" (second to last), "apex" (highest point), "pinnacle" (peak), and "conclusion" (end) do not fit the context of the lowest point.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 30**

1. The lavish project, really a vanity project dreamed up by the developer, was marked by _____ spending and a _____ waste of resources.

- A. profligate ... reckless
- B. miserly ... wanton
- C. moderate ... licentious
- D. austere ... nefarious
- E. extravagant ... virtuous

2. Although Martin had made several practice runs through the driving course without incident, he could not help but feel a sense of _____ when he went to take the test.

- A. ebullience
- B. deference
- C. trepidation
- D. approbation
- E. vituperation

3. While searching for his library card in a jacket he had not worn since last spring, Alex made the _____ discovery of a \$20 bill in one of the pockets.

- A. deliberate
- B. serendipitous
- C. lachrymose
- D. blithe
- E. disconsolate

4. The high point of the debate came when the challenger delivered an _____ attack on the incumbent, blasting him for being soft on corporate crime.

- A. exiguous
- B. affable
- C. unwitting
- D. ambrosial
- E. excoriating

5. Alfred Hitchcock was the _____ director: an auteur that retained creative control and left his _____ mark on more than fifty feature films.

- A. foreign ... enduring
- B. definitive ... ambiguous
- C. famous ... desultory
- D. consummate ... indelible
- E. inimitable ... cryptic

6. Despite being mistakenly _____ for leaving the gate open, Derrick was _____ once the puppy crawled out from underneath the couch.

- A. lectured ... responsible
- B. punished ... amended
- C. chastised ... exonerated
- D. criticized ... atoned
- E. absolved ... forgiven

7. While the logging companies have invaded the state like a _____ army over the last hundred years, the developers have not been far behind.

- A. munificent
- B. vanquished
- C. despondent
- D. rapacious
- E. tactile

8. On the last weekend of summer break at the seashore, the roads were jammed with traffic and the beach _____ with vacationers.

- A. dispersed
- B. proscribed
- C. deprecated
- D. inveighed
- E. teemed

9. Stock market analysts have advised investors to examine leading economic indicators that _____ a recession before making any financial decisions.

- A. portend
- B. encumber
- C. condone
- D. vindicate
- E. impede

10. Though in _____ disrepair, the investors saw the value in buying the _____ building solely for the land it was built on.

- A. absolute ... exquisite
- B. palatial ... vacant
- C. opulent ... worthless
- D. complete ... dissipated
- E. utter ... dilapidated

11. Although the cyclist had to overcome obstacles that most people would consider _____, he was _____ in his determination to qualify for the prestigious Tour de France.

- A. devastating ... resistant
- B. insurmountable ... resolute
- C. undeniable ... irreverent
- D. indomitable ... irreplaceable
- E. elusive ... unwavering

12. Considering that the author spent only 4 seconds signing her book, Micah decided that 8 hours was an _____ amount of time to have waited in line.

- A. evanescent
- B. incumbent
- C. ephemeral
- D. inordinate
- E. imponderable

Solution:

1. Answer: A. profligate ... reckless - "Profligate" means recklessly extravagant or wasteful in the use of resources, which aligns with "reckless" (without thought of the consequences) spending and waste. "Miserly" (stingy) and "wanton" (deliberate and unprovoked), "moderate" (average) and

"licentious" (lacking moral restraint), "austere" (severe or strict) and "nefarious" (wicked), and "extravagant" (excessively lavish) and "virtuous" (morally good) do not pair appropriately to describe lavish, wasteful spending and resource usage.

2. Answer: C. trepidation - "Trepidation" means a feeling of fear or agitation about something that may happen, fitting Martin's anxiety before the test. "Ebullience" (cheerful and full of energy), "deference" (respectful submission), "approbation" (approval), and "vituperation" (bitter and abusive language) do not capture the nervous anticipation accurately.

3. Answer: B. serendipitous - "Serendipitous" means occurring or discovered by chance in a happy or beneficial way, fitting the context of unexpectedly finding money. "Deliberate" (intentional), "lachrymose" (tearful), "blithe" (cheerful indifference), and "disconsolate" (deeply unhappy) do not describe the unexpected joy of the discovery.

4. Answer: E. excoriating - "Excoriating" means harshly critical, fitting the description of a strong attack on the incumbent. "Exiguous" (scanty), "affable" (friendly), "unwitting" (unintentional), and "ambrosial" (delicious) do not align with the context of a harsh critique.

5. Answer: D. consummate ... indelible - "Consummate" means showing a high degree of skill and flair, and "indelible" means making marks that cannot be removed, fitting Hitchcock's control and lasting impact on films. "Foreign" (from another country), "definitive" (most authoritative), "famous" (well known), "inimitable" (unique), and their respective pairings do not capture the full extent of Hitchcock's mastery and lasting influence as effectively.

6. Answer: C. chastised ... exonerated - "Chastised" means rebuked or reprimanded, and "exonerated" means cleared of blame, fitting Derrick's initial blame and subsequent clearing when the puppy was found. "Lectured" (scolded) and "responsible" (accountable), "punished" (disciplined) and "amended" (corrected), "criticized" (disapproved) and "atoned" (made amends), and "absolved"

(forgiven) and "forgiven" (pardoned) do not fit the sequence of events as well.

7. Answer: D. rapacious - "Rapacious" means aggressively greedy or grasping, fitting the description of the logging companies invading like an army. "Munificent" (generous), "vanquished" (defeated), "despondent" (hopeless), and "tactile" (related to touch) do not describe the aggressive nature of the invasion.

8. Answer: E. teemed - "Teemed" means to be full of or swarming with, fitting the description of a crowded beach. "Dispersed" (scattered), "proscribed" (forbidden), "deprecated" (disapproved), and "inveighed" (spoke against) do not capture the sense of a crowded location.

9. Answer: A. portend - "Portend" means to be a sign or warning of something (typically something bad), fitting the context of economic indicators signaling a recession. "Encumber" (restrict), "condone" (accept), "vindicate" (clear of blame), and "impede" (hinder) do not describe the predictive aspect required.

10. Answer: E. utter ... dilapidated - "Utter" means complete or absolute, and "dilapidated" means in a state of disrepair, fitting the description of a building valued only for its land. "Absolute" (total) and "exquisite" (beautiful), "palatial" (large and luxurious) and "vacant" (empty), "opulent" (luxurious) and "worthless" (valueless), and "complete" (entire) and "dissipated" (dispersed) do not describe the condition of a neglected building as well.

11. Answer: B. insurmountable ... resolute - "Insurmountable" means too great to be overcome, and "resolute" means admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering, fitting the cyclist's determination. "Devastating" (highly destructive) and "resistant" (opposing), "undeniable" (indisputable) and "irreverent" (disrespectful), "indomitable" (unconquerable) and "irreplaceable" (unique), and "elusive" (difficult to find) and "unwavering" (steady) do not capture the nature of the obstacles and determination as effectively.

12. Answer: D. inordinate - "Inordinate" means unusually or disproportionately large, fitting the

excessive time spent waiting. "Evanescent" (quickly fading), "incumbent" (necessary as a duty), "ephemeral" (short-lived), and "imponderable" (difficult to assess) do not describe the excessive nature of the wait as well.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 31**

1. By noon, the newspaper staff had been _____ with phone calls about the power outage, and by evening, it seemed as though the _____ would continue.

- A. inundated ... deluge
- B. overwhelmed ... dearth
- C. besieged ... abatement
- D. harassed ... spate
- E. depleted ... barrage

2. Giving preference to his brother's son for the job smacked of _____ to all the other employees of the company.

- A. chauvinism
- B. sycophancy
- C. nepotism
- D. nihilism
- E. solipsism

3. The compromise bill is _____; both Democrats and Republicans can live with it.

- A. friable
- B. tenable
- C. reprehensible
- D. trenchant
- E. frangible

4. During the Revolutionary War, Hessian troops fought on the British side not as _____, but as _____. They were paid in money, not glory.

- A. infantry ... mutineers
- B. orderlies ... traitors
- C. renegades ... assassins
- D. friends ... warriors
- E. allies ... mercenaries

5. A week of sun and exercise had a _____ effect; when Dawn returned, the tired look on her face had disappeared.

- A. peremptory
- B. salutary
- C. sentient
- D. contentious
- E. fulsome

6. Whenever the press pursued her, the film star sought _____ in her palatial home.

- A. refuge
- B. repute
- C. reserve
- D. renown
- E. reference

7. She was known for her _____; in short, no one was more _____ than she.

- A. altruism ... selfless
- B. economy ... profligate
- C. virtue ... wanton
- D. conservatism ... leftist
- E. communism ... democratic

8. Snakebites are not _____ fatal, but they can sometimes cause death if not _____ immediately.

- A. inevitably ... treated
- B. occasionally ... remedied
- C. ever ... acknowledged
- D. indubitably ... cured
- E. especially ... clarified

9. Ancient Greek authors believed that literature should contain a perfect balance between the social and the personal, objectivity and _____, _____ and emotion.

- A. selectivity ... passion
- B. subjectivity ... reason
- C. subjection ... rationality
- D. passion ... socialism
- E. personality ... sociability

10. The astute attorney asked many _____ questions of the witness in an attempt to _____ the truth.

- A. pretentious ... prolong
- B. loquacious ... contradict
- C. vague ... mitigate
- D. probing ... elicit
- E. spurious ... verify

11. It is easy to see the difference between the two photographs when they are placed in _____.

- A. disarray
- B. juxtaposition
- C. composition
- D. jeopardy
- E. collaboration

12. The beggar smiled _____ as he threw back the nickel, saying, "Here! You need it more than I do."

- A. kindly
- B. indifferently
- C. impulsively
- D. sardonically
- E. inappropriately

Solutions:

1. **Answer: A. inundated ... deluge** -

"Inundated" means overwhelmed with a large number of things, and "deluge" means a great flood or overwhelming rush. This fits the context of the newspaper staff being flooded with phone calls, and the situation continuing. "Overwhelmed" (overcome) paired with "dearth" (lack) and other pairs such as "besieged" (surrounded) with "abatement" (reduction), "harassed" (bothered) with "spate" (sudden outpouring), and "depleted" (used up) with "barrage" (bombardment) do not align as well with the continuity of overwhelming calls.

2. **Answer: C. nepotism** - "Nepotism" means favoritism shown to relatives, which fits the context of giving preference to a brother's son. "Chauvinism" (excessive patriotism), "sycophancy" (flattery), "nihilism" (rejection of all religious and moral principles), and "solipsism" (the view that only the self

exists) do not fit the context of favoritism towards relatives in a job setting.

3. **Answer: B. tenable** - "Tenable" means capable of being held or defended, indicating that both parties can accept the compromise. "Friable" (easily crumbled), "reprehensible" (deserving condemnation), "trenchant" (sharp or incisive), and "frangible" (breakable) do not convey the sense of being acceptable or sustainable by both political parties.
4. **Answer: E. allies ... mercenaries** - "Allies" means friends or supporters, while "mercenaries" are professional soldiers hired to serve in a foreign army, paid in money. "Infantry" (soldiers fighting on foot) with "mutineers" (rebellious soldiers), "orderlies" (hospital attendants) with "traitors" (betrayers), "renegades" (deserters) with "assassins" (killers), and "friends" with "warriors" (fighters) do not fit the historical context as accurately as "allies" and "mercenaries."
5. **Answer: B. salutary** - "Salutary" means producing good effects, which aligns with the positive impact of sun and exercise on Dawn. "Peremptory" (insisting on immediate attention), "sentient" (able to perceive), "contentious" (causing argument), and "fulsome" (excessive) do not describe the beneficial effect mentioned.
6. **Answer: A. refuge** - "Refuge" means a safe place, fitting the context of the film star seeking safety from the press. "Repute" (reputation), "reserve" (restraint), "renown" (fame), and "reference" (mention) do not describe a place of safety.
7. **Answer: A. altruism ... selfless** - "Altruism" means selfless concern for the well-being of others, fitting the description of someone who is "selfless" (unselfish). "Economy" (frugality) with "profligate" (wasteful), "virtue" (moral excellence) with "wanton" (reckless), "conservatism" (traditionalism) with "leftist" (liberal), and

"communism" (collectivism) with "democratic" (relating to democracy) do not fit as well.

8. **Answer: A. inevitably ... treated** - "Inevitably" means certain to happen, and "treated" means given medical care. This fits the context of snakebites not always being fatal but potentially deadly if not given immediate care. "Occasionally" (sometimes) with "remedied" (fixed), "ever" (at any time) with "acknowledged" (recognized), "indubitably" (without doubt) with "cured" (healed), and "especially" (particularly) with "clarified" (made clear) do not fit the medical context as well.
9. **Answer: B. subjectivity ... reason** - "Subjectivity" means based on personal feelings, and "reason" means logical thinking. This fits the context of balancing personal and social elements in literature. "Selectivity" (choosing), "subjection" (being under control), "passion" (strong emotion) with "socialism" (political system), and "personality" (individual traits) with "sociability" (friendliness) do not fit the context as well.
10. **Answer: D. probing ... elicit** - "Probing" means thoroughly examining, and "elicit" means to draw out a response, fitting the attorney's aim to uncover the truth. "Pretentious" (showy) with "prolong" (extend), "loquacious" (talkative) with "contradict" (deny), "vague" (unclear) with "mitigate" (lessen), and "spurious" (false) with "verify" (confirm) do not fit the context as well.
11. **Answer: B. juxtaposition** - "Juxtaposition" means placing things side by side for comparison, fitting the context of comparing two photographs. "Disarray" (disorder), "composition" (arrangement), "jeopardy" (danger), and "collaboration" (working together) do not fit the comparison context as well.
12. **Answer: D. sardonically** - "Sardonically" means mockingly or cynically, fitting the beggar's ironic response. "Kindly"

(compassionately), "indifferently"
(without interest), "impulsively"
(spontaneously), and "inappropriately"
(unsuitably) do not capture the mocking
tone as well.

- A. tranquilly
- B. deferentially
- C. obligingly
- D. contritely
- E. disrespectfully

SAT Sentence Completion

Practice Test 32

1. Although she had _____ about the storm, she had _____ about her ability to navigate safely through it.

- A. doubts ... certainty
- B. foresight ... misunderstandings
- C. qualms ... confidence
- D. misgivings ... knowledge
- E. doubts ... evidence

2. Being a stickler for promptness is just one of Aaron's many _____.

- A. aversions
- B. peccadilloes
- C. skills
- D. weaknesses
- E. assertions

3. You cannot be present in fifth-century Britain, but you can experience it _____ by reading Joy Chant's book *The High Kings*.

- A. directly
- B. reminiscently
- C. vicariously
- D. infinitely
- E. audibly

4. The general _____ his order; he had his troops _____ rather than advance toward the enemy.

- A. reinforced ... march
- B. rescinded ... retreat
- C. reviewed ... charge
- D. countermanded ... encircle
- E. confirmed ... attack

5. If you act _____ to other guests, you will not be asked to any other party they give.

6. The college draws a very _____ student body; thirty different _____ groups are in the freshman class.

- A. diverse ... related
- B. similar ... scholarly
- C. homogeneous ... language
- D. heterogeneous ... ethnic
- E. intelligent ... high school

7. After the interview, Eduardo was _____ to learn that the head of human resources said that he was _____ for the job.

- A. thrilled ... unqualified
- B. confused ... hired
- C. embarrassed ... overqualified
- D. surprised ... underpaid
- E. dismayed ... unsuitable

8. While his partner was furious with the loss of one of their biggest clients, Matthew was _____ and showed no real emotion when he learned of the loss.

- A. apathetic
- B. conciliatory
- C. knowledgeable
- D. appreciative
- E. vigilant

9. Angela thought her assignment overseas would be an exciting adventure, but in reality, it turned out to be a(n) _____ office job.

- A. prosaic
- B. amicable
- C. elaborate
- D. boisterous
- E. vivacious

10. The _____ student was class president, graduated at the top of her class, and was a member of the varsity volleyball team.

- A. capacious
- B. verbose
- C. dubious
- D. assiduous
- E. heinous

11. It was _____ that her sister was able to babysit, or else Janie would not have been able to make it to the crucial dress rehearsal tonight.

- A. egregious
- B. fortuitous
- C. mundane
- D. impeccable
- E. verdant

12. Since the insult I _____ to Shannon was not in fact her fault, she and I are able to come to a(n) _____.

- A. aspired . . . precipice
- B. goaded . . . trepidation
- C. imputed . . . reconciliation
- D. exhorted . . . hiatus
- E. perused . . . aspersion

Solutions:

1. Answer: C. qualms ... confidence - "Qualms" are feelings of unease or doubt, and "confidence" is the belief in one's abilities. This pairing effectively contrasts uncertainty about the storm with certainty in navigating it. "Doubts" (uncertainty) and "certainty" (surety) also fit but are less precise than "qualms" and "confidence". "Foresight" (seeing ahead) and "misunderstandings" (incorrect perceptions) do not align well. "Misgivings" (doubts) and "knowledge" (awareness) lack the confidence aspect, and "doubts" and "evidence" (proof) do not fit the personal ability context.

2. Answer: B. peccadilloes - "Peccadilloes" are minor faults or sins, which fits the context of Aaron's many quirks. "Aversions" (strong dislikes), "skills" (abilities), "weaknesses" (flaws), and "assertions" (statements) do not align as closely with the context of minor faults or eccentricities.

3. Answer: C. vicariously - "Vicariously" means experiencing through another's experience, fitting the context of experiencing fifth-century Britain

through reading. "Directly" (in a straightforward way) is not possible. "Reminiscently" (in a way that recalls the past) and "infinitely" (endlessly) are less accurate. "Audibly" (through sound) does not fit the context of reading a book.

4. Answer: B. rescinded ... retreat - "Rescinded" means to revoke or cancel, and "retreat" means to withdraw, fitting the context of reversing an order and pulling back troops. "Reinforced" (strengthened) and "march" (walk) do not convey a reversal. "Reviewed" (examined) and "charge" (attack) imply reconsideration but not a reversal. "Countermanded" (reversed) and "encircle" (surround) suggest a tactical change, not a withdrawal. "Confirmed" (affirmed) and "attack" (advance) are opposite to the required meaning.

5. Answer: E. disrespectfully - "Disrespectfully" means showing a lack of respect, fitting the context of behavior that would prevent future invitations. "Tranquilly" (calmly), "deferentially" (respectfully), "obligingly" (helpfully), and "contritely" (with remorse) are all positive behaviors that would likely result in future invitations.

6. Answer: D. heterogeneous ... ethnic - "Heterogeneous" means diverse, and "ethnic" refers to cultural groups, fitting the context of a diverse student body with different cultural backgrounds. "Diverse" and "related" (connected) are less specific. "Similar" (alike) and "scholarly" (academic) do not indicate diversity. "Homogeneous" (uniform) and "language" (spoken languages) are opposite to the required meaning. "Intelligent" (smart) and "high school" (educational background) do not address cultural diversity.

7. Answer: E. dismayed ... unsuitable - "Dismayed" means distressed, and "unsuitable" means not appropriate, fitting the context of Eduardo learning he was not right for the job. "Thrilled" (excited) and "unqualified" (not qualified) are contradictory. "Confused" (bewildered) and "hired" (employed) do not align. "Embarrassed" (ashamed) and "overqualified" (too qualified) are less precise. "Surprised" (shocked) and "underpaid" (paid less) do not fit the context of qualification.

8. Answer: A. apathetic - "Apathetic" means showing no interest or emotion, fitting the context of showing no reaction to losing a client. "Conciliatory" (intending to pacify), "knowledgeable" (well-informed), "appreciative" (grateful), and "vigilant" (watchful) do not fit the described lack of emotion.

9. Answer: A. prosaic - "Prosaic" means dull or mundane, fitting the context of an office job being less exciting than anticipated. "Amicable" (friendly), "elaborate" (detailed), "boisterous" (noisy), and "vivacious" (lively) do not fit the description of a dull job.

10. Answer: D. assiduous - "Assiduous" means diligent and hardworking, fitting the description of a high-achieving student. "Capacious" (spacious), "verbose" (wordy), "dubious" (doubtful), and "heinous" (horrible) do not fit the context of achievements.

11. Answer: B. fortuitous - "Fortuitous" means happening by chance, fitting the context of a lucky occurrence that allowed Janie to attend her rehearsal. "Egregious" (outrageous), "mundane" (ordinary), "impeccable" (perfect), and "verdant" (green) do not fit the context of luck.

12. Answer: C. imputed ... reconciliation - "Imputed" means attributed, and "reconciliation" means restoring friendly relations, fitting the context of wrongly attributing fault but making amends. "Aspired" (sought) and "precipice" (cliff) do not fit. "Goaded" (provoked) and "trepidation" (fear) are unrelated. "Exhorted" (urged) and "hiatus" (pause) do not fit. "Perused" (examined) and "aspersion" (slander) do not fit the context of resolving a misunderstanding.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 33**

1. The only way the young artist was able to survive in a city as expensive as New York City on her _____ part-time salary at the corner deli was by being _____.

- A. illicit . . garrulous
- B. pervasive . . deliberate

- C. accessible . . bombastic
- D. meager . . frugal
- E. figurative . . hapless

2. I thought that the new novel by Madeleine LeCroix would be original and exhilarating, but I found the plot to be _____ and dull.

- A. harrowing
- B. fervent
- C. insolent
- D. saccharine
- E. hackneyed

3. The _____ old man yelled angrily at Billy when he accidentally threw a baseball over the fence.

- A. submissive
- B. transient
- C. rancorous
- D. condescending
- E. flabbergasted

4. I could see the look of growing _____ on the saleswoman's face as she continued in her attempt to appease the irate customer.

- A. exasperation
- B. accommodation
- C. duplicitous
- D. forbearance
- E. commendation

5. I tuned in to the debate to learn more about the candidate's economic policies, but he kept _____ with stories about his family and upbringing.

- A. innovating
- B. emulating
- C. digressing
- D. consigning
- E. insinuating

6. Your _____ solution to the complicated problem between these freshman roommates was incredibly helpful.

- A. sagacious
- B. insatiable

- C. cordial
D. bashful
E. primeval

7. Everyone thinks I am to blame, but when I prove that Claire was the one who stole the cookies from the office refrigerator, I will be _____.

- A. berated
B. censured
C. reproached
D. quelled
E. vindicated

8. Emily's family is so wealthy and fashionable, no matter how much he may desire to be like them, there is no way Derek will be able to _____ their _____ lifestyle using his cashier's salary.

- A. repulse . . corrosive
B. curtail . . extraneous
C. deface . . deleterious
D. emulate . . opulent
E. refute . . quotidian

9. Despite his intense nervousness around her, Harry attempted to be _____ when he spoke to Amy.

- A. nonchalant
B. sedentary
C. resilient
D. acerbic
E. ephemeral

10. Although you are furious with Shayna, because her gossiping almost got you in trouble with the boss, I recommend that you calm down and take a(n) _____ approach to your conversation with her.

- A. accusatory
B. frigid
C. untoward
D. lewd
E. prudent

11. They said that he was a brilliant orator, but I found the language of his speech to be too

_____, because it was overwrought and long-winded.

- A. amorous
B. florid
C. meager
D. pugnacious
E. depraved

12. Carrie is a huge asset to our group, a(n) _____ employee, with her _____ work ethic and positive attitude.

- A. profane . . querulous
B. adamant . . sophomoric
C. impassive . . stoic
D. taciturn . . perfidious
E. exemplary . . diligent

Solutions:

1. Answer: D. meager . . frugal - "Meager" means very small or insufficient, fitting the description of a low part-time salary. "Frugal" means sparing or economical, which explains how the artist manages to survive on such a salary. "Illicit" (illegal), "garrulous" (excessively talkative), "pervasive" (widespread), "deliberate" (intentional), "accessible" (easily reached), "bombastic" (high-sounding with little meaning), "figurative" (metaphorical), and "hapless" (unlucky) do not accurately describe a low salary and economical living.

2. Answer: E. hackneyed - "Hackneyed" means unoriginal and overused, perfectly describing a plot that is dull and lacks originality. "Harrowing" (extremely distressing), "fervent" (passionate), "insolent" (rude), and "saccharine" (overly sweet) do not convey the sense of boredom and lack of originality as well as "hackneyed."

3. Answer: C. rancorous - "Rancorous" means bitter and resentful, fitting the description of an old man who yells angrily. "Submissive" (yielding), "transient" (temporary), "condescending" (patronizing), and "flabbergasted" (astonished) do not accurately describe a consistently angry disposition.

4. Answer: A. exasperation - "Exasperation" means intense irritation or frustration, fitting the context of the saleswoman dealing with an irate customer. "Accommodation" (adjustment), "duplicitous" (deceitful), "forbearance" (patience), and "commendation" (praise) do not match the growing frustration described.

5. Answer: C. digressing - "Digressing" means to stray from the main topic, fitting the context of the candidate talking about unrelated personal stories. "Innovating" (introducing new ideas), "emulating" (imitating), "consigning" (assigning), and "insinuating" (implying) do not capture the act of straying from the topic as well as "digressing."

6. Answer: A. sagacious - "Sagacious" means wise or showing good judgment, fitting the context of a helpful solution to a complicated problem. "Insatiable" (impossible to satisfy), "cordial" (warm and friendly), "bashful" (shy), and "primeval" (ancient) do not accurately describe the quality of being wise and helpful.

7. Answer: E. vindicated - "Vindicated" means to clear of blame or suspicion, fitting the context of proving one's innocence. "Berated" (scolded), "censured" (criticized), "reproached" (expressed disapproval), and "quelled" (suppressed) do not convey the sense of being proven right or innocent as well as "vindicated."

8. Answer: D. emulate . . opulent - "Emulate" means to imitate, and "opulent" means luxurious or wealthy, fitting the context of trying to live a similar lifestyle. "Repulse" (drive back), "corrosive" (damaging), "curtail" (reduce), "extraneous" (irrelevant), "deface" (spoil the surface), "deleterious" (harmful), and "refute" (disprove) paired with their respective adjectives do not accurately describe the context of imitating a luxurious lifestyle.

9. Answer: A. nonchalant - "Nonchalant" means appearing calm and relaxed, fitting the context of trying to hide nervousness. "Sedentary" (inactive), "resilient" (able to recover quickly), "acerbic" (sharp and forthright), and "ephemeral" (short-lived) do not convey the effort to appear calm as well as "nonchalant."

10. Answer: E. prudent - "Prudent" means acting with or showing care and thought for the future, fitting the context of a calm and careful approach. "Accusatory" (blaming), "frigid" (cold), "untoward" (unexpected and inappropriate), and "lewd" (obscene) do not convey the sense of careful consideration as well as "prudent."

11. Answer: B. florid - "Florid" means excessively intricate or elaborate, fitting the description of overwrought and long-winded language. "Amorous" (romantic), "meager" (scanty), "pugnacious" (aggressive), and "depraved" (morally corrupt) do not accurately describe the overly elaborate style of speech.

12. Answer: E. exemplary . . diligent - "Exemplary" means serving as a desirable model, and "diligent" means having or showing care in one's work, fitting the description of a highly valuable employee with a strong work ethic. "Profane" (irreverent), "querulous" (complaining), "adamant" (unyielding), "sophomoric" (immature), "impassive" (unemotional), "stoic" (enduring pain without complaint), "taciturn" (reserved), and "perfidious" (untrustworthy) do not accurately describe a highly valued and hardworking employee.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 34**

1. Although artist Vincent van Gogh and author Edgar Allan Poe might have felt _____ during their lifetimes, their work is now considered to be quite influential.

- A. pretentious
- B. whimsical
- C. recalcitrant
- D. facile
- E. inconsequential

2. Mr. Jones, a _____ statesman, was stationed in the Pacific theater during World War II and was a successful businessman before serving in the state senate for more than fifteen years.

- A. felicitous
- B. latent

- C. petulant
D. venerable
E. insipid

3. Although President Truman disliked Stalin and was _____ him, the U.S. president had to _____ with him because Russia was also a member of the Allied forces.

- A. fond of . . defile
B. wary of . . collaborate
C. deferential to . . nurture
D. accommodating to . . elude
E. scared of . . chastise

4. Brenda hoped that her current success was not _____, since it had been a dream of hers since childhood to be a pop music icon.

- A. derivative
B. placid
C. ephemeral
D. variegated
E. contemporaneous

5. The dishonest mayor attempted to _____ her opponent in the campaign by running _____ ads in the local newspapers.

- A. discredit . . libelous
B. venerate . . docile
C. console . . contrite
D. infuriate . . pellucid
E. appease . . slanderous

6. The _____ of the CEO's impressive career can be credited to her ability to adapt to new circumstances and to seize new opportunities while climbing the corporate ladder.

- A. domesticity
B. longevity
C. resonance
D. cacophony
E. protuberance

7. John D. Rockefeller was a _____ businessman who pored over every possible aspect of his company in order to cut costs and increase profits.

- A. quixotic
B. vindictive
C. diabolic
D. meticulous
E. devious

8. After learning of all the incredible obstacles she had overcome to make it to the audition, it was evident to the show's producers that Marie had a(n) _____ desire to become a successful actress.

- A. devious
B. tenacious
C. congenial
D. promiscuous
E. irascible

9. Romeo made the tragic and _____ decision to kill himself before he could find out the truth about Juliet from his friend the friar.

- A. lackadaisical
B. opulent
C. aboriginal
D. malevolent
E. impetuous

10. Although the two coworkers seemed to be always at odds, their relationship was actually quite _____.

- A. maudlin
B. amicable
C. rustic
D. tortuous
E. caustic

11. Mary and Sam did not agree on the extent to which harmful greenhouse gases have a(n) _____ effect on the environment, leading them to have a(n) _____ discussion.

- A. invulnerable . . outrageous
B. audacious . . pecuniary
C. deleterious . . querulous
D. convivial . . superlative
E. eminent . . malleable

12. The loud and rowdy children on the field trip did not show the appropriate _____ while visiting Arlington Cemetery.

- A. modernity
- B. diversity
- C. guile
- D. abhorrence
- E. reverence

Solutions:

1. Answer: E. inconsequential - "Inconsequential" means not important or significant, fitting the context of van Gogh and Poe feeling their work was of little importance during their lifetimes, despite its later influence. "Pretentious" (attempting to impress by affecting greater importance), "whimsical" (playfully quaint or fanciful), "recalcitrant" (resisting authority), and "facile" (superficial or simplistic) do not capture the sense of their work being undervalued or unimportant at the time.

2. Answer: D. venerable - "Venerable" means accorded a great deal of respect, especially because of age, wisdom, or character, fitting the description of a statesman with a long and distinguished career. "Felicitous" (well-chosen or suited), "latent" (hidden or dormant), "petulant" (childishly sulky), and "insipid" (lacking flavor or interest) do not fit the context of a respected statesman.

3. Answer: B. wary of . . collaborate - "Wary of" means cautious about, fitting the context of Truman's distrust of Stalin. "Collaborate" means work jointly, appropriate since Truman had to work with Stalin as an ally. "Fond of" (having an affection for), "deferential to" (showing respect), "accommodating to" (helpful), and "scared of" (fearful) paired with their respective verbs do not capture the necessary caution and cooperation.

4. Answer: C. ephemeral - "Ephemeral" means lasting for a very short time, fitting Brenda's hope that her success would not be fleeting. "Derivative" (unoriginal), "placid" (calm), "variegated" (marked by variety), and "contemporaneous" (existing at the same time) do not relate to the temporary nature of success.

5. Answer: A. discredit . . libelous - "Discredit" means to harm the reputation of, and "libelous" means containing false and malicious statements, fitting the dishonest mayor's campaign tactics. "Venerate" (respect), "console" (comfort), "infuriate" (make angry), and "appease" (pacify) paired with their respective adjectives do not fit the context of a negative campaign.

6. Answer: B. longevity - "Longevity" means long duration, fitting the description of the CEO's long and successful career. "Domesticity" (home life), "resonance" (lasting impact), "cacophony" (harsh noise), and "protuberance" (a thing that protrudes) do not fit the context of career duration.

7. Answer: D. meticulous - "Meticulous" means showing great attention to detail, fitting Rockefeller's thorough approach to business. "Quixotic" (idealistic but impractical), "vindictive" (vengeful), "diabolic" (devilish), and "devious" (sly) do not capture the precision and careful nature described.

8. Answer: B. tenacious - "Tenacious" means very determined, fitting Marie's persistence despite obstacles. "Devious" (dishonest), "congenial" (friendly), "promiscuous" (indiscriminate), and "irascible" (easily angered) do not describe a determined attitude.

9. Answer: E. impetuous - "Impetuous" means acting quickly without thought, fitting Romeo's hasty and tragic decision. "Lackadaisical" (lacking enthusiasm), "opulent" (luxurious), "aboriginal" (native), and "malevolent" (evil) do not capture the rashness of Romeo's actions.

10. Answer: B. amicable - "Amicable" means friendly and without serious disagreement, fitting the true nature of the coworkers' relationship. "Maudlin" (overly sentimental), "rustic" (rural), "tortuous" (complex), and "caustic" (sarcastically biting) do not describe a fundamentally friendly relationship.

11. Answer: C. deleterious . . querulous - "Deleterious" means harmful, fitting the context of harmful greenhouse gases, and "querulous" means complaining, fitting the nature of the discussion. "Invulnerable" (unharmable), "audacious" (bold),

"convivial" (friendly), and "eminent" (distinguished) paired with their respective adjectives do not capture the environmental harm and argumentative nature.

12. Answer: E. reverence - "Reverence" means deep respect, fitting the expected behavior at Arlington Cemetery. "Modernity" (modern quality), "diversity" (variety), "guile" (slyness), and "abhorrence" (hatred) do not fit the context of expected respectful behavior.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 35**

1. The wound that killed the general appeared to be _____ and harmless; we did not learn until much later that it was deep and had punctured several vital organs.

- A. abnormal
- B. carnivorous
- C. gratuitous
- D. mediocre
- E. superficial

2. In the 1960s, thousands of people fled Cuba after Fidel Castro took power, seeking political _____ in the United States and other countries.

- A. asylum
- B. meditation
- C. rejuvenation
- D. egotism
- E. urgency

3. Connor attempted to hide his _____ for his daughter's new boyfriend, Aaron, but his _____ remarks and mean-spirited scoffing made it obvious.

- A. disdain . . condescending
- B. irrelevance . . eligible
- C. patriotism . . socialist
- D. avarice . . casual
- E. remission . . eloquent

4. The reporters were not allowed to ask the politician about the _____ photos

published in the tabloids of him being handcuffed by police outside a Las Vegas casino.

- A. banal
- B. provocative
- C. foppish
- D. mercenary
- E. vacuous

5. Her bouffant hairdo and poodle skirt were _____; she looked out of place at the punk rock concert.

- A. evanescent
- B. anachronistic
- C. valorous
- D. litigious
- E. neutral

6. The police were called to the high school football game, as a _____ of disorderly fans from the rival teams resulted in violent fights.

- A. nomination
- B. addendum
- C. convergence
- D. prominence
- E. mockery

7. With his late-night parties and wild spending sprees, it was only a matter of time before Andrew's _____ behavior landed him in jail or cost him his job.

- A. motley
- B. nautical
- C. hedonistic
- D. resilient
- E. benign

8. Sara was unable to _____ the _____ she felt after winning the game and began to do a victory dance, despite being told not to by her coach.

- A. beset . . extortion
- B. suppress . . jubilation
- C. mesmerize . . telepathy
- D. wrangle . . appellation
- E. tantalize . . disillusion

9. "The _____ of this nation depends on our ability to educate our citizens and to create jobs, so Americans can once again be on the road to financial success," the politician said in his speech.

- A. prosperity
- B. dispensation
- C. adjuration
- D. remission
- E. upheaval

10. It is past my curfew, so I need to enter the house _____ in order to avoid detection.

- A. vivaciously
- B. surreptitiously
- C. absurdly
- D. chaotically
- E. ignominiously

11. With just two weeks on the job, John was a(n) _____, but his enthusiasm made up for his lack of experience.

- A. imitator
- B. scholar
- C. arbiter
- D. novice
- E. tyrant

12. I did not study until the night before and got a terrible grade on that test, but that was the _____ conclusion of my _____.

- A. inevitable . . procrastination
- B. scrupulous . . absolution
- C. encyclical . . obsolescence
- D. ligneous . . intolerance
- E. opportunistic . . intemperance

Solutions:

1. **Answer: E. superficial** - "Superficial" means appearing to be minor or on the surface, which fits the context of a wound that seemed harmless but was actually serious. "Abnormal" (unusual), "carnivorous" (meat-eating), "gratuitous" (unnecessary), and "mediocre" (average)

do not convey the misleading appearance of the wound as effectively.

2. **Answer: A. asylum** - "Asylum" means protection granted to political refugees, fitting the context of people fleeing Cuba for safety. "Meditation" (deep thought), "rejuvenation" (restoration), "egotism" (self-centeredness), and "urgency" (need for quick action) do not describe the type of protection sought.

3. **Answer: A. disdain . . condescending** - "Disdain" means a feeling of contempt, and "condescending" means having an attitude of superiority, both fitting the context of Connor's behavior towards Aaron. "Irrelevance" (lack of importance), "eligible" (qualified), "patriotism" (love for one's country), "socialist" (advocating socialism), "avarice" (greed), "casual" (relaxed), "remission" (reduction), and "eloquent" (fluent) do not fit the context as well.

4. **Answer: B. provocative** - "Provocative" means causing a strong reaction, fitting the context of controversial photos. "Banal" (boring), "foppish" (dandyish), "mercenary" (motivated by money), and "vacuous" (empty-headed) do not describe the nature of the photos as effectively.

5. **Answer: B. anachronistic** - "Anachronistic" means belonging to a different time period, fitting the context of her outdated appearance. "Evanescient" (vanishing), "valorous" (brave), "litigious" (prone to lawsuits), and "neutral" (unbiased) do not convey the sense of being out of place in time.

6. **Answer: C. convergence** - "Convergence" means coming together, fitting the context of disorderly fans causing fights. "Nomination" (appointment), "addendum" (addition), "prominence" (importance), and "mockery" (ridicule) do not describe the situation of fans coming together and resulting in violence.

7. **Answer: C. hedonistic** - "Hedonistic" means seeking pleasure, fitting the context of wild behavior leading to trouble. "Motley" (varied), "nautical" (related to sailors), "resilient" (able to recover), and "benign" (harmless) do not describe the indulgent behavior as effectively.

8. **Answer: B. suppress . . jubilation** - "Suppress" means to hold back, and "jubilation" means great joy, fitting the context of Sara's excitement after winning. "Beset" (troubled), "extortion" (blackmail), "mesmerize" (captivate), "telepathy" (mind reading), "wrangle" (argue), "appellation" (name), "tantalize" (tease), and "disillusion" (disappointment) do not fit the context as well.

9. **Answer: A. prosperity** - "Prosperity" means wealth and success, fitting the context of the nation's financial health. "Dispensation" (exemption), "adjuration" (earnest request), "remission" (reduction), and "upheaval" (disruption) do not fit the context of economic success.

10. **Answer: B. surreptitiously** - "Surreptitiously" means secretly, fitting the context of avoiding detection past curfew. "Vivaciously" (lively), "absurdly" (ridiculously), "chaotically" (disorderly), and "ignominiously" (shamefully) do not describe the need for stealth.

11. **Answer: D. novice** - "Novice" means beginner, fitting the context of John being new but enthusiastic. "Imitator" (copycat), "scholar" (academic), "arbiter" (judge), and "tyrant" (oppressive ruler) do not fit the context of someone new to a job.

12. **Answer: A. inevitable . . procrastination** - "Inevitable" means unavoidable, and "procrastination" means delaying, fitting the context of poor preparation leading to a bad grade. "Scrupulous" (careful), "absolution" (forgiveness), "encyclical" (letter), "obsolescence" (becoming outdated), "ligneous" (wooden), "intolerance" (unwillingness to accept), "opportunistic" (taking advantage), and

"intemperance" (lack of moderation) do not fit the context as well.

SAT Sentence Completion ***Practice Test 36***

1. The difference between the paint swatches labeled "off-white" and "cream" was too _____ for Fabian to detect.

A. passive
B. acetic
C. garrulous
D. dilatory
E. subtle

2. The interior designer's colorful aesthetic was clearly a(n) _____ talent, as she had no formal education or training before creating her successful business.

A. equestrian
B. jocular
C. momentary
D. intuitive
E. counterfeit

3. The _____ feelings of patriotic camaraderie disappeared a few months after the terrorist attacks.

A. acrimonious
B. venerable
C. transient
D. paternal
E. formidable

4. The _____ certainly made some rousing speeches, but he proved to have a flimsy platform and no solutions when tested at the electoral debates.

A. freemason
B. gendarme
C. harbinger
D. demagogue
E. prodigy

5. Henry VIII was such a paranoid leader that he thought anyone who disagreed with him was

_____, and he never allowed anyone to
_____ his position of power.

- A. unctuous . . entrench
- B. perfidious . . usurp
- C. cadaverous . . exacerbate
- D. altruistic . . outride
- E. enthusiastic . . satirize

6. Janelle could not be counted on to be
_____, as she was always insensitive to
other people's feelings and indiscreet about
personal information.

- A. sanctimonious
- B. vapid
- C. whimsical
- D. frivolous
- E. tactful

7. The architecture of the Baroque period, with its
gold-leaf ornamentation and opulent use of color, is
considered by many to be among the most
_____.

- A. tactful
- B. furtive
- C. conducive
- D. judicious
- E. ostentatious

8. I will be moving soon into a smaller house to
save money, so I will have to have a garage sale to
sell any _____ items.

- A. superfluous
- B. lackadaisical
- C. ravenous
- D. versatile
- E. callow

9. Despite his disagreeable run-in with the
homeless lady, Derek felt _____ for her
sad situation.

- A. compassion
- B. calumny
- C. abhorrence
- D. redundancy
- E. disinterest

10. The hate speech that the gentleman began to
express at our church meeting was met with boos
and he was asked to leave, since it was
_____ with the open and accepting nature
of our congregation.

- A. remonstrant
- B. correlative
- C. incompatible
- D. exhaustive
- E. onerous

11. Miranda considered it a matter of
_____ to defend her classmate who was
being taunted by the bully, even though she was
just as scared.

- A. abeyance
- B. integrity
- C. termination
- D. redolence
- E. extravagance

12. The friendship of a studious and _____
boy like Cliff will be a good influence on my
_____ and disrespectful nephew.

- A. factious . . observant
- B. bountiful . . statuesque
- C. intolerant . . frolicsome
- D. vulgar . . baritone
- E. benevolent . . enervating

Solutions:

1. Answer: E. subtle - "Subtle" means delicate or
precise, making it hard to detect, which fits the
context of Fabian finding it difficult to notice the
difference between two similar colors. "Passive"
(inactive), "acetic" (relating to vinegar),
"garrulous" (talkative), and "dilatory" (slow to act)
do not describe the slight difference in color that
would be hard to perceive.

2. Answer: D. intuitive - "Intuitive" means
knowing something instinctively without formal
education or training, which suits the context of the
designer's natural talent. "Equestrian" (related to
horse riding), "jocular" (humorous), "momentary"
(lasting for a very short time), and "counterfeit"

(fake) do not fit the context of an inherent artistic ability.

3. Answer: C. transient - "Transient" means temporary or short-lived, fitting the context of patriotic feelings that disappeared quickly after the attacks. "Acrimonious" (bitter), "venerable" (respected), "paternal" (fatherly), and "formidable" (causing fear) do not describe feelings that vanish quickly.

4. Answer: D. demagogue - "Demagogue" refers to a political leader who seeks support by appealing to desires and prejudices rather than rational argument, fitting the description of someone making rousing speeches but lacking real solutions. "Freemason" (a member of an international order), "gendarme" (a police officer), "harbinger" (a person or thing that announces or signals the approach of another), and "prodigy" (a young person with exceptional qualities or abilities) do not fit the context.

5. Answer: B. perfidious . . . usurp - "Perfidious" means deceitful and untrustworthy, fitting Henry VIII's paranoia about those who disagreed with him. "Usurp" means to take a position of power illegally or by force, which he would not allow. "Unctuous" (excessively flattering), "entrench" (establish firmly), "cadaverous" (resembling a corpse), "exacerbate" (make worse), "altruistic" (selfless), "outride" (surpass), "enthusiastic" (eager), and "satirize" (mock) do not accurately capture his distrust and protective nature over his power.

6. Answer: E. tactful - "Tactful" means having or showing sensitivity in dealing with others or with difficult issues, which Janelle lacks as she is insensitive and indiscreet. "Sanctimonious" (making a show of being morally superior), "vapid" (dull), "whimsical" (playfully fanciful), and "frivolous" (lacking seriousness) do not fit the context of being considerate and discreet.

7. Answer: E. ostentatious - "Ostentatious" means characterized by vulgar or pretentious display, fitting the Baroque period's elaborate and showy architecture. "Tactful" (considerate), "furtive" (secretive), "conducive" (making a certain situation or outcome likely), and "judicious" (having good

judgment) do not describe the extravagant nature of Baroque architecture.

8. Answer: A. superfluous - "Superfluous" means unnecessary, especially through being more than enough, fitting the context of items that need to be sold because they are not needed in a smaller house. "Lackadaisical" (lacking enthusiasm), "ravenous" (extremely hungry), "versatile" (able to adapt to many different functions), and "callow" (inexperienced) do not describe items that are excess or not needed.

9. Answer: A. compassion - "Compassion" means sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others, fitting Derek's feelings towards the homeless lady. "Calumny" (false and defamatory statements), "abhorrence" (a feeling of repulsion), "redundancy" (unnecessary repetition), and "disinterest" (lack of interest) do not match the context of sympathetic concern.

10. Answer: C. incompatible - "Incompatible" means unable to coexist or be in harmony, fitting the context of hate speech being at odds with the church's open and accepting nature. "Remonstrant" (protesting), "correlative" (mutually related), "exhaustive" (thorough), and "onerous" (burdensome) do not describe the conflict between hate speech and the church's values.

11. Answer: B. integrity - "Integrity" means the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles, fitting Miranda's sense of duty to defend her classmate. "Abeyance" (a state of temporary disuse or suspension), "termination" (ending), "redolence" (sweet smell), and "extravagance" (lack of restraint in spending money or using resources) do not describe her moral courage.

12. Answer: E. benevolent . . . enervating - "Benevolent" means well-meaning and kindly, fitting Cliff's studious nature, and "enervating" means causing one to feel drained of energy, fitting the nephew's disrespectful behavior. "Factious" (causing disagreement), "observant" (good at noticing things), "bountiful" (abundant), "statuesque" (attractive in a dignified way), "intolerant" (unwilling to accept views), "frolicsome" (playful), "vulgar" (lacking

sophistication), "baritone" (a male singing voice), do not accurately describe the influence of a good-natured boy on a disrespectful nephew.

SAT Sentence Completion

Practice Test 37

1. The Texans in the Alamo were unwilling to _____ with or surrender to Mexican General Santa Anna, and they paid the ultimate price.

- A. compromise
- B. bedeck
- C. ostracize
- D. vegetate
- E. convulse

2. I am not _____ : I would much rather drive my dad's vintage Volkswagen Beetle than be seen in my sister's flashy new sports car.

- A. disreputable
- B. fugacious
- C. pretentious
- D. impervious
- E. rampant

3. Roald Amundsen was a(n) _____ explorer; he was the first person to visit both the North and South poles.

- A. abrupt
- B. pugnacious
- C. tranquil
- D. generic
- E. intrepid

4. Every minute of Lara's life was scheduled and carefully planned, leaving no room for fun or _____.

- A. spontaneity
- B. grievance
- C. persecution
- D. absolution
- E. severance

5. Because of the threats against witnesses by gangs in the neighborhood, the best the police

could hope for was to receive _____ tips about the brazen shooting.

- A. versatile
- B. palatial
- C. brittle
- D. expressive
- E. anonymous

6. I asked Ellen many intimate questions about my relationship with deceased relatives to see if she could _____ her claim that she is clairvoyant.

- A. contaminate
- B. substantiate
- C. percolate
- D. deluge
- E. stifle

7. I was amazed at how _____ the mother was in the courtroom, considering the fact that she was looking into the eyes of her daughter's killer; I could not have had the same remarkable self-control.

- A. restrained
- B. studious
- C. astute
- D. livid
- E. expeditious

8. I did not believe that Madelyn was a _____ child until I heard her play the Mozart concerto.

- A. litigious
- B. subservient
- C. precocious
- D. coercive
- E. mediocre

9. The detective _____ every piece of information in the cold case file in an attempt to find new leads.

- A. scrutinized
- B. abominated
- C. deteriorated
- D. refracted
- E. transfused

10. None of what Katherine said about me is true, and I will confront her about making those _____ remarks.

- A. tranquil
- B. spurious
- C. penitential
- D. circuitous
- E. tireless

11. We have such _____ ideas about how to approach economic policy that I don't know how we will ever come to an agreement.

- A. mundane
- B. divergent
- C. negligent
- D. acoustic
- E. conformist

12. The _____ of the sixteenth-century church was expensive and time-consuming, but the visitors all agreed that it was remarkable to see the building restored to its former glory.

- A. obstruction
- B. capitulation
- C. renovation
- D. jurisdiction
- E. malediction

Solutions:

1. Answer: A. compromise - "Compromise" means to come to an agreement or make concessions, which the Texans were unwilling to do with General Santa Anna, leading to their ultimate sacrifice. "Bedeck" (decorate), "ostracize" (exclude from a group), "vegetate" (live a dull, inactive life), and "convulse" (suffer violent contractions) do not fit the context of negotiating or surrendering.

2. Answer: C. pretentious - "Pretentious" means attempting to impress by affecting greater importance, which contrasts with preferring the vintage Beetle over a flashy sports car. "Disreputable" (not respectable), "fugacious" (fleeting), "impervious" (not affected by), and "rampant" (widespread) do not convey the idea of avoiding ostentation.

3. Answer: E. intrepid - "Intrepid" means fearless and adventurous, fitting the description of Amundsen as the first to explore both poles. "Abrupt" (sudden), "pugnacious" (eager to fight), "tranquil" (calm), and "generic" (general) do not capture the courage and boldness of Amundsen's explorations.

4. Answer: A. spontaneity - "Spontaneity" means the quality of being spontaneous and unplanned, which Lara's life lacked. "Grievance" (complaint), "persecution" (hostile treatment), "absolution" (forgiveness), and "severance" (ending) do not relate to unplanned fun.

5. Answer: E. anonymous - "Anonymous" means not identified by name, fitting the context of tips given in secret due to gang threats. "Versatile" (able to adapt), "palatial" (resembling a palace), "brittle" (easily broken), and "expressive" (effectively conveying thought) do not describe the nature of the tips.

6. Answer: B. substantiate - "Substantiate" means to provide evidence to support or prove the truth of something, fitting the context of verifying clairvoyant claims. "Contaminate" (make impure), "percolate" (filter through), "deluge" (flood), and "stifle" (suppress) do not relate to providing proof.

7. Answer: A. restrained - "Restrained" means controlled and not excessive, describing the mother's composure in court. "Studious" (dedicated to studying), "astute" (shrewd), "livid" (furiously angry), and "expeditious" (quick) do not capture the self-control shown.

8. Answer: C. precocious - "Precocious" means having developed certain abilities at an earlier age than usual, fitting the description of a child who plays a Mozart concerto. "Litigious" (prone to engage in lawsuits), "subservient" (submissive), "coercive" (forcing), and "mediocre" (average) do not describe advanced talent.

9. Answer: A. scrutinized - "Scrutinized" means examined closely, which is what the detective did with the case file. "Abominated" (loathed), "deteriorated" (became worse), "refracted" (bent light), and "transfused" (transferred) do not fit the context of careful examination.

10. Answer: B. spurious - "Spurious" means false or fake, describing the remarks made by Katherine. "Tranquil" (calm), "penitential" (showing sorrow), "circuitous" (indirect), and "tireless" (without getting tired) do not convey the falsity of the remarks.

11. Answer: B. divergent - "Divergent" means differing or deviating, which describes the differing ideas on economic policy. "Mundane" (ordinary), "negligent" (careless), "acoustic" (related to sound), and "conformist" (following norms) do not fit the context of differing ideas.

12. Answer: C. renovation - "Renovation" means restoring to a good state of repair, fitting the context of restoring the sixteenth-century church. "Obstruction" (blockage), "capitulation" (surrender), "jurisdiction" (authority), and "malediction" (curse) do not relate to the process of restoration.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 38**

1. I hope that there are _____ circumstances to justify your arriving home past curfew.

- A. meticulous
- B. translucent
- C. voracious
- D. deplorable
- E. extenuating

2. Eric's ability to avoid jail time is _____ upon his performing 1,000 hours of community service.

- A. devious
- B. nocturnal
- C. ambidextrous
- D. irritable
- E. conditional

3. It seems impossible after our decades-long friendship, but our former _____ has disappeared completely because of your betrayal.

- A. camaraderie
- B. nomination
- C. rebelliousness
- D. intrusion
- E. subsistence

4. The teacher said that Iago was the _____ in Shakespeare's famous play, but I felt that Othello was not exactly the hero of the story, as he also acted cruelly and selfishly.

- A. journalist
- B. matron
- C. laureate
- D. recluse
- E. antagonist

5. Gwendolyn did not apologize because she cares about Stacy's feelings; she only acted in a(n) _____ way to avoid _____ from her peers, who said she had behaved poorly.

- A. diligent . . lunacy
- B. exemplary . . pantomime
- C. accessible . . mutiny
- D. contrite . . censure
- E. logical . . martyrdom

6. Because Carol was deathly allergic to peanuts, she was forced to _____ from eating many of the treats at Dustin's birthday party.

- A. paralyze
- B. interrogate
- C. castigate
- D. abstain
- E. dilate

7. In this age of viral videos and social media, fame comes quickly, but it is also _____, since people swiftly move on to the next fad.

- A. intracellular
- B. laborious
- C. pastoral
- D. evanescent
- E. redolent

8. The defense lawyer knew that the evidence against his client was unfavorable, so he would

have to depend on _____ from the jury to gain _____ for his client.

- A. reminiscence . . turpitude
- B. urgency . . venom
- C. empathy . . leniency
- D. courtesy . . repentance
- E. cynicism . . deformity

9. She was once a(n) _____ person, but she became angry and _____ after the car accident left her paralyzed and scarred.

- A. effervescent . . reclusive
- B. degenerate . . nonpareil
- C. doleful . . obnoxious
- D. expeditious . . rigorous
- E. munificent . . perspicacious

10. The scientist worked around the clock to find an antibiotic that could eliminate this deadly, _____ strain of bacteria.

- A. ribald
- B. seditious
- C. ignoble
- D. docile
- E. virulent

11. After taking the three-hour tour of the Grand Canyon on foot, the kids and I fell in love with the _____ but beautiful landscape of the Arizona desert.

- A. parched
- B. resilient
- C. ecstatic
- D. inquisitive
- E. furtive

12. Your _____ explanation is making it hard for me to focus and fully understand the complicated physics problem you are talking about.

- A. orthodox
- B. circuitous
- C. averse
- D. inseparable

Solutions:

1. **Answer: E. extenuating** - "Extenuating" means making a fault or offense seem less serious or more forgivable. This fits the context of circumstances that justify breaking curfew. "Meticulous" (showing great attention to detail), "translucent" (allowing light to pass through), "voracious" (having a huge appetite), and "deplorable" (deserving strong condemnation) do not fit the context of justifying circumstances as well as "extenuating."

2. **Answer: E. conditional** - "Conditional" means dependent on certain conditions or terms. Eric's ability to avoid jail time depends on his completing community service, making "conditional" the appropriate word. "Devious" (dishonest), "nocturnal" (active at night), "ambidextrous" (able to use both hands equally well), and "irritable" (easily annoyed) do not fit the context of dependence on a condition.

3. **Answer: A. camaraderie** - "Camaraderie" means mutual trust and friendship among people who spend a lot of time together. The sentence describes a loss of a close friendship due to betrayal, making "camaraderie" the best choice. "Nomination" (the action of nominating), "rebelliousness" (resistance to authority), "intrusion" (unwelcome entry), and "subsistence" (the minimum necessary for life) do not describe the nature of the relationship as accurately.

4. **Answer: E. antagonist** - "Antagonist" means a person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something. In the context of a play, this fits the role of Iago, who opposes Othello. "Journalist" (a writer for newspapers), "matron" (a woman in charge of domestic and medical arrangements), "laureate" (a person honored for achievement), and "recluse" (a person who lives a solitary life) do not fit the context of the opposing character in a play.

5. **Answer: D. contrite . . . censure** - "Contrite" means feeling or expressing remorse, and "censure" means strong disapproval or criticism. Gwendolyn's actions were motivated by a desire to avoid criticism from her peers, making this pairing the best choice. "Diligent" (showing care and effort), "exemplary" (serving as a desirable model), "accessible" (easy to approach), and "logical" (reasonable) paired with "lunacy" (insanity), "pantomime" (a dramatic performance), "mutiny" (rebellion), and "martyrdom" (suffering for a cause) do not convey the intended meaning as well.
6. **Answer: D. abstain** - "Abstain" means to restrain oneself from doing or enjoying something. Carol avoids eating treats due to her allergy, making "abstain" the most suitable choice. "Paralyze" (to cause immobility), "interrogate" (to question), "castigate" (to reprimand), and "dilate" (to make wider) do not fit the context of refraining from eating.
7. **Answer: D. evanescent** - "Evanescent" means quickly fading or disappearing. This describes the fleeting nature of fame in the age of viral videos. "Intracellular" (within cells), "laborious" (requiring much effort), "pastoral" (related to countryside), and "redolent" (strongly reminiscent) do not describe the transient nature of fame as effectively.
8. **Answer: C. empathy . . . leniency** - "Empathy" means the ability to understand and share the feelings of another, and "leniency" means being more merciful or tolerant than expected. The lawyer hopes for understanding and mercy from the jury, making this the best choice. "Reminiscence" (recalling past events), "urgency" (importance requiring swift action), "courtesy" (politeness), and "cynicism" (skepticism) paired with "turpitude" (wickedness), "venom" (malice), "repentance" (regret), and "deformity" (disfigurement) do not convey the desired courtroom outcome as well.

9. **Answer: A. effervescent . . . reclusive** - "Effervescent" means lively and enthusiastic, and "reclusive" means avoiding the company of others. The contrast highlights the change in personality after the accident. "Degenerate" (morally corrupt), "doleful" (sorrowful), "expeditious" (quick), and "munificent" (generous) paired with "nonpareil" (unequaled), "obnoxious" (unpleasant), "rigorous" (strict), and "perspicacious" (keen) do not capture the drastic change from positive to withdrawn behavior as effectively.
10. **Answer: E. virulent** - "Virulent" means extremely harmful or poisonous. This describes the deadly strain of bacteria the scientist is trying to eliminate. "Ribald" (vulgar), "seditious" (inciting rebellion), "ignoble" (dishonorable), and "docile" (submissive) do not fit the context of describing a deadly bacterial strain.
11. **Answer: A. parched** - "Parched" means extremely dry, fitting the description of the Arizona desert landscape. "Resilient" (able to recover), "ecstatic" (joyful), "inquisitive" (curious), and "furtive" (secretive) do not describe the desert environment as accurately.
12. **Answer: B. circuitous** - "Circuitous" means longer than the most direct way, fitting the description of an explanation that is hard to follow. "Orthodox" (conventional), "averse" (having a strong dislike), and "inseparable" (unable to be separated) do not describe the convoluted nature of the explanation as effectively.

SAT Sentence Completion

Practice Test 39

1. Eddie's _____ for the band was obvious; not only did he own every album, but he also collected Beatles memorabilia and studio-session recordings.

- A. aversion
B. coalescence

- C. reverence
D. dismissal
E. insomnia

2. Researchers are working diligently on ways to _____ the picture quality of the old films, which have become faded with age.

- A. invert
B. enhance
C. paralyze
D. abase
E. reprimand

3. We all gathered around to hear Uncle Clark's and Aunt Sue's _____ of their trip to Tierra del Fuego and Antarctica.

- A. theology
B. variance
C. entrails
D. jargon
E. anecdotes

4. It is going to take a great deal of _____ to get Harriet's CD back; Carrie will have to sneak into the room when her sister is not around and avoid moving her things out of place.

- A. kinship
B. legerdemain
C. bulwark
D. suffrage
E. needlework

5. The _____ of my argument is simple: I could not have been at the bar when you said I was, since I was in the library studying, and Mary can back me up on that claim.

- A. dissertation
B. brimstone
C. linchpin
D. paradox
E. memento

6. The criminal's _____ for finely tailored suits was his downfall; he wore them so often that it was easy for witnesses to remember him and point him out to the police.

- A. proclivity
B. sarcasm
C. gratuity
D. denouement
E. trepidation

7. Many people in this country feel that our legal system is bogged down by _____ lawsuits by people who are looking for money or fame, not for justice.

- A. delectable
B. ungainly
C. blithe
D. chromatic
E. frivolous

8. The woman's _____ about the dangers of kryptonite in the city's drinking water made it clear to police that she was not a credible witness.

- A. radiance
B. harangue
C. moratorium
D. zephyr
E. colloquialism

9. If Terrence had a(n) _____ of decency, he would have removed that _____ durian fruit from the room before the terrible odor made Maria gag.

- A. coincidence . . mandatory
B. comparison . . misanthropic
C. irritant . . equivalent
D. modicum . . pungent
E. macrocosm . . epizootic

10. She wore the most beautiful dress, made of a(n) _____ fabric that made her look as though she were dressed in sunlight.

- A. estimable
B. antediluvian
C. diaphanous
D. vociferous
E. philharmonic

11. There is a _____ relationship between the two brothers; they are just one small

misunderstanding away from never speaking to each other again.

- A. tenuous
- B. phonetic
- C. nefarious
- D. bellicose
- E. fallacious

12. The laconic, timid girl was the exact opposite of her _____, extroverted mother.

- A. ferocious
- B. auriferous
- C. endemic
- D. pious
- E. garrulous

Solutions:

1. Answer: C. reverence - "Reverence" means deep respect, which fits the context of Eddie's extensive collection and admiration for the band. "Aversion" (strong dislike), "coalescence" (coming together), "dismissal" (rejecting), and "insomnia" (inability to sleep) do not align with the described behavior. Therefore, "reverence" is the best choice as it indicates his profound admiration for the band.

2. Answer: B. enhance - "Enhance" means to improve the quality, fitting the goal of researchers to improve the picture quality of old films. "Invert" (turn upside down), "paralyze" (immobilize), "abase" (degrade), and "reprimand" (scold) do not suit the context of improving picture quality. Thus, "enhance" is the most appropriate choice.

3. Answer: E. anecdotes - "Anecdotes" are short, amusing, or interesting stories about real incidents, fitting the context of hearing about a trip. "Theology" (study of religion), "variance" (difference), "entrails" (internal organs), and "jargon" (specialized language) do not relate to storytelling about a trip. Hence, "anecdotes" is the best fit.

4. Answer: B. legerdemain - "Legerdemain" means skillful use of one's hands when performing conjuring tricks, implying trickery or deceit, fitting the context of sneakily getting the CD back. "Kinship" (family relationship), "bulwark"

(defensive wall), "suffrage" (the right to vote), and "needlework" (sewing) do not fit the context. Therefore, "legerdemain" is the correct choice.

5. Answer: C. linchpin - "Linchpin" means a central element that holds various parts together, fitting the context of the main point of an argument. "Dissertation" (long essay), "brimstone" (sulfur, often implying anger), "paradox" (self-contradictory statement), and "memento" (souvenir) do not align with the core point of an argument. Thus, "linchpin" is the best answer.

6. Answer: A. proclivity - "Proclivity" means a tendency to choose or do something regularly, fitting the criminal's habit of wearing tailored suits. "Sarcasm" (use of irony), "gratuity" (tip), "denouement" (final outcome), and "trepidation" (fear) do not relate to habitual behavior. Therefore, "proclivity" is the correct choice.

7. Answer: E. frivolous - "Frivolous" means not having any serious purpose or value, fitting the context of lawsuits lacking genuine intent for justice. "Delectable" (delicious), "ungainly" (awkward), "blithe" (carefree), and "chromatic" (relating to color) do not describe the nature of the lawsuits. Thus, "frivolous" is the best fit.

8. Answer: B. harangue - "Harangue" means a lengthy and aggressive speech, fitting the woman's intense and unconvincing warning about kryptonite. "Radiance" (brightness), "moratorium" (temporary prohibition), "zephyr" (gentle breeze), and "colloquialism" (informal language) do not fit the context of an intense and unconvincing warning. Hence, "harangue" is the correct choice.

9. Answer: D. modicum . . pungent - "Modicum" means a small quantity, and "pungent" means having a strong, sharp smell, fitting the context of removing a strongly smelling fruit. "Coincidence" (occurrence of events at the same time by chance) paired with "mandatory" (required), "comparison" (examination of similarities) with "misanthropic" (disliking humankind), "irritant" (causing annoyance) with "equivalent" (equal), and "macrocosm" (large-scale representation) with "epizootic" (disease outbreak in animals) do not fit the context. Therefore, "modicum" and "pungent" are the best choices.

10. Answer: C. diaphanous - "Diaphanous" means light, delicate, and translucent, fitting the description of a fabric that looks like sunlight. "Estimable" (worthy of respect), "antediluvian" (ancient), "vociferous" (loud), and "philharmonic" (related to a symphony orchestra) do not describe the fabric's appearance. Hence, "diaphanous" is the correct choice.

11. Answer: A. tenuous - "Tenuous" means very weak or slight, fitting the description of a fragile relationship. "Phonetic" (related to speech sounds), "nefarious" (wicked), "bellicose" (warlike), and "fallacious" (based on a mistaken belief) do not describe the fragile nature of the relationship. Thus, "tenuous" is the best answer.

12. Answer: E. garrulous - "Garrulous" means excessively talkative, fitting the description of the mother who is the opposite of the laconic (brief and to the point) daughter. "Ferocious" (fierce), "auriferous" (containing gold), "endemic" (native), and "pious" (devoutly religious) do not describe the talkative nature of the mother. Therefore, "garrulous" is the correct choice.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 40**

1. As we toured the streets of Paris, we were overwhelmed by the _____ of the architecture, especially the beautiful bridges along the Seine River.

- A. zenith
- B. pulchritude
- C. expulsion
- D. irreverence
- E. detriment

2. I grew tired of listening to the politician's _____ speeches about the importance of family, especially since I knew that she hadn't spoken to her mother in more than five years.

- A. sanctimonious
- B. desultory
- C. infrequent
- D. neglectful
- E. concurrent

3. We hold up historical figures like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln as _____ of American bravery and patriotism.

- A. nemesis
- B. typography
- C. vernacular
- D. paragons
- E. assessors

4. I was being _____ when I said I knew all about how to use the latest programs; I do not know anything about them, since I am in fact a _____ at graphic design.

- A. atrocious . . mendicant
- B. mendacious . . neophyte
- C. immaterial . . prospector
- D. diplomatic . . spinster
- E. audacious . . collier

5. Emily did not let me into her room, as she did not want me to laugh at her and _____ her obsession with My Little Pony dolls.

- A. carouse
- B. enshrine
- C. redress
- D. deride
- E. legislate

6. Contemporaries described Catherine the Great as _____; betray her once, and you lost her confidence forever.

- A. implacable
- B. minute
- C. reliant
- D. winsome
- E. granular

7. It was not my intention to _____ Sandra with my album choices for our road trip, as I could not imagine that someone could hate the Bee Gees so much.

- A. dispossess
- B. vex
- C. atone

- D. recede
E. consecrate

8. Karen's accusations that I cheated to win the baking contest threaten to _____ my reputation as an honest competitor.

- A. rebuild
B. underlie
C. stimulate
D. wrangle
E. defile

9. Colin had reached the _____ of his career as a comedian when he could not even book a performance at amateur night in the sleazy Hoboken Club.

- A. zeitgeist
B. epitome
C. junction
D. nadir
E. omission

10. The buffet was _____ with dishes from around the world; it seemed as though every nation was represented with at least two examples of their local cuisine.

- A. replete
B. inconceivable
C. ghastly
D. duteous
E. inedible

11. Unfortunately for President Lincoln, General McClellan proved to be an ineffectual and _____ leader, unable to be decisive on the battlefield.

- A. inexhaustible
B. populous
C. capricious
D. stupendous
E. corpulent

12. My experience at the seminar was amazing; I learned a great deal and thoroughly enjoyed the intelligent _____ between the political science experts.

- A. hillock
B. repartee
C. grotto
D. homonym
E. cosmos

Solutions:

1. Answer: B. pulchritude - "Pulchritude" means physical beauty, fitting the description of being overwhelmed by the beauty of the architecture and bridges in Paris. "Zenith" (the highest point), "expulsion" (the process of forcing someone to leave), "irreverence" (lack of respect), and "detriment" (harm or damage) do not match the context of appreciating the beauty of architecture.

2. Answer: A. sanctimonious - "Sanctimonious" means making a show of being morally superior to others, which fits the context of the politician's speeches about family values despite her own behavior. "Desultory" (lacking a plan or purpose), "infrequent" (occurring rarely), "neglectful" (failing to take proper care), and "concurrent" (happening at the same time) do not accurately describe the hypocritical nature of the politician's speeches.

3. Answer: D. paragons - "Paragons" means models of excellence or perfection, fitting the description of historical figures like Washington and Lincoln as exemplars of bravery and patriotism. "Nemesis" (a long-standing rival), "typography" (the style and appearance of printed matter), "vernacular" (the language spoken by ordinary people), and "assessors" (people who evaluate something) do not fit the context.

4. Answer: B. mendacious . . neophyte - "Mendacious" means lying, and "neophyte" means a beginner or novice, which fits the context of someone pretending to know something about graphic design when they actually don't. "Atrocious" (horribly bad), "mendicant" (beggar), "immaterial" (irrelevant), "prospector" (someone who searches for minerals), "diplomatic" (tactful), "spinster" (an unmarried woman), "audacious" (bold), and "collier" (coal miner) do not fit the context as well.

5. Answer: D. deride - "Deride" means to mock or ridicule, fitting the context of someone laughing at

and mocking another's obsession. "Carouse" (drink and enjoy oneself noisily), "enshrine" (preserve in a form that ensures it will be protected and respected), "redress" (remedy or set right), and "legislate" (make or enact laws) do not accurately describe the act of mocking.

6. Answer: A. implacable - "Implacable" means unable to be appeased or pacified, fitting the description of someone who does not forgive betrayal. "Minute" (very small), "reliant" (dependent), "winsome" (attractive or appealing), and "granular" (resembling grains) do not fit the context of an unforgiving nature.

7. Answer: B. vex - "Vex" means to annoy or irritate, which fits the context of unintentionally annoying someone with music choices. "Dispossess" (deprive someone of something), "atone" (make amends), "recede" (go or move back), and "consecrate" (make or declare sacred) do not fit the context of causing annoyance.

8. Answer: E. defile - "Defile" means to spoil or sully, fitting the context of accusations threatening to ruin someone's reputation. "Rebuild" (construct again), "underlie" (be the cause or basis of something), "stimulate" (encourage interest or activity), and "wrangle" (have a long and complicated dispute) do not match the context of damaging a reputation.

9. Answer: D. nadir - "Nadir" means the lowest point, fitting the context of reaching the lowest point of a career. "Zeitgeist" (the defining spirit or mood of a particular period), "epitome" (a perfect example of something), "junction" (a point where two things join), and "omission" (someone or something that has been left out) do not accurately describe the low point in a career.

10. Answer: A. replete - "Replete" means filled or well-supplied, fitting the context of a buffet filled with dishes from around the world. "Inconceivable" (unimaginable), "ghastly" (horrifying), "duteous" (obedient), and "inedible" (not fit to be eaten) do not describe a buffet filled with a variety of dishes.

11. Answer: C. capricious - "Capricious" means given to sudden changes of mood or behavior, fitting the description of a leader unable to be

decisive. "Inexhaustible" (unable to be used up), "populous" (densely populated), "stupendous" (extremely impressive), and "corpulent" (fat) do not describe the indecisive nature of the leader.

12. Answer: B. repartee - "Repartee" means quick and witty conversation, fitting the context of intelligent and enjoyable dialogue at a seminar. "Hillock" (a small hill), "grotto" (a small cave), "homonym" (a word that is pronounced the same as another but differs in meaning), and "cosmos" (the universe) do not fit the context of a seminar conversation.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 41**

1. After going to the annual quilt show, Nancy was overwhelmed by the _____ of _____ fabrics and patterns to choose from for her next project.

- A. surfeit . . multifarious
- B. abrasion . . outrageous
- C. circumference . . partisan
- D. drudgery . . rebellious
- E. omniscience . . boorish

2. Georgia told Melissa that she was never going to find a boyfriend sufficiently _____ for her taste, since she demands round-the-clock attention and constant compliments.

- A. botanical
- B. obsequious
- C. discernible
- D. spasmodic
- E. fictitious

3. At the gallery, we were delighted with the _____ of the delicate, airy watercolor paintings and the bulky, ornate frames; the contrast really made the artwork come alive.

- A. pyromania
- B. stoicism
- C. opulence
- D. locomotion
- E. juxtaposition

4. The CEO had to be fired, since the company could not defend his malicious _____ against their top rival, which was caught on tape and played endlessly on cable news.

- A. alienation
- B. palette
- C. invective
- D. forecast
- E. proctor

5. Our new, _____ supervisor is constantly reminding us about the company's dress code and the types of decorations that are allowed in employees' cubicles.

- A. punctilious
- B. munificent
- C. foreordained
- D. odoriferous
- E. surreptitious

6. We were forced to fire Todd because of his tardiness as well as the _____ jokes he would tell, despite being told that most people in the office found them offensive.

- A. susceptible
- B. inquisitive
- C. judicious
- D. ribald
- E. legible

7. Social media websites, while entertaining and a great way to bring people together, are _____; irresponsible posts can ruin your college and job prospects.

- A. legitimate
- B. plebeian
- C. sanctimonious
- D. cadaverous
- E. insidious

8. After receiving her master's degree in petroleum engineering, Carol has a(n) _____ of job options, as there are too few graduates to fill the many open positions out there.

- A. cacophony
- B. epiphany

- C. plethora
- D. bureaucracy
- E. iniquity

9. I am going to have my aunt read my college application essay, since she is intelligent and _____, making her the perfect proofreader.

- A. inimical
- B. mawkish
- C. supple
- D. fastidious
- E. profligate

10. The _____ with which Chuck called Melody after getting her phone number was not surprising, considering how beautiful she is and how enchanted he was by her at their first meeting.

- A. suspension
- B. tenet
- C. vivisection
- D. derision
- E. alacrity

11. The origin of the phrase "dressed to the nines" is unknown, but some historians _____ that it came from the amount of fabric needed to create an expensive, elegant garment.

- A. disavow
- B. surmise
- C. uproot
- D. protrude
- E. officiate

12. Selena does not realize that her _____ makes her arguments sound more condescending than _____.

- A. pyromania . . rabid
- B. qualm . . supine
- C. grandiloquence . . cogent
- D. zeal . . euphonious
- E. minion . . phlegmatic

Solutions:

1. Answer: A. surfeit . . multifarious - "Surfeit" means an excessive amount, and "multifarious"

means having many varied parts or aspects, fitting the context of Nancy being overwhelmed by many choices. "Abrasion" (scraping), "outrageous" (shockingly bad), "circumference" (distance around a circle), "partisan" (strong supporter), "drudgery" (hard, monotonous work), "rebellious" (resisting control), "omniscience" (all-knowing), and "boorish" (rude) do not accurately describe the abundance and variety of fabrics and patterns.

2. Answer: B. obsequious - "Obsequious" means excessively eager to please or obey, fitting Melissa's demand for constant attention and compliments. "Botanical" (related to plants), "discernible" (able to be perceived), "spasmodic" (occurring irregularly), and "fictitious" (imaginary) do not convey the sycophantic behavior that Melissa seeks in a boyfriend.

3. Answer: E. juxtaposition - "Juxtaposition" means the fact of two things being seen or placed close together with contrasting effect, fitting the context of contrasting delicate paintings with bulky frames. "Pyromania" (compulsion to start fires), "stoicism" (endurance of pain without showing feelings), "opulence" (great wealth), and "locomotion" (movement) do not capture the idea of contrast that enhances the artwork.

4. Answer: C. invective - "Invective" means insulting or abusive language, which fits the context of the CEO's malicious comments. "Alienation" (feeling of isolation), "palette" (range of colors), "forecast" (prediction), and "proctor" (supervisor) do not describe offensive speech.

5. Answer: A. punctilious - "Punctilious" means showing great attention to detail or correct behavior, fitting the context of a supervisor focused on dress code and decorations. "Munificent" (very generous), "foreordained" (predestined), "odoriferous" (giving off a smell), and "surreptitious" (secretive) do not describe a strict attention to rules and details.

6. Answer: D. ribald - "Ribald" means referring to sexual matters in an amusingly rude or irreverent way, fitting the context of Todd's offensive jokes. "Susceptible" (easily influenced), "inquisitive" (curious), "judicious" (having good judgment), and

"legible" (readable) do not describe inappropriate humor.

7. Answer: E. insidious - "Insidious" means proceeding in a gradual, subtle way, but with harmful effects, fitting the context of social media's potential to damage reputations. "Legitimate" (lawful), "plebeian" (common), "sanctimonious" (pretending to be morally superior), and "cadaverous" (resembling a corpse) do not capture the hidden dangers of social media.

8. Answer: C. plethora - "Plethora" means an abundance, fitting the context of Carol having many job options. "Cacophony" (harsh mixture of sounds), "epiphany" (sudden realization), "bureaucracy" (administrative system), and "iniquity" (immoral behavior) do not describe having many choices.

9. Answer: D. fastidious - "Fastidious" means very attentive to and concerned about accuracy and detail, fitting the context of an ideal proofreader. "Inimical" (hostile), "mawkish" (overly sentimental), "supple" (flexible), and "profligate" (wastefully extravagant) do not describe someone who is meticulous.

10. Answer: E. alacrity - "Alacrity" means brisk and cheerful readiness, fitting the context of Chuck's eagerness to call Melody. "Suspension" (temporary prevention), "tenet" (principle or belief), "vivisection" (dissection), and "derision" (mockery) do not convey eagerness.

11. Answer: B. surmise - "Surmise" means to suppose something is true without having evidence, fitting the context of historians hypothesizing about the origin of a phrase. "Disavow" (deny responsibility), "uproot" (remove), "protrude" (stick out), and "officiate" (act in an official capacity) do not fit the context of forming a hypothesis.

12. Answer: C. grandiloquence . . cogent - "Grandiloquence" means pompous speech, and "cogent" means clear, logical, and convincing, fitting the context of Selena's condescending but intended to be convincing arguments. "Pyromania" (compulsion to start fires), "rabid" (extremely enthusiastic), "qualm" (uneasiness), "supine" (lying

face upward), "zeal" (great energy), "euphonious" (pleasing to the ear), "minion" (follower), and "phlegmatic" (unemotional) do not describe the contrasting qualities of Selena's speech.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 42**

1. The consumerism that drives people to live beyond their means is a(n) _____ element of our society, driving individuals into the terrible chasm of debts they cannot repay.

- A. acoustic
- B. momentary
- C. galvanic
- D. innocuous
- E. pernicious

2. Nancy could not be _____ into joining the Girl Scouts, even though we pleaded endlessly and tried to tempt her with offers of free cookies.

- A. insinuated
- B. requited
- C. augured
- D. cajoled
- E. preordained

3. Snow White was young, beautiful, and _____, which angered the cruel and _____ queen, who chose to destroy her.

- A. winsome . . nefarious
- B. laconic . . productive
- C. puissant . . cosmetic
- D. artless . . convivial
- E. deceitful . . bombastic

4. Rebekah _____ between her suitors—the poor but loving Philip and the cold but wealthy Charles—unable to make a choice.

- A. burnished
- B. vacillated
- C. gesticulated
- D. surmised
- E. lacerated

5. The period between 1945 and 1992 is known as the Cold War, because the hostility between nations and the threat of nuclear destruction were _____ a perilous physical, "hot" war fought with bombs and guns.

- A. transcendent of
- B. ascendant to
- C. exorbitant in
- D. inherent of
- E. tantamount to

6. According to the school principal, the local government's ideas about how to distribute this year's taxes are so _____ that they will only lead to confusion and a misuse of funds.

- A. ashen
- B. draconian
- C. vernal
- D. nimble
- E. obtuse

7. *Into the Wild* is a book about a regular man from a middle-class background who chose to _____ his _____ lifestyle in order to live in the Alaskan wilderness, with tragic consequences.

- A. animate . . unutterable
- B. connive . . angular
- C. purloin . . defensible
- D. eschew . . conventional
- E. decipher . . uproarious

8. I know that Jessica took my iPod charger without asking; her shuffling feet and shifty eyes _____ her guilt.

- A. arrogate
- B. evince
- C. repudiate
- D. proscribe
- E. reprove

9. I am going to have to _____ my offer to drive the carpool this week, since I will be out of town.

- A. abase
- B. preoccupy

- C. cull
D. rescind
E. deign

10. Janice stayed up all night studying, and try as she might with coffee and energy drinks, she could not shake that _____ feeling the next morning.

- A. somnolent
B. quixotic
C. inchoate
D. effulgent
E. scurrilous

11. The governor held a press conference to publicly admit his wrongdoing in an attempt to prove that he was _____.

- A. cursory
B. execrable
C. fecund
D. contrite
E. unctuous

12. The chief of police vowed to find the people who _____ the cemetery by spray-painting the mausoleums and knocking over tombstones.

- A. abrogated
B. transmuted
C. desecrated
D. undulated
E. dissembled

Solutions:

1. **Answer: E. pernicious** - "Pernicious" means having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual or subtle way, which fits the context of consumerism leading people into unrepayable debt. "Acoustic" (related to sound), "momentary" (lasting for a very short time), "galvanic" (sudden and dramatic), and "innocuous" (harmless) do not accurately describe the harmful impact of consumerism. Therefore, "pernicious" is the best choice.
2. **Answer: D. cajoled** - "Cajoled" means to persuade someone to do something by

sustained coaxing or flattery. This fits the context of trying to persuade Nancy to join the Girl Scouts. "Insinuated" (implied), "requited" (returned), "augured" (predicted), and "preordained" (determined in advance) do not fit the context of persuasion. Hence, "cajoled" is the correct answer.

3. **Answer: A. winsome . . nefarious** - "Winsome" means attractive or appealing in appearance or character, and "nefarious" means wicked or criminal. This contrasts the innocence and attractiveness of Snow White with the evil nature of the queen. "Laconic" (using few words), "productive" (producing or capable of producing), "puissant" (powerful), "cosmetic" (superficial), "artless" (without deceit), "convivial" (friendly and lively), "deceitful" (dishonest), and "bombastic" (high-sounding but with little meaning) do not fit the described characters as well. Therefore, "winsome" and "nefarious" are the best choices.
4. **Answer: B. vacillated** - "Vacillated" means to waver between different opinions or actions, which fits Rebekah's indecision between her suitors. "Burnished" (polished), "gesticulated" (used gestures), "surmised" (guessed), and "lacerated" (torn or deeply cut) do not describe indecision. Thus, "vacillated" is the best choice.
5. **Answer: E. tantamount to** - "Tantamount to" means equivalent in seriousness to; virtually the same as, which fits the comparison of the Cold War to a physical, "hot" war. "Transcendent of" (surpassing), "ascendant to" (rising), "exorbitant in" (excessively high), and "inherent of" (naturally part of) do not convey the intended equivalence. Therefore, "tantamount to" is the correct answer.
6. **Answer: E. obtuse** - "Obtuse" means annoyingly insensitive or slow to understand, which fits the context of ideas

that lead to confusion and misuse of funds. "Ashen" (pale), "draconian" (excessively harsh), "vernal" (related to spring), and "nimble" (quick and light in movement) do not describe confusing or poorly thought-out ideas. Hence, "obtuse" is the best choice.

7. **Answer: D. eschew . . conventional** - "Eschew" means to deliberately avoid using; abstain from, and "conventional" means based on or in accordance with what is generally done or believed, fitting the context of choosing an unconventional lifestyle. "Animate" (bring to life), "unutterable" (too great or intense to describe), "connive" (secretly allow), "angular" (sharp-cornered), "purloin" (steal), "defensible" (justifiable), "decipher" (interpret), and "uproarious" (hilarious) do not fit the context. Thus, "eschew" and "conventional" are the best choices.
8. **Answer: B. evince** - "Evince" means to reveal the presence of (a quality or feeling), which fits the context of her actions showing her guilt. "Arrogate" (take without justification), "repudiate" (reject), "proscribe" (forbid), and "reprove" (criticize) do not fit the context of revealing guilt. Therefore, "evince" is the best choice.
9. **Answer: D. rescind** - "Rescind" means to revoke, cancel, or repeal, which fits the context of withdrawing an offer. "Abase" (humiliate), "preoccupy" (dominate the mind), "cull" (select), and "deign" (condescend) do not fit the context of cancelling an offer. Hence, "rescind" is the correct answer.
10. **Answer: A. somnolent** - "Somnolent" means sleepy or drowsy, which fits the context of Janice's feeling after staying up all night. "Quixotic" (idealistic), "inchoate" (just begun), "effulgent" (shining brightly), and "scurrilous" (vulgar) do not describe a sleepy state. Thus, "somnolent" is the best choice.

11. **Answer: D. contrite** - "Contrite" means feeling or expressing remorse, which fits the context of the governor admitting wrongdoing to show remorse. "Cursory" (hasty), "execrable" (extremely bad), "fecund" (fertile), and "unctuous" (excessively flattering) do not describe genuine remorse. Therefore, "contrite" is the best choice.

12. **Answer: C. desecrated** - "Desecrated" means to treat (a sacred place or thing) with violent disrespect, fitting the context of vandalizing a cemetery. "Abrogated" (repealed), "transmuted" (changed), "undulated" (moved in waves), and "dissembled" (concealed) do not fit the context of vandalism. Hence, "desecrated" is the correct answer.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 43**

1. Emily had been doing so well in English class that I was shocked to find that her latest essay assignment was full of _____ errors and obvious mistakes.

- A. vacuous
- B. incontrovertible
- C. egregious
- D. perfunctory
- E. sacrosanct

2. The _____ criminal thought that he could make a clean getaway in the stolen car, but unfortunately for him, it was equipped with a GPS-enabled security system.

- A. salient
- B. feral
- C. discursive
- D. oblique
- E. hapless

3. Of course Lana took _____ at your comments; she thought she looked great, but you said her hairstyle and clothes were sad and old-fashioned.

- A. sagacity
B. umbrage
C. iniquity
D. hegemony
E. panacea

4. My aunt Martha says that my generation's youth is _____: we do not respect our elders and we do not know what "polite conversation" is.

- A. impertinent
B. diffident
C. providential
D. voracious
E. primeval

5. Tensions between the two nations escalated when the president made _____ comments about the other country at a meeting of the United Nations.

- A. propitious
B. aerial
C. vapid
D. demure
E. pejorative

6. After seeing the poor results of my annual physical, I had to hear my doctor once again _____ the health benefits of regular exercise and a sensible diet.

- A. adumbrate
B. extol
C. impinge
D. dither
E. rebuke

7. The tuberculosis left her _____ and weak, but she maintained her joyful, _____ view of life until the end.

- A. execrable . . . pugnacious
B. cursory . . . restive
C. pallid . . . sanguine
D. desiccated . . . inimical
E. ebullient . . . fractious

8. When I see you hanging out in your room posting on Facebook, I _____ the premise that you cannot help your mother take out the trash.

- A. renounce
B. enervate
C. inveterate
D. obfuscate
E. decry

9. Clara was tired of her brother's teasing her that she had taken up a(n) _____ way of life, because she got rid of her Internet connection and gave up red meat.

- A. rife
B. scurrilous
C. tractable
D. ascetic
E. viscous

10. The look on my mother's face was essentially a(n) _____ refusal of my request to go to the party on the other side of town.

- A. tacit
B. variegated
C. exigent
D. languid
E. obstreperous

11. It is dangerous to _____ government policies in totalitarian regimes, since any criticism is often met with severe punishment.

- A. palliate
B. rebuke
C. decry
D. venerate
E. buffet

12. Harry is energetic and funny, but most people misinterpret his quiet voice and _____ responses as evidence that he's shy or awkward.

- A. impervious
B. laconic
C. obdurate
D. laborious
E. resurgent

Solutions:

1. **Answer: C. egregious** - "Egregious" means outstandingly bad or shocking,

fitting the description of an essay full of obvious mistakes. "Vacuous" (lacking intelligence), "incontrovertible" (undeniable), "perfunctory" (carried out with minimal effort), and "sacrosanct" (regarded as too important to be interfered with) do not accurately describe the level of error indicated in the context of the essay.

2. **Answer: E. hapless** - "Hapless" means unfortunate, which suits the context of the criminal's bad luck in being caught due to the GPS system. "Salient" (prominent), "feral" (wild), "discursive" (rambling), and "oblique" (indirect) do not fit the context of the criminal's unfortunate situation.
3. **Answer: B. umbrage** - "Umbrage" means offense or annoyance, fitting the context of Lana taking offense at the comments. "Sagacity" (wisdom), "iniquity" (wickedness), "hegemony" (dominance), and "panacea" (a solution for all problems) do not align with the idea of taking offense.
4. **Answer: A. impertinent** - "Impertinent" means not showing proper respect, which fits the description of the youth's perceived lack of respect for elders. "Diffident" (shy), "providential" (occurring at a favorable time), "voracious" (very eager), and "primeval" (ancient) do not match the context of disrespect and lack of polite conversation.
5. **Answer: E. pejorative** - "Pejorative" means expressing contempt or disapproval, suitable for the president's negative comments. "Propitious" (favorable), "aerial" (related to the air), "vapid" (dull), and "demure" (reserved) do not fit the context of escalating tensions with negative remarks.
6. **Answer: B. extol** - "Extol" means to praise enthusiastically, which fits the context of the doctor advocating for the health benefits. "Adumbrate" (outline), "impinge" (encroach), "dither" (be indecisive), and "rebuke" (criticize sharply) do not fit the context of positively advocating for health benefits.
7. **Answer: C. pallid . . sanguine** - "Pallid" means pale and weak, which fits the physical state left by tuberculosis, and "sanguine" means optimistic, fitting her positive outlook on life. "Execrable" (extremely bad), "cursory" (hasty), "desiccated" (dried up), "ebullient" (cheerful), and their respective pairings do not accurately describe the combination of physical weakness and a joyful outlook.
8. **Answer: E. decry** - "Decry" means to publicly denounce, fitting the context of criticizing the excuse for not helping. "Renounce" (formally declare abandonment), "enervate" (weaken), "inveterate" (habitual), and "obfuscate" (confuse) do not fit the context of rejecting an excuse.
9. **Answer: D. ascetic** - "Ascetic" means characterized by severe self-discipline, fitting the context of giving up luxuries like the Internet and red meat. "Rife" (abundant), "scurrilous" (offensively coarse), "tractable" (easy to control), and "viscous" (thick and sticky) do not fit the context of a disciplined lifestyle.
10. **Answer: A. tacit** - "Tacit" means understood without being stated, fitting the context of a refusal implied by a look. "Variegated" (having many different colors), "exigent" (demanding immediate attention), "languid" (slow and relaxed), and "obstreperous" (noisy and difficult to control) do not fit the context of a non-verbal refusal.
11. **Answer: C. decry** - "Decry" means to publicly denounce, fitting the context of criticizing government policies in a dangerous situation. "Palliate" (make less severe), "rebuke" (criticize sharply), "venerate" (regard with great respect), and "buffet" (strike repeatedly) do not fit the context of expressing criticism.
12. **Answer: B. laconic** - "Laconic" means using very few words, fitting the context

of short responses being mistaken for shyness. "Impervious" (not affected by), "obdurate" (stubborn), "laborious" (requiring effort), and "resurgent" (rising again) do not fit the context of brief responses.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 44**

1. My grandmother told wonderful stories about what it was like in New York City at the end of World War II, running in the streets among the _____ crowds.

- A. servile
- B. timorous
- C. ingenuous
- D. hostile
- E. jubilant

2. Florence Nightingale was brave and compassionate; she helped soldiers who had been wounded on remote, dangerous, _____ battlefields.

- A. limpid
- B. officious
- C. pellucid
- D. fetid
- E. maudlin

3. The Boy Scouts had been camping for five days to get a number of merit badges, so their pride and satisfaction with a wonderful experience was _____ with being happy to go home to a hot shower.

- A. delectable
- B. penurious
- C. concomitant
- D. solipsistic
- E. protean

4. Rupert's caustic, _____ personality makes him to us; we try to avoid his company as much as we can.

- A. extant . . antidote
- B. myriad . . maelstrom

- C. mercurial . . anathema
- D. solicitous . . iconoclast
- E. ostensible . . platitude

5. When the socialite was denied entry to the invitation-only party, she began to pout and stomp her feet like a _____ child.

- A. spurious
- B. querulous
- C. torpid
- D. derelict
- E. supernumerary

6. The young man was _____ in his quest to get the job of his dreams; he worked hard at several internships and contacted a number of college alumni, requesting interviews.

- A. pertinacious
- B. torrid
- C. jocose
- D. exemplary
- E. ichthyic

7. From afar, Beatrice looked like a pleasant, kind-hearted grandmother, but in reality, she had a cold, _____ personality.

- A. vitriolic
- B. illusive
- C. moribund
- D. penurious
- E. impious

8. The opposing team was _____ in their defeat; they congratulated us, and even invited some of us to go get a bite to eat after the game.

- A. perennial
- B. magnanimous
- C. inglorious
- D. eccentric
- E. trenchant

9. "The hostile _____ that is this administration's foreign policy is going to lead to misunderstandings, which could culminate in our nation's going to war," said the politician on the cable network show.

- A. veracity
- B. serendipity
- C. morass
- D. probity
- E. pathos

10. Even though the teacher caught her red-handed, Shannon had the _____ to deny using her smartphone during last week's test to search for answers on the Internet.

- A. portent
- B. perspicacity
- C. munificence
- D. temerity
- E. credulity

11. Although Apple computers seem to have a(n) _____ presence in the marketplace, they only account for five percent of sales.

- A. ineffable
- B. ubiquitous
- C. crustaceous
- D. harmonious
- E. noxious

12. The _____ produced by the stray cats in the neighborhood used to drive us crazy at night; it was impossible to get any sleep.

- A. paucity
- B. cacophony
- C. effrontery
- D. approbation
- E. conflagration

Solutions:

1. **Answer: E. jubilant** - "Jubilant" means showing great joy, fitting the context of crowds celebrating the end of World War II. "Servile" (submissive), "timorous" (fearful), "ingenuous" (innocent), and "hostile" (unfriendly) do not capture the celebratory mood described.
2. **Answer: D. fetid** - "Fetid" means having a strong, unpleasant smell, which aligns with the challenging conditions of battlefields. "Limpid" (clear), "officious" (meddlesome), "pellucid" (transparently clear), and "maudlin" (tearfully sentimental) do not fit the harsh description of battlefields.

3. **Answer: C. concomitant** -

"Concomitant" means naturally accompanying or associated, fitting the coexistence of their pride and satisfaction with the happiness of going home. "Delectable" (delicious), "penurious" (extremely poor), "solipsistic" (self-centered), and "protean" (versatile) do not match the context of simultaneous feelings.

4. **Answer: C. mercurial . . anathema** -

"Mercurial" means unpredictable and lively, and "anathema" means something or someone that one vehemently dislikes, fitting Rupert's personality. "Extant" (still in existence), "antidote" (a remedy), "myriad" (a countless number), "maelstrom" (a situation of confusion), "solicitous" (showing concern), "iconoclast" (a person who attacks cherished beliefs), "ostensible" (apparent), and "platitude" (a cliché) do not fit the sentence context as well.

5. **Answer: B. querulous** - "Querulous" means complaining in a petulant manner, fitting the socialite's behavior. "Spurious" (false), "torpid" (inactive), "derelict" (neglectful), and "supernumerary" (excessive) do not capture the whining and complaining attitude described.

6. **Answer: A. pertinacious** - "Pertinacious" means holding firmly to an opinion or a course of action, fitting the young man's determination. "Torrid" (very hot), "jocose" (playful), "exemplary" (serving as a desirable model), and "ichthyic" (related to fish) do not describe the young man's persistent efforts.

7. **Answer: A. vitriolic** - "Vitriolic" means filled with bitter criticism or malice, fitting Beatrice's cold personality. "Illusive" (deceptive), "moribund" (at the point of death), "penurious" (extremely

poor), and "impious" (lacking reverence) do not capture her harshness as well.

8. **Answer: B. magnanimous** -

"Magnanimous" means generous or forgiving, especially toward a rival or less powerful person, fitting the opposing team's gracious behavior. "Perennial" (lasting for a long time), "inglorious" (shameful), "eccentric" (unconventional), and "trenchant" (sharp or incisive) do not fit the context of gracious behavior.

9. **Answer: C. morass** - "Morass" means a complicated or confused situation, fitting the description of a problematic foreign policy. "Veracity" (truthfulness), "serendipity" (luck), "probity" (integrity), and "pathos" (emotional appeal) do not describe the tangled and difficult nature of the policy.

10. **Answer: D. temerity** - "Temerity" means excessive confidence or boldness, fitting Shannon's audacity to deny her actions. "Portent" (a sign of something about to happen), "perspicacity" (keen insight), "munificence" (generosity), and "credulity" (readiness to believe) do not capture the boldness described.

11. **Answer: B. ubiquitous** - "Ubiquitous" means present, appearing, or found everywhere, fitting the perception of Apple's presence in the marketplace. "Ineffable" (too great to be expressed in words), "crustaceous" (related to crustaceans), "harmonious" (in harmony), and "noxious" (harmful) do not describe the widespread presence as accurately.

12. **Answer: B. cacophony** - "Cacophony" means a harsh, discordant mixture of sounds, fitting the description of noise from stray cats. "Paucity" (scarcity), "effrontery" (shameless boldness), "approbation" (approval), and "conflagration" (a large fire) do not describe the loud and jarring noise.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 45**

1. It was oddly _____ that I chose to change my travel plans; I would have had to sit in my hotel room all week, because the hurricane made landfall the day after I was scheduled to arrive.

- A. nugatory
- B. oblong
- C. palpable
- D. redoubtable
- E. prescient

2. The _____ of Lauren's high school experience was being both homecoming queen and class valedictorian.

- A. acrimony
- B. zenith
- C. protrusion
- D. homage
- E. antipathy

3. The Cabinet member's resignation was not a total ____ : rumors of his imminent departure had been making the rounds in Washington for a week.

- A. withdrawal
- B. success
- C. shock
- D. eclipse
- E. pretense

4. The wagon train leaders chose to ____ their route when they realized that the heavy rains had made fording the river too ____ a task.

- A. question...uncomplicated
- B. disregard...common
- C. abandon...legitimate
- D. alter...impracticable
- E. follow...elusive

5. It is possible to analyze a literary work to death, ____ what should be a living experience as if it were a laboratory specimen.

- A. questioning
- B. dissecting
- C. amending
- D. nurturing
- E. reviving

6. Anthropologists traditionally argue that the male-female division of labor in hunter-gatherer societies arose because it ____ the nuclear family's joint interests and thereby represented a sound, ____ strategy.

- A. impaired...collaborative
- B. respected...divisive
- C. ignored...disinterested
- D. restricted...provisional
- E. promoted...cooperative

7. Because of its strength, adhesiveness, and invaluable qualities as a nest-building material, many species of birds ____ silk into their nests.

- A. smuggle
- B. jettison
- C. incorporate
- D. entice
- E. dissolve

8. The recruit was ____ by the sergeant's scathing rebuke; nobody had ever ____ him like that before.

- A. flattered...honored
- B. touched...noticed
- C. stung...reprimanded
- D. astonished...questioned
- E. discouraged...intrigued

9. Her memoirs are quite unlike those of her predecessors, for she is bold and aggressive where they are ____ and conventional.

- A. audacious
- B. exuberant
- C. reticent
- D. brazen
- E. contentious

10. The report was relentlessly ____ to the scientist, interpreting one complex event after another to his ____.

- A. generous...dismay
- B. disparaging...initiative
- C. complex...indifference
- D. hostile...discredit
- E. polite...detriment

11. People who don't outgrow their colleges often don't grow in other ways; there remained in Forster's life and imagination a ____ of the undergraduate, clever but ____.

- A. dislike...talented
- B. touch...judicious
- C. trace...immature
- D. fear...dormant
- E. vestige...sincere

12. She ____ recognition and fame, yet she felt a deep suspicion and ____ for the world in which recognition and fame are granted, the world of money and opinion and power.

- A. mistrusted...antagonism
- B. worked for...respect
- C. endured...veneration
- D. shunned...enmity
- E. yearned for...contempt

Solutions:

1. **Answer: E. prescient** - "Prescient" means having or showing knowledge of events before they take place, which fits the context of changing travel plans before a hurricane made landfall. "Nugatory" (of no value), "oblong" (having an elongated shape), "palpable" (easily perceptible), and "redoubtable" (formidable) do not convey the idea of foresight as effectively as "prescient."
2. **Answer: B. zenith** - "Zenith" means the highest point or peak, fitting the description of Lauren's high school experience as homecoming queen and class valedictorian. "Acrimony" (bitterness), "protrusion" (something that protrudes), "homage" (respect or tribute), and "antipathy" (dislike) do not capture the sense of peak achievement as well as "zenith."

3. **Answer: C. shock** - "Shock" refers to a sudden or surprising event, fitting the context of an anticipated resignation. "Withdrawal" (removal), "success" (achievement), "eclipse" (obscuring), and "pretense" (false display) do not align as well with the idea of resignation rumors.
4. **Answer: D. alter...impracticable** - "Alter" means to change, and "impracticable" means impossible in practice, fitting the scenario of changing routes due to heavy rains. "Question" (doubt), "disregard" (ignore), "abandon" (give up), and "follow" (pursue) paired with their respective adjectives do not match the context of adjusting plans due to difficult conditions.
5. **Answer: B. dissecting** - "Dissecting" means to analyze in minute detail, fitting the context of over-analyzing a literary work. "Questioning" (doubting), "amending" (changing), "nurturing" (caring for), and "reviving" (bringing back to life) do not convey the idea of over-analysis as effectively as "dissecting."
6. **Answer: E. promoted...cooperative** - "Promoted" means encouraged or advanced, and "cooperative" means involving mutual assistance, fitting the context of the division of labor supporting the nuclear family's interests. "Impaired" (weakened), "respected" (esteemed), "ignored" (disregarded), and "restricted" (limited) paired with their respective adjectives do not convey the mutual benefit as effectively.
7. **Answer: C. incorporate** - "Incorporate" means to include or integrate, fitting the context of birds using silk in their nests. "Smuggle" (move secretly), "jettison" (discard), "entice" (attract), and "dissolve" (melt away) do not align with the idea of integrating material as effectively as "incorporate."
8. **Answer: C. stung...reprimanded** - "Stung" means hurt or offended, and "reprimanded" means scolded, fitting the context of a harsh rebuke. "Flattered" (praised), "touched" (moved emotionally), "astonished" (surprised), and "discouraged" (dismayed) paired with their respective verbs do not capture the context of a harsh and surprising rebuke as effectively.
9. **Answer: C. reticent** - "Reticent" means reserved or restrained, fitting the contrast with bold and aggressive. "Audacious" (daring), "exuberant" (energetic), "brazen" (shameless), and "contentious" (argumentative) do not describe the reserved nature of predecessors as effectively.
10. **Answer: D. hostile...discredit** - "Hostile" means unfriendly or antagonistic, and "discredit" means harm the good reputation of, fitting the context of a report damaging the scientist's reputation. "Generous" (kind), "disparaging" (belittling), "complex" (complicated), and "polite" (courteous) paired with their respective nouns do not convey the negative impact on reputation as effectively.
11. **Answer: C. trace...immature** - "Trace" means a small amount, and "immature" means not fully developed, fitting the context of retaining a bit of undergraduate immaturity. "Dislike" (aversion), "touch" (slight amount), "fear" (apprehension), and "vestige" (remnant) paired with their respective adjectives do not capture the lingering immaturity as effectively.
12. **Answer: E. yearned for...contempt** - "Yearned for" means longed for, and "contempt" means disdain, fitting the context of desiring recognition while distrusting the world granting it. "Mistrusted" (distrusted), "worked for" (strived), "endured" (suffered), and "shunned" (avoided) paired with their respective nouns do not convey the combination of desire and disdain as effectively.

SAT Sentence Completion

Practice Test 46

1. Unfortunately, excessive care in choosing one's words often results in a loss of ____.

- A. precision
- B. atmosphere
- C. selectivity
- D. spontaneity
- E. credibility

2. Just as the earliest stone tools left by humans may seem nothing more than rock fragments to a layperson, so a lot of fossils require a trained eye to ____ them.

- A. excavate
- B. appreciate
- C. disseminate
- D. antedate
- E. educate

3. According to a noted art critic, one would have to be completely immune to the sensuous pleasures of painting to be ____ Lucien Freud's mesmerizing art.

- A. drawn to
- B. overcome by
- C. enamored of
- D. unaffected by
- E. consistent about

4. Skulls are the Rosetta stones of anthropology because they bear unique features that let scientists ____ whether two fossil samples come from the same type of creature.

- A. determine
- B. prophesy
- C. disregard
- D. initiate
- E. recollect

5. For years no one could make this particular therapy work in animals larger than rodents, but now two research groups have demonstrated its ____ in dogs.

- A. efficacy
- B. defects
- C. variability
- D. origin
- E. virulence

6. Thanks to the emerging technology of active noise control, automakers may soon be able to ____ noise inside a car and create the long-promised "quiet ride."

- A. mute
- B. endure
- C. undertake
- D. concentrate
- E. augment

7. Despite her father's ____ that "a woman's place is in the home" and a ____ reception from her professors and fellow graduate students, Marian Cleeves went on to become the first woman to receive a doctorate in anatomy from the University of California at Berkeley.

- A. warning...gratifying
- B. reprimand...lavish
- C. encouragement...respectful
- D. admonition...cool
- E. maxim...hospitable

8. John Keats, Dylan Thomas, Arthur Rimbaud—all these were poets who *had* to be poets, whom no one or nothing short of death could have ____ their courses.

- A. confirmed in
- B. derailed from
- C. lauded for
- D. interested in
- E. convinced of

9. By arguing that much of what scientists think they know about the focusing mechanism of the eye is untrue, this radical scholar has gained a reputation as ____ in the field.

- A. a fugitive
- B. a convert
- C. an artisan
- D. a maverick
- E. a peacemaker

10. The philosopher Auguste Comte ____ the term *altruism* to ____ unselfish regard for the welfare of others.

- A. avoided...rationalize
- B. coined...denote
- C. applied...lessen
- D. explained...refute
- E. understood...terminate

11. Given the ability of modern technology to ____ the environment, it is clear that, if we are not careful, the human race may soon be as extinct as the dinosaur.

- A. enhance
- B. destroy
- C. analyze
- D. repair
- E. nurture

12. As founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, Marian Wright Edelman has ensured that, even though the young cannot vote or make campaign contributions, they are nevertheless not ____ in Washington.

- A. represented
- B. distrusted
- C. ignored
- D. committed
- E. welcome

Solutions:

1. **Answer: D. spontaneity** - "Spontaneity" means the quality of being spontaneous and natural, which is often lost when one is overly careful in choosing words. "Precision" (exactness), "atmosphere" (the pervading tone or mood), "selectivity" (the quality of being selective), and "credibility" (believability) are not typically lost due to excessive care in word choice. Thus, "spontaneity" best captures the loss of naturalness and ease in expression.
2. **Answer: B. appreciate** - "Appreciate" means to recognize the full worth or importance of something. Fossils often

require a trained eye to be properly appreciated for their significance.

"Excavate" (dig up), "disseminate" (spread widely), "antedate" (precede in time), and "educate" (provide instruction) do not fit the context as well as "appreciate," which directly relates to recognizing and understanding the value of fossils.

3. **Answer: D. unaffected by** - "Unaffected by" means not influenced or changed by something. The critic suggests that one must be completely immune to the pleasures of painting to remain unmoved or "unaffected by" Freud's mesmerizing art. "Drawn to" (attracted to), "overcome by" (overwhelmed), "enamored of" (in love with), and "consistent about" (unchanging in approach) do not match the context as closely.
4. **Answer: A. determine** - "Determine" means to ascertain or establish exactly, which fits the context of scientists figuring out whether two fossil samples come from the same creature. "Prophecy" (predict), "disregard" (ignore), "initiate" (begin), and "recollect" (remember) do not capture the precise scientific analysis needed as well as "determine."
5. **Answer: A. efficacy** - "Efficacy" means the ability to produce a desired result or effect. Demonstrating the therapy's efficacy in dogs shows its effectiveness. "Defects" (flaws), "variability" (lack of consistency), "origin" (beginning), and "virulence" (severity of harmfulness) do not fit the context of demonstrating successful outcomes.
6. **Answer: A. mute** - "Mute" means to reduce or eliminate sound, fitting the context of reducing noise inside a car. "Endure" (suffer patiently), "undertake" (begin), "concentrate" (focus), and "augment" (increase) do not relate to reducing noise as effectively as "mute."
7. **Answer: D. admonition...cool** - "Admonition" means a firm warning or reprimand, fitting the context of her father's conservative view. "Cool" means

lacking warmth or enthusiasm, describing the reception from her professors and fellow students. "Warning" (caution), "reprimand" (scolding), "encouragement" (support), and "maxim" (proverb) with their respective adjectives do not align as well with the given scenario.

8. **Answer: B. derailed from** - "Derailed from" means to be thrown off course, which fits the context of poets whose dedication to their art could only be stopped by death. "Confirmed in" (validated), "lauded for" (praised), "interested in" (engaged in), and "convinced of" (persuaded) do not capture the unwavering commitment as effectively as "derailed from."
9. **Answer: D. a maverick** - "Maverick" means an independent-minded person, fitting the description of a scholar challenging established beliefs. "Fugitive" (someone fleeing), "convert" (someone who has changed beliefs), "artisan" (a skilled craftsman), and "peacemaker" (someone who resolves conflicts) do not fit the context of challenging conventional wisdom as well as "maverick."
10. **Answer: B. coined...denote** - "Coined" means to create a new word, and "denote" means to signify or stand for. Comte coined the term "altruism" to signify unselfish regard for others. "Avoided" (stayed away from), "applied" (put to use), "explained" (clarified), and "understood" (grasped the meaning of) with their respective verbs do not fit the context as well.
11. **Answer: B. destroy** - "Destroy" means to cause the destruction of something, fitting the context of modern technology potentially leading to the extinction of the human race. "Enhance" (improve), "analyze" (examine), "repair" (fix), and "nurture" (care for) do not convey the same level of threat.
12. **Answer: C. ignored** - "Ignored" means not given attention or consideration, fitting the context of ensuring children are not

overlooked in Washington. "Represented" (stood for), "distrusted" (regarded with suspicion), "committed" (dedicated), and "welcome" (accepted) do not fit the context of being overlooked as accurately as "ignored."

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 47**

1. Using novel concepts and techniques previously unknown in commercial advertising, the _____ advertising campaign broke new ground in the field of marketing.

- A. questionable
- B. interminable
- C. imitative
- D. inadequate
- E. innovative

2. The attorney's vibrant voice and _____ sense of timing were as useful to him as his prodigious preparation, attention to detail, and _____ of the law.

- A. deficient...conception
- B. excellent...ignorance
- C. shaky...command
- D. outstanding...mastery
- E. impeccable...deprecation

3. By putting the entire Woolf archive on microfilm, the project directors hope to make the contents of the manuscripts more _____ to scholars.

- A. accessible
- B. objective
- C. appealing
- D. implicit
- E. relevant

4. Some spiderwebs are sheets or tangles of threads that delay the _____ of prey, allowing the spider, _____ by vibrations that travel through the threads, time to make its way over to the entangled victim.

- A. escape...alerted
- B. consumption...frightened
- C. capture...thwarted

- D. pursuit...soothed
E. sighting...irritated

5. Janet Malcolm depicts the biographer as a nosy, intrusive figure, ____ his subject's private papers.

- A. protecting
B. restoring
C. invading
D. acknowledging
E. compiling

6. Because fruit juice fills babies' small stomachs and ruins their appetite for foods that contain nutrients they ____, consuming large quantities can actually prove ____ to babies less than 24 months old.

- A. prefer...beneficial
B. choose...counterproductive
C. require...helpful
D. need...detrimental
E. ingest...advantageous

7. Telling gripping tales about a central character engaged in a mighty struggle with events, modern biographies satisfy the American appetite for ____ narratives.

- A. brief
B. colloquial
C. digressive
D. undemanding
E. epic

8. According to poet John Berryman, there were so many ways to ____ a poem that it was quite amazing good ones ever got written.

- A. dedicate
B. begin
C. ruin
D. recite
E. categorize

9. Musk oxen survived in isolated arctic habitats, but in the nineteenth century they declined rapidly even there, their numbers ____ by the armed enthusiasm of explorers, whalers, fur traders, and Eskimo.

- A. swelled
B. augmented
C. devastated
D. underestimated
E. calculated

10. The aorta is like a tree trunk from which other major arteries ____.

- A. escape
B. subtract
C. clamber down
D. branch off
E. strip away

11. He loved his friends, but he held people in general in ____ and maintained that human virtues were unworthy of comparison with a dog's devotion.

- A. reverence
B. abeyance
C. contempt
D. affection
E. honor

12. Rejecting Professor Marian Diamond's work showing that rat-brain structure can increase by 5 to 7 percent, one ____ neuroanatomist stated flatly, "Young lady, that brain cannot ____!"

- A. astounded...function
B. aghast...deteriorate
C. dumbfounded...think
D. skeptical...grow
E. finicky...die

Solutions:

1. Answer: E. innovative - "Innovative" means introducing new ideas or methods, which fits the description of an advertising campaign using novel concepts and techniques. "Questionable" (doubtful), "interminable" (endless), "imitative" (copying or following others), and "inadequate" (insufficient) do not convey the groundbreaking nature described. Therefore, "innovative" is the best fit for a campaign breaking new ground in marketing.

2. Answer: D. outstanding...mastery - "Outstanding" means exceptionally good, and "mastery" means comprehensive knowledge or skill, both of which complement the attorney's preparation and knowledge. "Deficient" (lacking), "excellent" (very good) paired with "ignorance" (lack of knowledge), "shaky" (unsteady) paired with "command" (control), and "impeccable" (flawless) paired with "deprecation" (disapproval) do not describe the attorney's strong and effective skills as well as "outstanding" and "mastery."

3. Answer: A. accessible - "Accessible" means easy to approach or use, which fits the goal of making manuscript contents more available to scholars. "Objective" (unbiased), "appealing" (attractive), "implicit" (implied), and "relevant" (related) do not specifically address the ease of access needed for scholarly use. Therefore, "accessible" is the correct choice.

4. Answer: A. escape...alerted - "Escape" means to get away, and "alerted" means made aware, which fits the context of spiderwebs delaying prey and the spider being aware of it. "Consumption" (eating) paired with "frightened" (scared), "capture" (taking into possession) paired with "thwarted" (prevented), "pursuit" (chase) paired with "soothed" (calmed), and "sighting" (seeing) paired with "irritated" (annoyed) do not fit the natural behavior of spiders as accurately.

5. Answer: C. invading - "Invading" means entering forcefully, fitting the description of a biographer intruding into private papers. "Protecting" (keeping safe), "restoring" (bringing back), "acknowledging" (recognizing), and "compiling" (collecting) do not convey the intrusive nature described. Thus, "invading" is the best fit.

6. Answer: D. need...detrimental - "Need" means require, and "detrimental" means harmful, which fits the context of fruit juice filling babies' stomachs and harming their nutrition. "Prefer" (like better), "choose" (select), "require" (demand) paired with "helpful" (beneficial), "ingest" (consume) paired with "advantageous" (beneficial) do not accurately describe the negative impact. Thus, "need" and "detrimental" are the best choices.

7. Answer: E. epic - "Epic" means grand or heroic, fitting the description of gripping tales in modern biographies that appeal to the American appetite for grand narratives. "Brief" (short), "colloquial" (informal), "digressive" (straying), and "undemanding" (easy) do not capture the grandeur described. Therefore, "epic" is the correct choice.

8. Answer: C. ruin - "Ruin" means destroy, which fits the context of there being many ways to spoil a poem, making it amazing that good ones ever get written. "Dedicate" (devote), "begin" (start), "recite" (repeat aloud), and "categorize" (classify) do not convey the risk of spoiling a poem. Thus, "ruin" is the best fit.

9. Answer: C. devastated - "Devastated" means severely damaged or destroyed, fitting the context of musk oxen numbers being drastically reduced by human activity. "Swelled" (increased), "augmented" (added to), "underestimated" (undervalued), and "calculated" (determined) do not accurately describe the severe decline. Therefore, "devastated" is the correct choice.

10. Answer: D. branch off - "Branch off" means to diverge or extend from a main part, fitting the description of arteries extending from the aorta. "Escape" (break free), "subtract" (take away), "clamber down" (climb awkwardly), and "strip away" (remove) do not fit the anatomical context as well. Thus, "branch off" is the best fit.

11. Answer: C. contempt - "Contempt" means disdain or lack of respect, fitting the description of someone who holds people in general in low regard. "Reverence" (deep respect), "abeyance" (temporary suspension), "affection" (fondness), and "honor" (high respect) do not convey the negative sentiment described. Therefore, "contempt" is the correct choice.

12. Answer: D. skeptical...grow - "Skeptical" means doubting, and "grow" means increase in size, fitting the context of a neuroanatomist doubting the ability of the brain to increase in size. "Astounded" (amazed) paired with "function" (operate), "aghast" (horrified) paired with "deteriorate" (decline), "dumbfounded" (shocked) paired with "think" (reason), and "finicky" (fussy) paired with "die" (cease living) do not fit the

context as well. Therefore, "skeptical" and "grow" are the best choices.

SAT Sentence Completion

Practice Test 48

1. For all his protestations of ____, Judge Learned Hand had been deeply ____ at being passed over for the United States Supreme Court, where Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Benjamin Cardozo, and countless others said he belonged.

- A. innocence...embarrassed
- B. disbelief...enervated
- C. indifference...disappointed
- D. despondency...frustrated
- E. affection...commiserated

2. Always trying to look on the bright side of every situation, she is a born ____.

- A. opportunist
- B. antagonist
- C. optimist
- D. maverick
- E. zealot

3. The most crucial issue for wildlife in this arid land is unimpeded ____ water.

- A. passage through
- B. freedom from
- C. access to
- D. saturation in
- E. overflow of

4. According to Lionel Trilling, the paradox of liberalism is that in its quest for freedom it must move toward greater organization, stricter legislation, and increasing ____.

- A. anarchy
- B. self-realization
- C. stagnation
- D. control
- E. levity

5. Our mood swings about the economy grow more extreme: when things go well, we become ____; when things go poorly, ____ descends.

- A. restive...anxiety
- B. euphoric...gloom
- C. prudent...benevolence
- D. ascetic...misery
- E. ambivalence...optimism

6. Abandoning the moral principles of his youth, the aging emperor Tiberius led a ____, wanton life.

- A. celibate
- B. rudimentary
- C. dissipated
- D. circumspect
- E. peripatetic

7. Although a few of her contemporaries ____ her book, most either ignored it or mocked it.

- A. dismissed
- B. disregarded
- C. deprecated
- D. misconstrued
- E. appreciated

8. All critics have agreed that the opera's score is ____, but, curiously, no two critics have agreed which passages to praise and which to damn.

- A. intolerable
- B. melodious
- C. unsurpassed
- D. conventional
- E. uneven

9. A man incapable of ____ action, he never had an opinion about something that he had not worked up beforehand, fashioning it with lengthy care.

- A. premeditated
- B. coherent
- C. spontaneous
- D. calculated
- E. self-conscious

10. Even as the local climate changed from humid to arid and back—a change that caused other animals to become extinct—our almost-human ancestors ____ by learning how to use the new flora.

- A. anticipated
- B. survived
- C. diverged
- D. deteriorated
- E. migrated

11. Marketing specialists have begun ____ what had once been a ____ audience into innumerable segments based on age, sex, income, and a host of pop sociological categories.

- A. carving up...mass
- B. bringing together...fragmented
- C. tearing apart...sophisticated
- D. unifying...distinct
- E. transforming...responsive

12. Like a balloon that is ____, aneurysms (swellings in the walls of arteries) sometimes enlarge so much that they ____.

- A. expanding...contract
- B. punctured...dilate
- C. elastic...stratify
- D. weightless...stretch
- E. overinflated...burst

Solutions:

1. **Answer: C. indifference...disappointed** - "Indifference" means a lack of interest or concern, fitting the judge's claimed attitude, while "disappointed" means saddened or let down, fitting his actual feelings about being passed over. "Innocence" (lack of guilt), "disbelief" (inability to believe), "despondency" (state of low spirits), and "affection" (fondness) paired with their respective outcomes do not accurately reflect the contrast between outward claims and inner feelings.
2. **Answer: C. optimist** - An "optimist" is someone who always looks on the bright side, which fits the description of the person. "Opportunist" (someone who takes advantage of opportunities), "antagonist" (one who opposes), "maverick" (an independent-minded person), and "zealot" (a fervent person) do

not align with the positive outlook described.

3. **Answer: C. access to** - "Access to" means the ability to reach or obtain something, which is crucial for wildlife in an arid land. "Passage through" (ability to pass through), "freedom from" (lack of something), "saturation in" (complete soaking), and "overflow of" (excess) do not correctly address the necessity of obtaining water.
4. **Answer: D. control** - "Control" means regulation or restriction, fitting the paradox of liberalism needing more regulation to ensure freedom. "Anarchy" (absence of government), "self-realization" (fulfillment of one's potential), "stagnation" (lack of activity), and "levity" (lightness) do not accurately depict the need for structured governance.
5. **Answer: B. euphoric...gloom** - "Euphoric" means intensely happy, fitting the positive mood when the economy is good, and "gloom" means sadness or depression, fitting the negative mood when the economy is bad. "Restive" (restless), "prudent" (wise), "ascetic" (self-denying), and "ambivalence" (mixed feelings) paired with their respective outcomes do not match the described extremes of mood swings.
6. **Answer: C. dissipated** - "Dissipated" means overindulging in sensual pleasures, fitting the description of Tiberius' wanton life. "Celibate" (abstaining from sexual relations), "rudimentary" (basic), "circumspect" (cautious), and "peripatetic" (traveling from place to place) do not accurately describe a life of moral abandonment.
7. **Answer: E. appreciated** - "Appreciated" means recognized the value of, fitting the few who valued her book. "Dismissed" (rejected), "disregarded" (ignored), "deprecated" (criticized), and "misconstrued" (misinterpreted) do not align with the positive reception described by "a few."

8. **Answer: E. uneven** - "Uneven" means not consistent in quality, fitting the opera's score being praised and criticized in different parts. "Intolerable" (unbearable), "melodious" (pleasant to hear), "unsurpassed" (unmatched), and "conventional" (traditional) do not accurately reflect the mixed critical reception.

9. **Answer: C. spontaneous** - "Spontaneous" means arising naturally without premeditation, fitting the man who carefully premeditates his opinions. "Premeditated" (planned), "coherent" (logical), "calculated" (deliberate), and "self-conscious" (aware of oneself) do not convey the natural, unplanned nature of spontaneous actions.

10. **Answer: B. survived** - "Survived" means continued to live, fitting the ancestors adapting to changing conditions. "Anticipated" (expected), "diverged" (branched off), "deteriorated" (worsened), and "migrated" (moved) do not fit the context of adapting and thriving.

11. **Answer: A. carving up...mass** - "Carving up" means dividing into parts, fitting the marketing specialists segmenting a formerly undivided "mass" audience. "Bringing together" (uniting), "tearing apart" (violently separating), "unifying" (making one), and "transforming" (changing) paired with their respective nouns do not accurately describe the segmentation process.

12. **Answer: E. overinflated...burst** - "Overinflated" means filled too much with air, fitting the description of aneurysms that enlarge excessively and "burst" (rupture), aligning with the medical condition described. "Expanding" (increasing in size), "punctured" (pierced), "elastic" (flexible), and "weightless" (without weight) paired with their respective outcomes do not fit the context of aneurysms enlarging and then rupturing.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 49**

1. Critics ____ the ____ in developing the new weather satellite to unexpected problems in manufacturing and testing its components.

- A. credit...timeliness
- B. impute...success
- C. attribute...delay
- D. assign...importance
- E. deny...threat

2. As former Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger was fond of pointing out, many lawyers are not legal hotshots; they often come to court ____ and ____ professional skills.

- A. ill prepared...lacking
- B. hot-tempered...criticizing
- C. reluctant...demonstrating
- D. argumentative...manifesting
- E. conservative...excelling

3. A hypothesis must not only account for what we already know, but must also be ____ by continued observation.

- A. refuted
- B. interrupted
- C. verified
- D. discredited
- E. outmoded

4. *Elizabeth Gaskell: A Habit of Stories* is a considerable ____, superseding Winifred Gerin's learned biography of the English novelist.

- A. failure
- B. rationalization
- C. accomplishment
- D. recollection
- E. muddle

5. Boccherini was a good and interesting composer whose reputation has not sufficiently ____ the decline into which it fell after his death.

- A. contributed to
- B. benefited from

- C. recovered from
D. conflicted with
E. derived from

6. Having billed himself as "Mr. Clean," Hosokawa could not ____ the ____ of a major financial scandal.

- A. survive...acclaim
B. withstand...notoriety
C. identify...exposure
D. resist...charms
E. censure...temptation

7. A curious ____ of Florence's history is that this great center of Italian ____ should time and again have been home to acts of appalling savagery and inhumanity.

- A. example...conflict
B. paradox...civilization
C. result...brutality
D. convention...culture
E. distinction...quality

8. Illness can be ____ as how disease *feels*, the experience of being sick: at once a physical or natural condition and a social and cultural one.

- A. cured
B. survived
C. acclaimed
D. defined
E. deprecated

9. Lamenting that something horrid had recently befallen the craft of biography, biographer Arthur Schlesinger ____ the glut of gossipy new lives on the market.

- A. deplored
B. forgot
C. acclaimed
D. composed
E. abridged

10. Instead of taking exaggerated precautions against touching or tipping or jarring the bottle of wine, the waitress handled it quite ____, being careful only to use a napkin to keep her hands from the cool bottle itself.

- A. fastidiously
B. reverently
C. nonchalantly
D. tentatively
E. ambivalently

11. The eighteenth century was a kind of golden age in deaf history because, with the establishment of schools for the deaf, these people emerged from ____ and began to appear in positions of eminence and ____—as writers, engineers, philosophers, and intellectuals.

- A. retirement...ambiguity
B. seclusion...compromise
C. obscurity...responsibility
D. hiding...ignominy
E. solicitude...disrepute

12. The crisis is not ____; it will not affect us for years to come.

- A. specious
B. fleeting
C. meaningless
D. minute
E. imminent

Solutions:

1. Answer: C. attribute...delay - "Attribute" means to regard something as being caused by, and "delay" means a period of time by which something is late or postponed. The context of the sentence suggests that critics are explaining the reasons for the delay in developing the satellite. "Credit" (acknowledge), "timeliness" (being on time), "impute" (assign), "success" (accomplishment), "assign" (allocate), "importance" (significance), and "deny" (refuse) do not fit as well as "attribute" and "delay," making them the best choices to explain the situation.

2. Answer: A. ill prepared...lacking - "Ill prepared" means not properly prepared, and "lacking" means not having enough of something. The sentence implies that many lawyers come to court unprepared and missing necessary professional skills. "Hot-tempered" (easily angered), "criticizing" (finding fault), "reluctant" (unwilling), "demonstrating" (showing), "argumentative" (fond

of arguing), "manifesting" (displaying), "conservative" (traditional), and "excelling" (doing very well) do not describe the lack of preparation and skills mentioned.

3. Answer: C. verified - "Verified" means confirmed as true by evidence or observation, which fits the need for a hypothesis to be supported by continued observation. "Refuted" (proved wrong), "interrupted" (stopped), "discredited" (caused to seem false), and "outmoded" (out of date) do not fit the context of a hypothesis needing to be confirmed by further evidence.

4. Answer: C. accomplishment - "Accomplishment" means something that has been achieved successfully, which fits the context of a new biography superseding an earlier one. "Failure" (lack of success), "rationalization" (justification), "recollection" (memory), and "muddle" (confusion) do not fit as well as "accomplishment" to describe the significant achievement of the new biography.

5. Answer: C. recovered from - "Recovered from" means returned to a normal state after a decline, which fits the context of a composer's reputation improving after a decline. "Contributed to" (helped bring about), "benefited from" (received advantage), "conflicted with" (was in opposition to), and "derived from" (originated from) do not fit as well as "recovered from" to describe the improvement in reputation.

6. Answer: B. withstand...notoriety - "Withstand" means to endure or resist, and "notoriety" means the state of being famous for something bad, fitting the context of a person known as "Mr. Clean" being unable to endure the negative attention of a scandal. "Survive" (continue to live), "acclaim" (praise), "identify" (recognize), "exposure" (revelation), "resist" (fight against), "charms" (attractive qualities), "censure" (severe disapproval), and "temptation" (desire to do something unwise) do not fit the context as well as "withstand" and "notoriety."

7. Answer: B. paradox...civilization - "Paradox" means a situation that seems contradictory, and "civilization" means the society, culture, and way of life of a particular area, fitting the context of a

refined city also being home to acts of savagery. "Example" (instance), "conflict" (disagreement), "result" (outcome), "brutality" (savage physical violence), "convention" (traditional practice), "culture" (customs and social behavior), "distinction" (difference), and "quality" (attribute) do not capture the contradiction as effectively as "paradox" and "civilization."

8. Answer: D. defined - "Defined" means explained the meaning of, fitting the context of illness being explained in terms of physical and social/cultural aspects. "Cured" (healed), "survived" (continued to live), "acclaimed" (praised), and "deprecated" (disapproved of) do not fit the context of describing illness.

9. Answer: A. deplored - "Deplored" means felt or expressed strong disapproval of, fitting the context of Schlesinger lamenting the abundance of gossipy biographies. "Forgot" (failed to remember), "acclaimed" (praised), "composed" (created), and "abridged" (shortened) do not fit the context of expressing strong disapproval.

10. Answer: C. nonchalantly - "Nonchalantly" means in a casually calm and relaxed manner, fitting the context of the waitress handling the wine without exaggerated precautions. "Fastidiously" (with great attention to detail), "reverently" (with deep respect), "tentatively" (with hesitation), and "ambivalently" (with mixed feelings) do not fit the relaxed manner described.

11. Answer: C. obscurity...responsibility - "Obscurity" means the state of being unknown, and "responsibility" means having important duties or roles, fitting the context of deaf people emerging from being unknown to positions of eminence. "Retirement" (withdrawal from work), "ambiguity" (uncertainty), "seclusion" (isolation), "compromise" (settlement of differences), "hiding" (concealment), "ignominy" (public shame), "solicitude" (care or concern), and "disrepute" (disgrace) do not fit the context as well as "obscurity" and "responsibility."

12. Answer: E. imminent - "Imminent" means about to happen, fitting the context of a crisis that will affect us soon. "Specious" (misleadingly attractive), "fleeting" (lasting for a very short time),

"meaningless" (having no meaning), "minute" (extremely small) do not fit the context of an impending crisis as well as "imminent."

SAT Sentence Completion

Practice Test 50

1. When Dorothy and her friends realized that, despite his claims, the Wizard of Oz didn't know how to get them back to Kansas, they were sure they'd been ____ by a ____.

- A. befriended...philanthropist
- B. succored...magician
- C. captured...genius
- D. duped...charlatan
- E. delayed...miser

2. Now better known for its racetrack, Saratoga Springs first gained attention for the ____ qualities of its famous "healing waters."

- A. diagnostic
- B. commercial
- C. therapeutic
- D. overlooked
- E. experimental

3. Repeat offenders who continue to drive under the influence of alcohol face having their drivers' licenses permanently ____.

- A. issued
- B. recorded
- C. authorized
- D. revoked
- E. disregarded

4. Excited and unafraid, the ____ child examined the stranger with bright-eyed curiosity.

- A. apathetic
- B. drowsy
- C. timorous
- D. inquisitive
- E. hesitant

5. Though masterminded by the Metropolitan Museum's Guy Bauman, this survey of Flemish

paintings in America was clearly a ____ operation, aided by scholars throughout North America.

- A. marginal
- B. derivative
- C. worthwhile
- D. circuitous
- E. collective

6. I am seeking an ____ solution to this dispute, one that will be fair and acceptable to both sides.

- A. equivocal
- B. infamous
- C. equitable
- D. idiosyncratic
- E. overrated

7. A New World lizard, the basilisk, occasionally does something that seems to ____ physics: it runs across the surface of water for distances of up to 30 feet.

- A. defy
- B. quantify
- C. assess
- D. exemplify
- E. corroborate

8. The most consistent qualities of Forster's novels are the human isolation and passivity in them; his principal characters stand slightly apart and ____, but rarely ____.

- A. sneer...collapse
- B. interact...adapt
- C. mourn...recollect
- D. observe...act
- E. domineer...participate

9. Far from being distracted or immobilized by his inner conflicts, Keynes was ____ by them into becoming one of the most productive, effective, and buoyant personalities of the twentieth century.

- A. neutralized
- B. energized
- C. incapacitated
- D. enervated
- E. inhibited

10. A born teller of tales, Olsen used her impressive ____ skills to advantage in her story "I Stand Here Ironing."

- A. domestic
- B. metaphysical
- C. narrative
- D. diagnostic
- E. argumentative

11. Waving broadly at the still-applauding crowd, the speaker was highly ____ by the ____ response to her talk.

- A. exasperated...vehement
- B. gratified...enthusiastic
- C. bewildered...profound
- D. intimidated...sincere
- E. delighted....skeptical

12. As a scientific document, the book should stand for several years until further ____ again make revision ____.

- A. developments...impossible
- B. obstacles...optional
- C. attempts...undesirable
- D. failures...detrimental
- E. advances...necessary

Solutions:

1. Answer: D. duped...charlatan - "Duped" means deceived, and "charlatan" means a fraud or imposter, fitting the context where Dorothy and her friends realize the Wizard of Oz cannot fulfill his claims. "Befriended" (made friends with) and "philanthropist" (a person who seeks to promote the welfare of others) do not fit the scenario of deception. "Succored" (helped) and "magician" (a person who performs magic tricks) do not capture the idea of being tricked. "Captured" (taken by force) and "genius" (a very intelligent person) are also not fitting. "Delayed" (postponed) and "miser" (a person who hoards wealth) are unrelated to the context of deception.

2. Answer: C. therapeutic - "Therapeutic" means healing, describing the qualities of Saratoga Springs' "healing waters." "Diagnostic" (used to identify diseases), "commercial" (related to

business), "overlooked" (ignored), and "experimental" (relating to experiments) do not capture the healing nature as well as "therapeutic."

3. Answer: D. revoked - "Revoked" means officially canceled, fitting the context of permanently taking away drivers' licenses. "Issued" (given out), "recorded" (documented), "authorized" (given official permission), and "disregarded" (ignored) do not align with the context of a penalty for repeat offenders.

4. Answer: D. inquisitive - "Inquisitive" means curious, fitting the description of a child examining a stranger with curiosity. "Apathetic" (showing no interest), "drowsy" (sleepy), "timorous" (fearful), and "hesitant" (uncertain) do not match the context of eagerness and lack of fear.

5. Answer: E. collective - "Collective" means done by people acting as a group, fitting the description of an operation aided by scholars throughout North America. "Marginal" (of minor importance), "derivative" (imitative), "worthwhile" (valuable), and "circuitous" (roundabout) do not accurately describe the collaborative nature of the project.

6. Answer: C. equitable - "Equitable" means fair and impartial, fitting the context of a solution acceptable to both sides. "Equivocal" (ambiguous), "infamous" (well-known for a bad quality), "idiosyncratic" (peculiar), and "overrated" (valued more highly than deserved) do not fit the need for fairness.

7. Answer: A. defy - "Defy" means to challenge or go against, fitting the description of a lizard running across water, seemingly against the laws of physics. "Quantify" (measure), "assess" (evaluate), "exemplify" (illustrate), and "corroborate" (confirm) do not capture the sense of doing something seemingly impossible.

8. Answer: D. observe...act - "Observe" means to watch, and "act" means to take action, fitting the description of characters who stand apart and rarely take action. "Sneer" (mock) and "collapse" (fall down), "interact" (communicate) and "adapt" (adjust), "mourn" (grieve) and "recollect" (remember), "domineer" (assert one's will) and

"participate" (take part) do not align with the passive nature described.

9. Answer: B. energized - "Energized" means filled with energy or enthusiasm, fitting the context of Keynes being driven to productivity by his inner conflicts. "Neutralized" (rendered ineffective), "incapacitated" (disabled), "enervated" (drained of energy), and "inhibited" (restrained) do not match the context of increased productivity.

10. Answer: C. narrative - "Narrative" means related to the telling of stories, fitting the context of Olsen using her storytelling skills to advantage. "Domestic" (relating to the home), "metaphysical" (related to abstract thought), "diagnostic" (used to identify problems), and "argumentative" (given to arguing) do not capture the storytelling aspect.

11. Answer: B. gratified...enthusiastic - "Gratified" means pleased, and "enthusiastic" means showing intense excitement, fitting the context of the speaker being pleased by the positive response. "Exasperated" (irritated) and "vehement" (intensely emotional), "bewildered" (confused) and "profound" (deep), "intimidated" (frightened) and "sincere" (genuine), "delighted" (pleased) and "skeptical" (doubtful) do not fit as well.

12. Answer: E. advances...necessary - "Advances" means progress, and "necessary" means required, fitting the context of the book standing until new developments make revisions necessary. "Developments" (new events) and "impossible" (not possible), "obstacles" (hindrances) and "optional" (not required), "attempts" (tries) and "undesirable" (not wanted), "failures" (lack of success) and "detrimental" (harmful) do not capture the natural progression of scientific revision.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 51**

1. The jazz musician cannot play well if he is completely ____, as if lying half asleep in a Jacuzzi.

- A. untruthful
- B. autonomous
- C. sincere

- D. relaxed
- E. talented

2. Why do some plant stems develop a protective bark that enables them to survive the winter, while others ____ at the first frost?

- A. blossom
- B. adapt
- C. shrivel
- D. mature
- E. wake

3. Salvador Dali's tendency to fabricate events makes it difficult for the biographer to tell the story of his life with any degree of ____.

- A. vividness
- B. accuracy
- C. solemnity
- D. spontaneity
- E. artistry

4. If Amelia Earhart's acceptance was by no means ____, her fame was unusually widespread and her popularity long-lived.

- A. universal
- B. ambiguous
- C. expedient
- D. partial
- E. genuine

5. Throughout his career he demonstrated strong belief in individual faith but powerful ____ about the organized church.

- A. modesty
- B. skepticism
- C. devotion
- D. discernment
- E. ambition

6. The text abounds with details, but there are no overarching theses to ____ them.

- A. specify
- B. exaggerate
- C. confound
- D. unify
- E. modify

7. The senator contended that, rather than being a ____ concern, global warming is a critical problem that imperils not just Americans but all life on Earth.

- A. significant
- B. hazardous
- C. strategic
- D. planetary
- E. peripheral

8. It would be beneficial if someone so radical could be brought to believe that old customs need not necessarily be ____ and that change may possibly be ____.

- A. defensible...premature
- B. outdated...required
- C. evil...salutary
- D. invaluable...temporary
- E. worthless...inadvisable

9. T. S. Eliot, famous for his ____, nevertheless accepted posterity's interest in his life, ____ that his correspondence with his lady friends eventually would be read.

- A. reticence...assuming
- B. modesty...prohibiting
- C. boastfulness...remembering
- D. vanity...intimating
- E. curiosity...regretting

10. Waiting impatiently in line to see Santa Claus, even the best-behaved children grow ____ and start to fret.

- A. fidgety
- B. noisome
- C. sonorous
- D. pungent
- E. ambivalent

11. In the 1920s Hollywood became a magnet for men and women on the cutting edge—____ artists genuinely excited by the possibilities of the up-and-coming film medium.

- A. impecunious
- B. innovative
- C. unprepossessing

- D. impenitent
- E. apathetic

12. A leading philosopher of our time, Ludwig Wittgenstein, laid down a ____ to which good historians ____: "Of that of which nothing is known nothing can be said."

- A. burden...protest
- B. law...amend
- C. rule...adhere
- D. maxim...succumb
- E. weapon...surrender

Solutions:

1. **Answer: D. relaxed** - The musician being too "relaxed" (free from tension) fits the description of someone playing poorly as if half asleep. "Untruthful" (lying), "autonomous" (independent), "sincere" (honest), and "talented" (skilled) do not describe a state of being that would impair performance in this context. "Relaxed" aligns perfectly with the idea of being too comfortable to play well.

2. **Answer: C. shrivel** - "Shrivel" means to become smaller and wrinkled due to lack of moisture, which fits plants that fail at the first frost. "Blossom" (flower), "adapt" (adjust), "mature" (develop fully), and "wake" (emerge from sleep) do not describe a negative reaction to frost. "Shrivel" captures the damage frost can cause to unprotected plants.

3. **Answer: B. accuracy** - "Accuracy" means the quality of being correct or precise, essential for a biographer struggling with fabrications. "Vividness" (intensity), "solemnity" (seriousness), "spontaneity" (impulsiveness), and "artistry" (creative skill) do not relate to the challenge of distinguishing truth from fiction. "Accuracy" is key for a biographer.

4. **Answer: A. universal** - "Universal" means worldwide or general acceptance, fitting the context of widespread fame despite not being universally accepted. "Ambiguous" (unclear), "expedient"

(convenient), "partial" (incomplete), and "genuine" (authentic) do not fit the context of widespread fame but non-universal acceptance. "Universal" describes the extent of her fame accurately.

5. **Answer: B. skepticism** - "Skepticism" means doubt or disbelief, fitting his strong personal faith but doubt about the organized church. "Modesty" (humility), "devotion" (loyalty), "discernment" (good judgment), and "ambition" (desire for success) do not capture the contrast between personal faith and institutional doubt. "Skepticism" best fits the description.
6. **Answer: D. unify** - "Unify" means to bring together, needed to give the text coherence. "Specify" (identify clearly), "exaggerate" (overstate), "confound" (confuse), and "modify" (change) do not suggest bringing disparate details together into a cohesive whole. "Unify" addresses the lack of overarching theses.
7. **Answer: E. peripheral** - "Peripheral" means of secondary or minor importance, contrasting with the senator's view of global warming as a critical issue. "Significant" (important), "hazardous" (dangerous), "strategic" (planned), and "planetary" (related to the whole world) do not imply a minor concern. "Peripheral" accurately describes a dismissed concern.
8. **Answer: C. evil...salutary** - "Evil" means morally wrong, and "salutary" means beneficial, fitting the context of a radical person needing to see old customs as not necessarily bad and change as potentially good. "Defensible" (justifiable) and "premature" (too early), "outdated" (old-fashioned) and "required" (needed), "invaluable" (priceless) and "temporary" (short-lived), "worthless" (useless) and "inadvisable" (not recommended) do not fit as well. "Evil" and "salutary" provide the necessary contrast.
9. **Answer: A. reticence...assuming** - "Reticence" means reluctance to speak,

fitting Eliot's famous discretion, and "assuming" means taking for granted, describing his acceptance of future interest. "Modesty" (humility) and "prohibiting" (forbidding), "boastfulness" (bragging) and "remembering" (recalling), "vanity" (excessive pride) and "intimating" (hinting), "curiosity" (interest) and "regretting" (feeling sorry) do not fit as well. "Reticence" and "assuming" align perfectly with Eliot's behavior.

10. **Answer: A. fidgety** - "Fidgety" means restless, fitting the description of children growing impatient and fretting. "Noisome" (unpleasant), "sonorous" (producing sound), "pungent" (strong-smelling), and "ambivalent" (uncertain) do not describe restlessness. "Fidgety" captures the typical behavior of impatient children.
11. **Answer: B. innovative** - "Innovative" means creative or original, fitting artists excited by new film possibilities. "Impecunious" (poor), "unprepossessing" (unattractive), "impenitent" (unrepentant), and "apathetic" (indifferent) do not fit the context of excitement and creativity. "Innovative" aligns with the description of cutting-edge artists.
12. **Answer: C. rule...adhere** - "Rule" means a prescribed guide for conduct, and "adhere" means to stick to, fitting the context of historians following Wittgenstein's maxim. "Burden" (load) and "protest" (object), "law" (legal rule) and "amend" (change), "maxim" (general truth) and "succumb" (yield), "weapon" (tool for battle) and "surrender" (give up) do not fit as well. "Rule" and "adhere" best describe the behavior of good historians.

SAT Sentence Completion

Practice Test 52

1. One by one, she _____ almost all of her supporters until, at the end, only a handful of her closest allies really wanted her to stay in office.

- A. promoted
- B. alienated
- C. represented
- D. exaggerated
- E. liberated

2. The banquet had _____ effect on the overfed guests: they began to nod off in their seats.

- A. a soporific
- B. a cumulative
- C. an immoderate
- D. an invigorating
- E. a negligible

3. Thomas Jefferson called *The Federalist* papers “the best commentaries on the principles of government ever written,” and two centuries later they still _____ as the most _____ statements of American political philosophy.

- A. stand...derivative
- B. rate...abstruse
- C. rank...impressive
- D. fascinate...ambiguous
- E. compete...underrated

4. Left to endure a penniless old age, the _____ man lived to regret his _____ youth.

- A. miserly...friendless
- B. reclusive...affable
- C. eccentric...fleeting
- D. egotistical...frugal
- E. improvident...prodigal

5. Peter has a bad habit of making _____ remarks that wander so far off topic that we forget the gist of what he is saying.

- A. awkward
- B. pertinent
- C. digressive

- D. telling
- E. tentative

6. Though set in a mythical South American country, Isabel Allende’s novel is _____ the tragic history of Chile.

- A. irrelevant to
- B. rooted in
- C. inconsistent with
- D. exceeded by
- E. indifferent to

7. The marketers’ _____ in donating the new basketball backboards to the school system are not solely _____; they plan to sell advertising space on the backboards, turning them into miniature billboards.

- A. losses...obvious
- B. expectations...peculiar
- C. aims...mercenary
- D. reasons...sensitive
- E. motivations...philanthropic

8. Justice Harry Blackmun’s retirement, while unlikely to bring about a drastic change in the Supreme Court, will remove a distinctly _____ voice from the Court’s often featureless mix.

- A. bland
- B. personal
- C. moderate
- D. neutral
- E. derivative

9. Having just published his fourth novel in an almost 40-year career, Gaddis describes himself, with some _____, as a writer who has never been in a _____ to get into print.

- A. expectation...mood
- B. impatience...technique
- C. understatement...rush
- D. indecision...position
- E. exaggeration...school

10. Actors fade out of view with depressing frequency; the theater is a _____ profession at best.

- A. romantic
- B. demanding
- C. precarious
- D. disinterested
- E. degenerate

11. Though Phil had expected to feel overawed when he met Joe Montana, he found the world-famous quarterback friendly and ____.

- A. querulous
- B. acerbic
- C. domineering
- D. unintimidating
- E. taciturn

12. Flying in the face of ____, the writer George Sand shocked her contemporaries by taking lovers and by wearing men's clothes.

- A. immodesty
- B. reconciliation
- C. emancipation
- D. convention
- E. modernism

Solutions:

1. Answer: B. alienated - "Alienated" means to cause someone to feel isolated or estranged, which fits the context of losing supporters. "Promoted" (raised in rank), "represented" (acted on behalf of), "exaggerated" (overstated), and "liberated" (freed) do not capture the process of driving supporters away as effectively as "alienated."

2. Answer: A. a soporific - "Soporific" means inducing drowsiness or sleep, which aligns with the guests nodding off. "Cumulative" (increasing over time), "immoderate" (excessive), "invigorating" (energizing), and "negligible" (insignificant) do not describe an effect that causes sleepiness as accurately as "soporific."

3. Answer: C. rank...impressive - "Rank" means to be placed in a particular position in a hierarchy, and "impressive" means evoking admiration, fitting the context of The Federalist papers' enduring significance. "Stand...derivative" (not original), "rate...abstruse" (difficult to understand), "fascinate...ambiguous" (unclear), and "compete..."

underrated" (not sufficiently appreciated) do not convey the highly regarded status as well as "rank" and "impressive."

4. Answer: E. improvident...prodigal - "Improvident" means lacking foresight or thrift, and "prodigal" means recklessly wasteful, fitting the context of regretting a wasteful youth leading to a penniless old age. "Miserly...friendless" (stingy), "reclusive...affable" (withdrawn but friendly), "eccentric...fleeting" (odd but short-lived), and "egotistical...frugal" (self-centered but thrifty) do not accurately describe the contrast as well as "improvident" and "prodigal."

5. Answer: C. digressive - "Digressive" means tending to depart from the main point, fitting the context of making remarks that wander off topic. "Awkward" (clumsy), "pertinent" (relevant), "telling" (revealing), and "tentative" (uncertain) do not describe the off-topic nature as accurately as "digressive."

6. Answer: B. rooted in - "Rooted in" means having origins in, fitting the context of the novel being based on Chile's history. "Irrelevant to" (not related), "inconsistent with" (not in agreement), "exceeded by" (surpassed), and "indifferent to" (unconcerned) do not convey the connection as accurately as "rooted in."

7. Answer: C. aims...mercenary - "Aims" means goals or intentions, and "mercenary" means motivated by profit, fitting the context of donating with the intention of selling advertising space. "Losses...obvious" (clear losses), "expectations...peculiar" (strange expectations), "reasons...sensitive" (considerate reasons), and "motivations...philanthropic" (charitable motivations) do not capture the profit-driven aspect as well as "aims" and "mercenary."

8. Answer: B. personal - "Personal" means distinctive and individual, fitting the context of a unique voice. "Bland" (dull), "moderate" (middle-of-the-road), "neutral" (impartial), and "derivative" (not original) do not capture the distinctiveness as accurately as "personal."

9. Answer: C. understatement...rush - "Understatement" means a restrained way of

expressing something, and "rush" means a hurry, fitting the context of a writer not in a hurry to publish. "Expectation...mood" (anticipation and state of mind), "impatience...technique" (eagerness and method), "indecision...position" (hesitation and situation), and "exaggeration...school" (overstatement and style) do not fit as well as "understatement" and "rush."

10. Answer: C. precarious - "Precarious" means not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse, fitting the context of an unstable profession. "Romantic" (idealized), "demanding" (requiring much effort), "disinterested" (unbiased), and "degenerate" (declined) do not capture the uncertainty as accurately as "precarious."

11. Answer: D. unintimidating - "Unintimidating" means not causing fear or intimidation, fitting the context of a friendly and approachable celebrity. "Querulous" (complaining), "acerbic" (sharp-tongued), "domineering" (overbearing), and "taciturn" (reserved) do not describe a friendly demeanor as accurately as "unintimidating."

12. Answer: D. convention - "Convention" means traditional norms and behaviors, fitting the context of breaking societal expectations. "Immodesty" (lack of modesty), "reconciliation" (restoration of friendly relations), "emancipation" (freedom from restrictions), and "modernism" (modern character or quality) do not convey traditional societal norms as accurately as "convention."

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 53**

1. In the poem "Annabel Lee," the speaker reveals that he is not ____ to the death of his beloved; on the contrary, he is ____.

- A. indifferent...apathetic
- B. reconciled...acquiescent
- C. resigned...inconsolable
- D. accustomed...inured
- E. relevant...responsive

2. The artists of the Chinese avant-garde have used Western styles ____ and meaningfully to accomplish artistic ends of their own.

- A. obsequiously
- B. shamefully
- C. cannily
- D. indifferently
- E. problematically

3. Despite the poem's archaic and tortuous language, the thrust of the poet's argument is surprisingly ____.

- A. vapid
- B. dated
- C. blunted
- D. intelligible
- E. idiosyncratic

4. Splitting the country into conflicting factions, pitting brother against brother, the Civil War was ____ experience for the American people.

- A. an ephemeral
- B. a divisive
- C. a peripheral
- D. an illuminating
- E. a salutary

5. Because of the trauma they have experienced, survivors of a major catastrophe are likely to exhibit ____ of behavior and may require the aid of competent therapists.

- A. concessions
- B. diminutions
- C. aberrations
- D. restrictions
- E. altercations

6. The reader has the happy impression of watching an extraordinarily inventive and intellectually ____ novelist working at the ____ of her powers.

- A. dishonest...apex
- B. creative...eclipse
- C. fecund...height
- D. effete...limits
- E. amenable...diminution

7. While some Southern writers see the past as a heavy burden, others see it as a subject for ____ reflection.

- A. gloomy
- B. wearisome
- C. interminable
- D. nostalgic
- E. bleak

8. One of Detroit's great success stories was Lee Iacocca's revitalization of the moribund Chrysler Corporation, turning it into a ____ competitor.

- A. vigorous
- B. tentative
- C. marginal
- D. negligent
- E. superficial

9. A journalist rather than a scholar, Mr. Cose seems nevertheless to be ____ most of the serious studies relevant to his topic.

- A. overawed by
- B. ignorant of
- C. associated with
- D. wearied by
- E. familiar with

10. Egocentric, at times vindictive when he believed his authority was being questioned, White could also be kind, gracious, and even ____ when the circumstances seemed to require it.

- A. self-deprecating
- B. authoritarian
- C. provocative
- D. taciturn
- E. disdainful

11. Far from being in the ____ condition promised by the realtor, the condo was shabby and dilapidated.

- A. vacant
- B. indifferent
- C. pristine
- D. marginal
- E. euphoric

12. Polls indicate that many prospective voters in the next presidential election are ____ about the outcome; they do not seem to care who wins.

- A. enthusiastic
- B. inadequate
- C. antagonistic
- D. apathetic
- E. suspicious

Solutions:

1. **Answer: C. resigned...inconsolable** -

"Resigned" means accepting something undesirable but inevitable, while "inconsolable" means unable to be comforted. This combination indicates a deep, ongoing grief contrary to acceptance. "Indifferent" (having no particular interest), "apathetic" (showing no feeling), "reconciled" (accepting), "acquiescent" (accepting without protest), "accustomed" (used to), "inured" (hardened), "relevant" (related), and "responsive" (reacting quickly) do not convey the depth of the speaker's emotions as effectively.

2. **Answer: C. cannily** - "Cannily" means in

a shrewd or cautious way, fitting the context of using styles purposefully. "Obsequiously" (excessively submissive), "shamefully" (in a way that causes shame), "indifferently" (without interest), and "problematically" (in a way that causes problems) do not suggest the purposeful and meaningful application of styles as "cannily" does.

3. **Answer: D. intelligible** - "Intelligible"

means understandable, fitting the context where the argument is clear despite complex language. "Vapid" (offering nothing stimulating), "dated" (old-fashioned), "blunted" (weakened), and "idiosyncratic" (peculiar) do not suggest clarity in argumentation as "intelligible" does.

4. **Answer: B. a divisive** - "Divisive" means

causing disagreement or hostility between people, fitting the context of the Civil War splitting the country. "Ephemeral" (lasting a very short time), "peripheral" (on the edge), "illuminating" (providing insight),

and "salutary" (beneficial) do not capture the nature of conflict as "divisive" does.

5. **Answer: C. aberrations** - "Aberrations" means deviations from the norm, fitting the context of unusual behavior post-trauma. "Concessions" (compromises), "diminutions" (reductions), "restrictions" (limitations), and "altercations" (disputes) do not accurately describe the changes in behavior as "aberrations" does.
6. **Answer: C. fecund...height** - "Fecund" means highly fertile or productive, and "height" refers to the peak of her powers, fitting the context of an inventive novelist. "Dishonest" (not truthful), "apex" (peak), "creative" (imaginative), "eclipse" (obscuring), "effete" (worn out), "limits" (boundaries), "amenable" (agreeable), and "diminution" (reduction) do not accurately describe an inventive novelist at their peak as well as "fecund" and "height."
7. **Answer: D. nostalgic** - "Nostalgic" means characterized by or exhibiting feelings of sentimental longing for the past, fitting the context of reflection on the past. "Gloomy" (dark or poorly lit), "wearisome" (causing fatigue), "interminable" (endless), and "bleak" (lacking hope) do not reflect the sentimentality implied by "nostalgic."
8. **Answer: A. vigorous** - "Vigorous" means strong, healthy, and full of energy, fitting the context of revitalizing a company. "Tentative" (not certain), "marginal" (insignificant), "negligent" (careless), and "superficial" (shallow) do not reflect the positive transformation described as "vigorous" does.
9. **Answer: E. familiar with** - "Familiar with" means well-acquainted or knowledgeable, fitting the context of understanding serious studies. "Overawed by" (extremely impressed), "ignorant of" (lacking knowledge), "associated with" (connected), and "wearied by" (tired of) do not capture the depth of understanding implied by "familiar with."

10. **Answer: A. self-deprecating** - "Self-deprecating" means modest about or critical of oneself, fitting the context of being kind and gracious. "Authoritarian" (enforcing strict obedience), "provocative" (causing a reaction), "taciturn" (reserved), and "disdainful" (showing contempt) do not capture the complexity of character implied by "self-deprecating."

11. **Answer: C. pristine** - "Pristine" means in its original condition; unspoiled, fitting the realtor's promise. "Vacant" (empty), "indifferent" (unconcerned), "marginal" (minimal), and "euphoric" (intensely happy) do not accurately describe a state of excellent condition as "pristine" does.

12. **Answer: D. apathetic** - "Apathetic" means showing or feeling no interest, enthusiasm, or concern, fitting the context of voters who do not care about the election outcome. "Enthusiastic" (eager), "inadequate" (lacking), "antagonistic" (hostile), and "suspicious" (distrustful) do not capture the lack of interest as "apathetic" does.

SAT Sentence Completion

Practice Test 54

1. If you need car parts that the dealers no longer stock, try ____ for odd bits and pieces at the auto wreckers' yards.

- A. waiting
- B. bantering
- C. scavenging
- D. riveting
- E. insuring

2. Grateful as we are for these splendid books, they remain isolated examples of excellence in a literature of ____.

- A. competition
- B. distinction
- C. grandeur
- D. mediocrity
- E. affirmation

3. Despite the ____ discussions of recent months, observers say that the administration and the developer have made progress in their negotiations and are close to ____ on a purchase price.

- A. amicable...haggling
- B. acrimonious...defaulting
- C. heated...agreeing
- D. fruitful...settling
- E. constructive...compromising

4. People expected Winston Churchill to take his painting lightly, but Churchill, no ____, regarded his artistic efforts most seriously indeed.

- A. virtuoso
- B. zealot
- C. dilettante
- D. altruist
- E. renegade

5. Aimed at curbing European attempts to seize territory in the Americas, the Monroe Doctrine was a warning to ____ foreign powers.

- A. magnanimous
- B. credulous
- C. reticent
- D. predatory
- E. allied

6. It is a spotty sort of book, with many pages that, if not exactly ____, are less than ____.

- A. bland...tedious
- B. pretentious...conventional
- C. dull...exciting
- D. eventful...newsworthy
- E. murky...obscure

7. Although Miss Watson never joined the temperance movement, she was a strict teetotaler and would not ____ drinking alcohol.

- A. recall
- B. rebuke
- C. condone
- D. evade
- E. relinquish

8. In discussing Rothko's art, Breslin is ____ in keeping to the facts and resisting the ____ of fanciful interpretation.

- A. scrupulous...temptation
- B. meticulous...integrity
- C. ungainly...reward
- D. uninterested...echo
- E. inept...bias

9. Burdened by debt, Lydgate abandons his dreams of reforming medicine to take a conventional but ____ practice in London.

- A. lucrative
- B. ordinary
- C. innovative
- D. intangible
- E. exotic

10. Numerous studies have found that people who choose to represent themselves in court on the whole exercise pretty good judgment—they seem to have a ____ sense of when they need a lawyer and when they don't.

- A. faulty
- B. capricious
- C. reliable
- D. transient
- E. drastic

11. When I listened to her cogent arguments, all my ____ were ____ and I was forced to agree with her point of view.

- A. senses...stimulated
- B. opinions...confirmed
- C. preconceptions...substantiated
- D. questions...interpolated
- E. doubts...dispelled

12. What made Ann such a fine counselor was her ____, her ability to put herself in her client's place and feel his emotions as if they were her own.

- A. integrity
- B. empathy
- C. tenacity
- D. impartiality
- E. aloofness

Solutions:

1. **Answer: C. scavenging** - "Scavenging" means searching for and collecting items from discarded material, which fits the context of finding car parts at wreckers' yards. "Waiting" (remaining in one place), "bantering" (engaging in playful conversation), "riveting" (fixing firmly), and "insuring" (protecting against loss) do not describe the act of searching for parts. Therefore, "scavenging" is the best choice.
2. **Answer: D. mediocrity** - "Mediocrity" means average or below average quality, fitting the context of the books being rare examples of excellence in otherwise mediocre literature. "Competition" (rivalry), "distinction" (excellence), "grandeur" (splendor), and "affirmation" (positive assertion) do not convey the general lack of quality as effectively as "mediocrity."
3. **Answer: C. heated...agreeing** - "Heated" means intense or passionate, which fits the context of discussions leading to an agreement. "Amicable" (friendly) and "haggling" (bargaining) imply a less intense situation. "Acrimonious" (bitter) and "defaulting" (failing to fulfill) suggest a breakdown in negotiations. "Fruitful" (productive) and "settling" (resolving) are positive but not necessarily intense. "Constructive" (helpful) and "compromising" (reaching an agreement) do not convey the intensity of discussions. Therefore, "heated" and "agreeing" are the most suitable choices.
4. **Answer: C. dilettante** - "Dilettante" means someone who takes up an art or activity superficially, fitting the expectation that Churchill would not take his painting seriously. "Virtuoso" (highly skilled artist), "zealot" (fanatic), "altruist" (selfless person), and "renegade" (rebel) do not convey the idea of casual involvement. Therefore, "dilettante" is the best choice.
5. **Answer: D. predatory** - "Predatory" means seeking to exploit or oppress others, fitting the context of warning against foreign powers attempting to seize territory. "Magnanimous" (generous), "credulous" (gullible), "reticent" (reserved), and "allied" (united) do not fit the context of the Monroe Doctrine. Therefore, "predatory" is the most suitable choice.
6. **Answer: C. dull...exciting** - "Dull" means lacking interest or excitement, and "exciting" is its opposite, fitting the context of a book with some uninteresting pages. "Bland" (uninteresting) and "tedious" (boring), "pretentious" (self-important) and "conventional" (ordinary), "eventful" (full of events) and "newsworthy" (worth reporting), and "murky" (unclear) and "obscure" (uncertain) do not fit the context as well as "dull" and "exciting."
7. **Answer: C. condone** - "Condone" means to accept or allow behavior that is morally wrong, fitting the context of not approving alcohol consumption. "Recall" (remember), "rebuke" (criticize), "evade" (avoid), and "relinquish" (give up) do not fit the context as well. Therefore, "condone" is the best choice.
8. **Answer: A. scrupulous...temptation** - "Scrupulous" means diligent, thorough, and attentive to details, and "temptation" means a desire to do something, especially something wrong, fitting the context of avoiding fanciful interpretation. "Meticulous" (showing great attention to detail) and "integrity" (honesty), "ungainly" (awkward) and "reward" (something given for achievement), "uninterested" (not interested) and "echo" (repetition), and "inept" (incompetent) and "bias" (prejudice) do not fit the context as well as "scrupulous" and "temptation."
9. **Answer: A. lucrative** - "Lucrative" means producing a great deal of profit, fitting the context of a conventional but profitable medical practice. "Ordinary" (common),

"innovative" (new and creative), "intangible" (not physical), and "exotic" (foreign or unusual) do not fit the context as well. Therefore, "lucrative" is the best choice.

10. **Answer: C. reliable** - "Reliable" means consistently good in quality or performance, fitting the context of good judgment in deciding when to need a lawyer. "Faulty" (having defects), "capricious" (unpredictable), "transient" (temporary), and "drastic" (severe) do not fit the context as well. Therefore, "reliable" is the best choice.

11. **Answer: E. doubts...dispelled** - "Doubts" means feelings of uncertainty, and "dispelled" means driven away, fitting the context of being convinced by cogent arguments. "Senses" (perceptions) and "stimulated" (encouraged), "opinions" (beliefs) and "confirmed" (validated), "preconceptions" (prejudices) and "substantiated" (supported with evidence), and "questions" (inquiries) and "interpolated" (inserted) do not fit the context as well. Therefore, "doubts" and "dispelled" are the best choices.

12. **Answer: B. empathy** - "Empathy" means the ability to understand and share the feelings of another, fitting the context of a counselor's ability to relate to clients. "Integrity" (honesty), "tenacity" (persistence), "impartiality" (neutrality), and "aloofness" (detachment) do not fit the context as well. Therefore, "empathy" is the best choice.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 55**

1. Samuel Johnson gave more than ____ cooperation to his biographer, James Boswell; he made himself available to Boswell night after night, furnished Boswell with correspondence, even read his biographer's notes.

- A. innocuous
- B. collusive

- C. tacit
- D. edifying
- E. diplomatic

2. Where lesser scholars would have been ____ by the vast collection of unpublished letters, rough drafts, and journals left by Henry James, Leon Edel was emboldened by its discovery and began to plan an ambitious series of studies on the life and works of the novelist.

- A. intrigued
- B. encouraged
- C. incensed
- D. taxed
- E. daunted

3. In their determination to discover ways to ____ human life, doctors fail to take into account that longer lives are not always happier ones.

- A. ease
- B. prolong
- C. eradicate
- D. recuperate
- E. dissect

4. In this survey of Revolutionary America, the author finds a remarkable homogeneity of opinion from Massachusetts to Georgia; the differences between the sections are ____, almost always explainable by differences in climate or topography.

- A. sharp
- B. nonexistent
- C. irreconcilable
- D. superficial
- E. enormous

5. Halls and audiences for *lieder* recitals tend to be smaller than those for opera and thus more ____ the intimacy and sense of close involvement, which is the recital's particular charm.

- A. inauspicious for
- B. destructive of
- C. conducive to
- D. compromised by
- E. indifferent to

6. Despite their reputations as soothing love songs sung by mothers to lull fretful infants to sleep, many lullabies are of a dark, even ____ nature.

- A. soporific
- B. manipulative
- C. threatening
- D. auspicious
- E. innocuous

7. The mayor and school superintendent let their dispute over budget cuts ____ to ugly and destructive proportions.

- A. escalate
- B. automate
- C. stagnate
- D. condense
- E. dwindle

8. Wherever Lao Li travels, he makes slides of contemporary works of art; his archives ____ every meaningful artistic effort in modern China.

- A. deride
- B. ignore
- C. perpetrate
- D. document
- E. abridge

9. Contrary to her customary ____ behavior, Susan began leaving parties early to seek the solitude of her room.

- A. reclusive
- B. circumspect
- C. decorous
- D. gregarious
- E. altruistic

10. Science is always ____, expecting that modifications of its present theories will sooner or later be found necessary.

- A. conclusive
- B. irrefutable
- C. original
- D. tentative
- E. inflexible

11. One of the great killers until barely 50 years ago, tuberculosis ("consumption" as it was then named) seemed a scourge or ____ rather than the long-term ____ illness it was.

- A. plague...chronic
- B. detriment...ominous
- C. antiseptic...prevalent
- D. vestige...contemporary
- E. epidemic...salutary

12. Gaddis is a formidably talented writer whose work has been, unhappily, more likely to intimidate or ____ his readers than to lure them into his fictional world.

- A. entice
- B. strengthen
- C. invigorate
- D. transform
- E. repel

Solutions:

1. Answer: B. collusive - "Collusive" means involving secret or illegal cooperation or conspiracy, which implies a higher level of cooperation than usual. Here, Johnson's extensive help to Boswell indicates more than just innocent or tacit (unspoken) cooperation. "Innocuous" (harmless), "tacit" (implied), "edifying" (instructive), and "diplomatic" (tactful) do not fit the context as well as "collusive," which suggests extensive and active cooperation.

2. Answer: E. daunted - "Daunted" means discouraged or intimidated, which lesser scholars might feel when facing a vast collection of documents. "Intrigued" (curious), "encouraged" (motivated), "incensed" (angry), and "taxed" (burdened) do not capture the fear or hesitation lesser scholars might experience. Thus, "daunted" is the most fitting choice to highlight the contrast with Edel's boldness.

3. Answer: B. prolong - "Prolong" means to extend the duration of something, fitting the context of doctors trying to extend human life. "Ease" (make easier), "eradicate" (eliminate), "recuperate" (recover), and "dissect" (analyze) do not directly

address extending life span, making "prolong" the most appropriate choice.

4. Answer: D. superficial - "Superficial" means existing or occurring at the surface, indicating that the differences in opinion are minor and easily explained. "Sharp" (clearly defined), "nonexistent" (not present), "irreconcilable" (incompatible), and "enormous" (very large) do not match the author's findings of minimal and explainable differences. Hence, "superficial" best captures the nature of the differences.

5. Answer: C. conducive to - "Conducive to" means making a certain situation or outcome likely or possible, fitting the context of smaller halls enhancing the recital's intimacy. "Inauspicious for" (unfavorable), "destructive of" (harmful), "compromised by" (made vulnerable), and "indifferent to" (unconcerned) do not capture the positive influence on intimacy as effectively as "conducive to."

6. Answer: C. threatening - "Threatening" means having a hostile or frightening quality, fitting the description of lullabies with dark undertones. "Soporific" (sleep-inducing), "manipulative" (controlling), "auspicious" (favorable), and "innocuous" (harmless) do not align with the dark nature described. Thus, "threatening" is the best choice.

7. Answer: A. escalate - "Escalate" means to increase rapidly, fitting the context of a dispute growing to destructive proportions. "Automate" (make automatic), "stagnate" (cease to develop), "condense" (make denser), and "dwindle" (diminish) do not convey the sense of rapid growth in conflict. Therefore, "escalate" is the correct choice.

8. Answer: D. document - "Document" means to record in detail, fitting the context of Lao Li making slides to capture contemporary art. "Deride" (mock), "ignore" (disregard), "perpetrate" (commit), and "abridge" (shorten) do not describe the act of creating a detailed archive. Thus, "document" is the best fit.

9. Answer: D. gregarious - "Gregarious" means sociable, fitting the contrast with Susan's new

behavior of seeking solitude. "Reclusive" (solitary), "circumspect" (cautious), "decorous" (proper), and "altruistic" (selfless) do not provide the necessary contrast. Therefore, "gregarious" is the most suitable choice.

10. Answer: D. tentative - "Tentative" means not certain or fixed, fitting the context of science expecting its theories to change. "Conclusive" (definitive), "irrefutable" (undeniable), "original" (innovative), and "inflexible" (rigid) do not capture the provisional nature of scientific theories. Hence, "tentative" is the best fit.

11. Answer: A. plague . . chronic - "Plague" means a widespread affliction, and "chronic" means long-lasting, fitting the context of tuberculosis being a persistent illness once considered a deadly scourge. "Detriment" (harm) and "ominous" (threatening), "antiseptic" (clean) and "prevalent" (widespread), "vestige" (remnant) and "contemporary" (modern), and "epidemic" (widespread disease) and "salutary" (beneficial) do not fit the context as well as "plague" and "chronic."

12. Answer: E. repel - "Repel" means to drive away, fitting the context of Gaddis's work intimidating or alienating readers. "Entice" (attract), "strengthen" (make stronger), "invigorate" (energize), and "transform" (change) do not convey the sense of driving readers away. Thus, "repel" is the most suitable choice.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 56**

1. Compared with the ostentatious glamour of opera, classical song (increasingly called *lieder* everywhere) is a more ____ tradition.

- A. articulate
- B. unrepresentative
- C. subdued
- D. broad-minded
- E. worldly

2. This well-documented book is ____ researched, fluently written, and unfailingly intelligent in tracing the ____ course of its subject's tormented career.

- A. indifferently...triumphant
B. inadequately...unfortunate
C. painstakingly...tragic
D. carefully...auspicious
E. thoroughly...promising

3. Lexy's joy at finding the perfect Christmas gift for John was ____, for she still had to find presents for the cousins and Uncle Bob.

- A. transitory
B. antithetical
C. exuberant
D. exhaustive
E. incontrovertible

4. Life is a ____ of the sacred and the profane, of good and evil; to try to ____ them is futile.

- A. rejection...embrace
B. commingling...separate
C. misalliance...endure
D. defamation...reform
E. confusion...promulgate

5. Under the rule of the foreign invaders, the land seemed asleep, save for a small group of rebels who sought to kindle the ____ nationalism of the people.

- A. valid
B. blatant
C. dormant
D. pretentious
E. contemplated

6. Many of the early Hollywood moguls sought to ____ themselves and enhance their celluloid empires by snaring ____ writers and intellectuals as screenwriters.

- A. advance...presumptuous
B. aggrandize...prestigious
C. intimidate...unsuspecting
D. glorify...superannuated
E. sabotage...distinguished

7. The Turner Network's production is an absorbing *Heart of Darkness*, watchful, surreptitious, almost ____ as it waits to ____ our emotions.

- A. lighthearted...cater to
B. melancholy...cheer up
C. mercenary...pay for
D. predatory...pounce on
E. furtive...figure out

8. Helen valued people who behaved as if they respected themselves; nothing irritated her more than an excessively ____ waiter or a fawning salesclerk.

- A. austere
B. domineering
C. grave
D. obsequious
E. contentious

9. Whereas most scholars have tended to regard Monteverdi's opera *L'Orfeo* as the beginning of a tradition, Mr. Pickett sensibly considers it the ____ of one.

- A. origin
B. example
C. presence
D. culmination
E. birthright

10. Though ostensibly teaching posture, Feher brings into play techniques of ballet, yoga, and vocal projection to come up with lessons that can best be described as ____.

- A. problematic
B. eclectic
C. homogeneous
D. unpretentious
E. doctrinaire

11. During the troubles of 1750, the extent of ____ in Scotland was terrible; many Scots could afford nothing to eat but oatmeal porridge.

- A. anarchy
B. detriment
C. punishment
D. apathy
E. destitution

12. The biographer of Tennyson is confronted with the problem, rarely solved, of how to make a basically ____ life interesting.

- A. dramatic
- B. bewildering
- C. intriguing
- D. controversial
- E. uneventful

Solutions:

1. Answer: C. subdued - "Subdued" means quiet and restrained, which contrasts with the ostentatious (showy) glamour of opera, fitting the description of classical song (lieder) as a more modest tradition. "Articulate" (clear and expressive), "unrepresentative" (not typical), "broad-minded" (tolerant), and "worldly" (experienced) do not contrast effectively with the glamour of opera as "subdued" does.

2. Answer: C. painstakingly...tragic - "Painstakingly" means with great care and thoroughness, fitting the description of a well-researched book, and "tragic" describes a tormented career, aligning with the subject's difficult experiences. "Indifferently" (without interest), "inadequately" (insufficiently), "carefully" (with care), and "thoroughly" (completely) paired with their respective adjectives do not match the description as effectively.

3. Answer: A. transitory - "Transitory" means temporary or short-lived, fitting Lexy's brief joy before needing to find more gifts. "Antithetical" (opposed), "exuberant" (enthusiastic), "exhaustive" (thorough), and "incontrovertible" (indisputable) do not capture the fleeting nature of her joy as accurately.

4. Answer: B. commingling...separate - "Commingling" means mixing together, which fits the description of life as a mix of sacred and profane, and "separate" means to divide, aligning with the futility of trying to divide these aspects. "Rejection" (refusal), "misalliance" (misguided union), "defamation" (damaging reputation), and "confusion" (lack of clarity) paired with their respective verbs do not capture the mixed nature of life and the futility of division as well.

5. Answer: C. dormant - "Dormant" means inactive, which fits the description of nationalism under foreign rule, and the rebels seeking to awaken it. "Valid" (legitimate), "blatant" (obvious), "pretentious" (showy), and "contemplated" (considered) do not capture the inactive state of nationalism as accurately.

6. Answer: B. aggrandize...prestigious - "Aggrandize" means to increase in power or wealth, fitting the moguls' goals, and "prestigious" means having high status, aligning with the desire to attract notable writers and intellectuals. "Advance" (move forward), "intimidate" (frighten), "glorify" (praise), and "sabotage" (destroy) paired with their respective adjectives do not capture the ambition and status as effectively.

7. Answer: D. predatory...pounce on - "Predatory" means seeking to exploit or prey on, and "pounce on" means to suddenly attack or seize, fitting the description of the production waiting to affect viewers' emotions. "Lighthearted" (cheerful), "melancholy" (sad), "mercenary" (concerned with making money), and "furtive" (secretive) paired with their respective verbs do not capture the calculated emotional impact as effectively.

8. Answer: D. obsequious - "Obsequious" means excessively obedient or attentive, fitting Helen's irritation with overly servile behavior. "Austere" (severe), "domineering" (assertive), "grave" (serious), and "contentious" (argumentative) do not describe the excessive submissiveness as accurately.

9. Answer: D. culmination - "Culmination" means the highest point or final stage, fitting Mr. Pickett's view of the opera as the peak rather than the beginning of a tradition. "Origin" (beginning), "example" (instance), "presence" (existence), and "birthright" (inherited right) do not capture the idea of reaching the highest point as accurately.

10. Answer: B. eclectic - "Eclectic" means deriving ideas from various sources, fitting Feher's use of multiple techniques. "Problematic" (causing problems), "homogeneous" (uniform), "unpretentious" (modest), and "doctrinaire" (rigidly adhering to principles) do not describe the diverse and varied approach as accurately.

11. Answer: E. destitution - "Destitution" means extreme poverty, fitting the description of widespread hardship in Scotland. "Anarchy" (chaos), "detriment" (harm), "punishment" (penalty), and "apathy" (lack of interest) do not capture the severe economic deprivation as accurately.

12. Answer: E. uneventful - "Uneventful" means lacking significant events, fitting the challenge of making an unexciting life interesting. "Dramatic" (exciting), "bewildering" (confusing), "intriguing" (fascinating), and "controversial" (causing public disagreement) do not describe the mundane nature of Tennyson's life as accurately.

SAT Sentence Completion **Practice Test 57**

1. If, like the mole rat, you could run backward as easily as forward but had weak eyes that could see only dim shadows of light and dark, you too might want touch-sensitive whiskers to help ____ you through the tunnels of your underground home.

- A. carry
- B. illuminate
- C. excavate
- D. distract
- E. guide

2. Getting into street brawls is no minor matter for professional boxers, who are required by law to restrict their ____ impulses to the ring.

- A. humorous
- B. aggressive
- C. obligatory
- D. amateurish
- E. legitimate

3. For all of his turn-of-the-century trappings, the novel's hero is basically a ____ voice; his values and cultural ____ are of the present more than the 1890s.

- A. derivative...antecedents
- B. modern...antiquity
- C. contemporary...sensibility

- D. familiar...descendants
- E. hollow...premises

4. She wondered whether triangles, which had only three sides, ____ as polygons, which she thought of as many-sided.

- A. theorized
- B. estimated
- C. qualified
- D. subsisted
- E. multiplied

5. Kepler's observations of the supernova would have been more ____ and valuable had they been made with a telescope; unfortunately, Kepler's supernova lighted the night skies five full years before Galileo made the first ____ telescopic scan of the heavens.

- A. remote...skeptical
- B. solemn...unseemly
- C. infamous...extraneous
- D. detailed...documented
- E. fortuitous...recorded

6. As a product of the Soviet literary establishment, the author was brave enough to ____ the hand that fed him, but not heroic enough to bite it.

- A. give up
- B. nibble at
- C. cringe from
- D. worship
- E. devour

7. It is a relief to see people who can be interested in the arts without being "arty"—collectors who collect for their own ____ rather than for ____.

- A. enjoyment...satisfaction
- B. interest...pleasure
- C. reputation...amusement
- D. pleasure...show
- E. education...fulfillment

8. The periodic nature of her complaints began to concern us: alarmed by these ____ attacks, we decided to consult a doctor in spite of her opposition.

- A. trivial
- B. recurrent
- C. superficial
- D. spontaneous
- E. tentative

9. Though critic John Simon seldom had a good word to say about most contemporary plays, his review of *All in the Timing* was a total ____.

- A. mistake
- B. dismissal
- C. fraud
- D. rave
- E. farce

10. Traditional Chinese painters trained by copying their teachers; ____ was reserved for old age, when you might make changes so ____ that they were almost invisible.

- A. imitation...ubiquitous
- B. emulation...dramatic
- C. novelty...marked
- D. originality...slight
- E. honor...petty

11. Satisfied that her name had been ____, she dropped her libel suit after the newspaper finally published a ____ of its original defamatory statement.

- A. praised...summary
- B. maligned...glossary
- C. vindicated...repetition
- D. enhanced...reaffirmation
- E. cleared...retraction

12. Like Machiavelli before him, Henry Kissinger has a keen appreciation for the hard-headed, even ____, use of power, to the point of admiring some traits in leaders who were otherwise ____.

- A. cynical...benevolent
- B. gentle...insignificant
- C. ruthless...detestable
- D. resentful...charismatic
- E. forceful...exemplary

Solutions:

1. **Answer: E. guide** - "Guide" means to lead or direct, which is what touch-sensitive whiskers would do for a mole rat navigating its tunnels. "Carry" (support and move), "illuminate" (light up), "excavate" (dig out), and "distract" (divert attention) do not fit the context of helping to navigate through tunnels. Therefore, "guide" is the best choice as it directly relates to assisting in movement through a complex environment.

2. **Answer: B. aggressive** - "Aggressive" means ready or likely to attack, which is the impulse professional boxers must control outside the ring. "Humorous" (funny), "obligatory" (required by law), "amateurish" (unskillful), and "legitimate" (lawful) do not describe the nature of impulses that need restraining. Therefore, "aggressive" correctly captures the violent tendencies that boxers must confine to the ring.

3. **Answer: C. contemporary...sensibility** - "Contemporary" means modern, fitting the description of the novel's hero whose values are more current than historical. "Sensibility" means an ability to appreciate and respond to complex emotional or aesthetic influences. "Derivative" (imitative), "antecedents" (ancestors), "modern" (current), "antiquity" (ancient times), "familiar" (well known), "descendants" (offspring), "hollow" (empty), and "premises" (assumptions) do not fit the description as well. Therefore, "contemporary...sensibility" captures the hero's modern values and cultural mindset.

4. **Answer: C. qualified** - "Qualified" means met the criteria, which fits the question about whether triangles are considered polygons. "Theorized" (speculated), "estimated" (roughly calculated), "subsisted" (remained alive), and "multiplied" (increased in number) do not relate to the classification of geometric shapes. Therefore, "qualified" is the correct term for determining if triangles fit the definition of polygons.

5. **Answer: D. detailed...documented** - "Detailed" means having many details, and "documented" means recorded, fitting the context of Kepler's observations being more precise and valuable if done with a telescope. "Remote" (distant), "skeptical" (doubtful), "solemn" (serious), "unseemly" (inappropriate), "infamous" (notorious), "extraneous" (irrelevant), "fortuitous" (lucky), and "recorded" (written down) do not fit as well. Therefore, "detailed...documented" best describes the missed opportunity for more precise astronomical observations.
6. **Answer: B. nibble at** - "Nibble at" means to show slight resistance, fitting the context of someone cautiously critiquing their benefactor. "Give up" (abandon), "cringe from" (shrink in fear), "worship" (adore), and "devour" (eat hungrily) do not fit the context of cautious resistance. Therefore, "nibble at" accurately captures the author's mild criticism.
7. **Answer: D. pleasure...show** - "Pleasure" means enjoyment, and "show" means display, fitting the description of collectors who collect for personal enjoyment rather than public display. "Enjoyment" (delight), "satisfaction" (contentment), "interest" (curiosity), "pleasure" (enjoyment), "reputation" (status), "amusement" (entertainment), "education" (learning), and "fulfillment" (achievement) do not fit the context as well. Therefore, "pleasure...show" accurately captures the genuine interest of collectors.
8. **Answer: B. recurrent** - "Recurrent" means occurring repeatedly, fitting the description of periodic complaints that cause concern. "Trivial" (unimportant), "superficial" (on the surface), "spontaneous" (unplanned), and "tentative" (hesitant) do not describe regular occurrences. Therefore, "recurrent" accurately describes the periodic nature of the complaints.
9. **Answer: D. rave** - "Rave" means a very enthusiastic review, fitting the description of a positive review from a usually critical reviewer. "Mistake" (error), "dismissal" (rejection), "fraud" (deception), and "farce" (ridiculous situation) do not fit the context of a positive review. Therefore, "rave" correctly captures the unexpected positive review.
10. **Answer: D. originality...slight** - "Originality" means creative or unique quality, and "slight" means small or subtle, fitting the context of minor changes in old age. "Imitation" (copying), "ubiquitous" (everywhere), "emulation" (imitation), "dramatic" (striking), "novelty" (newness), "marked" (noticeable), "honor" (respect), and "petty" (small-minded) do not fit as well. Therefore, "originality...slight" accurately describes the reserved creativity for minor adjustments.
11. **Answer: E. cleared...retraction** - "Cleared" means proven innocent, and "retraction" means withdrawal of a statement, fitting the context of resolving a libel suit. "Praised" (commended), "summary" (brief statement), "maligned" (slandered), "glossary" (word list), "vindicated" (justified), "repetition" (repeating), "enhanced" (improved), and "reaffirmation" (confirmation) do not fit as well. Therefore, "cleared...retraction" accurately captures the resolution of the defamation issue.
12. **Answer: C. ruthless...detestable** - "Ruthless" means showing no pity, and "detestable" means deserving intense dislike, fitting the context of admiring certain traits in otherwise disliked leaders. "Cynical" (distrustful), "benevolent" (kind), "gentle" (kind), "insignificant" (unimportant), "resentful" (bitter), "charismatic" (charming), "forceful" (strong), and "exemplary" (model) do not fit the context as well. Therefore, "ruthless...detestable" accurately captures Kissinger's admiration for the effective use of power in disliked leaders.

SAT Sentence Completion

Practice Test 58

1. Some thought Dali was a brilliant painter; others ____ him as a conceited poseur.

- A. respected
- B. venerated
- C. dismissed
- D. vindicated
- E. exasperated

2. The late James Beard was ____ with his time and knowledge—a ____ trait in the narrow world of food writing, a milieu notorious for its pettiness and infighting.

- A. unselfish...common
- B. unconcerned...standard
- C. stingy...remarkable
- D. occupied...negative
- E. generous...rare

3. *New Yorker* short stories often include ____ allusions to ____ people and events: the implication is, if you are in the in-crowd, you'll get the reference; if you come from Cleveland, you won't.

- A. esoteric...obscure
- B. redundant...celebrated
- C. tedious...notorious
- D. provincial...major
- E. passing...common

4. Her growing bitterness was ____ by her professional rivalry with her sister, whose fortunes rose while her own ____.

- A. represented...ascended
- B. mitigated...dwindled
- C. exemplified...soared
- D. nurtured...multiplied
- E. exacerbated...declined

5. Mr. Levi is ____ learned; he has read everything bearing on his subject and on poetry in general (in several languages), and he has forgotten little if anything.

- A. moderately
- B. spottily
- C. inadvertently
- D. formidably
- E. inadequately

6. Because vast organizations are an inevitable element in modern life, it is ____ to aim at their abolition.

- A. necessary
- B. important
- C. customary
- D. realistic
- E. futile

7. The moon was hidden and the night had grown very dark; she had to ____ to see.

- A. blink
- B. strain
- C. mask
- D. remember
- E. reflect

8. The Battle of Lexington was not, as most of us have been taught, a ____ rising of individual farmers, but was instead a tightly organized, well-planned event.

- A. premeditated
- B. cautionary
- C. spontaneous
- D. coordinated
- E. theoretical

9. The book will arouse antagonism, disagreement, and animosity among theologians because it will ____ many ____ rituals and beliefs.

- A. undermine...iconoclastic
- B. tolerate...accepted
- C. undermine...established
- D. disregard...forgotten
- E. observe...pious

10. The ____, by definition, possesses wisdom; the virtuoso, by definition, possesses ____.

- A. scholar...morality
- B. sage...expertise

- C. zealot...sincerity
D. visionary...idealism
E. pedant...proficiency

11. For a young person, Winston seems remarkably ____; you'd expect someone his age to show a little more life.

- A. sophomoric
B. vigorous
C. stodgy
D. tidy
E. sensitive

12. The true historian finds the facts about Marlowe and Shakespeare far more interesting than people's unfounded ____.

- A. complaints
B. evidence
C. conjectures
D. qualms
E. certainty

Solutions:

1. **Answer: C. dismissed** - "Dismissed" means to regard or treat as unworthy of consideration, fitting the context where some people did not take Dali seriously. "Respected" (admired), "venerated" (revered), "vindicated" (cleared of blame), and "exasperated" (irritated) do not fit the negative view implied by "conceited poseur," making "dismissed" the most appropriate choice.

2. **Answer: E. generous...rare** - "Generous" means willing to give more than is usual or expected, and "rare" means uncommon, fitting the context of someone who stands out in a petty and infighting milieu. "Unselfish" (selfless) and "common" (ordinary), "unconcerned" (indifferent) and "standard" (usual), "stingy" (unwilling to give) and "remarkable" (noteworthy), and "occupied" (busy) and "negative" (bad) do not fit as well as "generous" and "rare."

3. **Answer: A. esoteric...obscure** - "Esoteric" means intended for or likely to

be understood by only a small number of people, and "obscure" means not well known, fitting the context of allusions that only insiders would understand.

"Redundant" (unnecessary repetition) and "celebrated" (well known), "tedious" (boring) and "notorious" (well known for a bad reason), "provincial" (unsophisticated) and "major" (important), and "passing" (brief) and "common" (usual) do not convey the exclusivity and obscurity as effectively.

4. **Answer: E. exacerbated...declined** - "Exacerbated" means made worse, and "declined" means became worse or less, fitting the context of growing bitterness due to professional rivalry and declining fortunes. "Represented" (stood for) and "ascended" (rose), "mitigated" (made less severe) and "dwindled" (diminished), "exemplified" (illustrated) and "soared" (rose rapidly), and "nurtured" (encouraged) and "multiplied" (increased) do not fit the worsening situation as well as "exacerbated" and "declined."

5. **Answer: D. formidably** - "Formidably" means inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, intense, or capable, fitting the description of someone very learned. "Moderately" (to a moderate extent), "spottily" (inconsistently), "inadvertently" (unintentionally), and "inadequately" (insufficiently) do not convey the high level of knowledge as effectively as "formidably."

6. **Answer: E. futile** - "Futile" means incapable of producing any useful result; pointless, fitting the context of the impossibility of abolishing vast organizations. "Necessary" (needed), "important" (of great significance), "customary" (usual), and "realistic" (practical) do not convey the impossibility implied by aiming at abolition.

7. **Answer: B. strain** - "Strain" means to make a great effort to see, fitting the context of trying to see in the dark.

"Blink" (close and open the eyes quickly), "mask" (cover), "remember" (recall), and "reflect" (think deeply) do not fit the context of trying to see in the dark.

8. **Answer: C. spontaneous** - "Spontaneous" means performed or occurring as a result of a sudden impulse or inclination and without premeditation, fitting the context of the Battle of Lexington being portrayed as an unplanned uprising. "Premeditated" (planned in advance), "cautionary" (serving as a warning), "coordinated" (organized), and "theoretical" (based on theory) do not fit the context of a sudden, unplanned event.

9. **Answer: C. undermine...established** - "Undermine" means to weaken or damage, and "established" means recognized and accepted, fitting the context of the book challenging widely accepted rituals and beliefs. "Tolerate" (accept), "accepted" (widely approved), "disregard" (pay no attention to), "forgotten" (not remembered), "observe" (follow), and "pious" (devoutly religious) do not fit the context of causing antagonism by challenging norms.

10. **Answer: B. sage...expertise** - "Sage" means a wise person, fitting the context of wisdom, and "expertise" means expert skill or knowledge, fitting the context of a virtuoso's proficiency. "Scholar" (academic) and "morality" (principles of right and wrong), "zealot" (fanatic) and "sincerity" (honesty), "visionary" (person with original ideas) and "idealism" (pursuit of noble goals), and "pedant" (overly concerned with formal rules) and "proficiency" (competence) do not fit as precisely.

11. **Answer: C. stodgy** - "Stodgy" means dull and uninspired, fitting the context of someone showing little life. "Sophomoric" (juvenile), "vigorous" (full of energy), "tidy" (neat), and "sensitive" (easily affected) do not fit the context of someone expected to show more life.

12. **Answer: C. conjectures** - "Conjectures" means opinions or conclusions formed on the basis of incomplete information, fitting the context of unfounded ideas about Marlowe and Shakespeare. "Complaints" (expressions of dissatisfaction), "evidence" (facts indicating whether a belief is true), "qualms" (uneasy feelings), and "certainty" (firm conviction) do not fit the context of unfounded ideas as well as "conjectures."

SAT Sentence Completion

Practice Test 59

1. Even Cormac McCarthy, Don DeLillo, and William Gaddis—eminent novelists who are notoriously ____ when it comes to ____—have surrendered to the exigencies of modern publishing and agreed to be the subjects of magazine articles.

A. prolific...writing
B. egotistical...fame
C. overrated...style
D. irate...delays
E. shy...publicity

2. Tom prided himself on knowing the latest news, the secrets of the rich and the poor; it ____ him that there was something he did not know about his friend.

A. delighted
B. flattered
C. reminded
D. galled
E. reassured

3. Uncertain which suitor she ought to marry, the princess ____, saying now one, now the other.

A. improvised
B. vacillated
C. threatened
D. compromised
E. divulged

4. Factory trawlers, large fishing vessels that drag heavy nets over the seafloor, "vacuum" the North Pacific seas, trapping fish ____.

- A. unintentionally
- B. indiscriminately
- C. paradoxically
- D. collaboratively
- E. temporarily

5. Elizabeth Barrett, whose ____ father would brook no interference or disagreement with his plans for his daughter, eloped in order to ____ his autocratic rule.

- A. attentive...underscore
- B. vindictive...preserve
- C. domineering...escape
- D. idiosyncratic...accommodate
- E. authoritarian...extend

6. Duke Ellington's jazz symphonies were attacked by classical critics who felt that the entire attempt to fuse jazz as a form with classical music should be ____.

- A. promoted
- B. documented
- C. discouraged
- D. acclaimed
- E. repeated

7. During the last four decades of Tennyson's long life, his creative powers never ____, some of his most remarkable work coming after the age of 70.

- A. recovered
- B. manifested
- C. flagged
- D. blossomed
- E. broadened

8. The villagers fortified the town hall, hoping this improvised ____ could ____ them from the guerrilla raids.

- A. citadel...alienate
- B. refuge...distinguish
- C. stronghold...protect
- D. venture...intimidate
- E. disguise...safeguard

9. Lovejoy, the hero of Jonathan Gash's mystery novels, is an antiques dealer who gives the reader

advice on how to tell ____ antique plate from the real thing.

- A. a priceless
- B. a spurious
- C. a classical
- D. an authentic
- E. an antiquated

10. The omniscient narrator stands above the story he is telling, ____ his knowledge of what will occur.

- A. disheartened by
- B. unlimited in
- C. ostracized for
- D. vindicated by
- E. uncertain of

11. Today employers no longer speak of firing or discharging employees; instead, according to the latest ____, they simply "effect a separation."

- A. digression
- B. overstatement
- C. euphemism
- D. paradox
- E. proverb

12. The TV news magazine sits precisely at the ____ of information and entertainment, for while it is not a silly sitcom, it is not a documentary either.

- A. foundation
- B. juncture
- C. cessation
- D. institution
- E. eclipse

Solutions:

1. Answer: E. shy...publicity - The context suggests that these eminent novelists are reluctant to engage in publicity but have done so due to the demands of modern publishing. "Prolific" (producing many works) and "writing" do not fit because the sentence is about their reluctance to be subjects of articles, not their writing habits. "Egotistical" (self-centered) and "fame" do not align with the context of reluctance. "Overrated" (not as good as people say) and "style" are

irrelevant. "Irate" (angry) and "delays" do not fit the context of engaging in publicity.

2. Answer: D. galled - "Galled" means irritated or annoyed, which fits the context of Tom being bothered by not knowing something about his friend. "Delighted" (pleased), "flattered" (pleased by attention), "reminded" (brought to mind), and "reassured" (comforted) do not convey the sense of irritation.

3. Answer: B. vacillated - "Vacillated" means to waver between different opinions or actions, fitting the context of the princess being unsure and changing her mind. "Improvised" (made up on the spot), "threatened" (expressed intent to harm), "compromised" (made a mutual concession), and "divulged" (revealed) do not accurately describe indecision.

4. Answer: B. indiscriminately - "Indiscriminately" means without careful judgment, fitting the context of trawlers catching fish without regard to species. "Unintentionally" (without intent), "paradoxically" (contradictorily), "collaboratively" (working together), and "temporarily" (for a short time) do not capture the indiscriminate nature of the fishing method.

5. Answer: C. domineering...escape - "Domineering" means assertive in an arrogant way, and "escape" means to get away from, fitting the context of Elizabeth eloping to get away from her controlling father. "Attentive" (paying close attention) and "underscore" (emphasize) do not fit the context of rebellion. "Vindictive" (seeking revenge) and "preserve" (maintain) do not fit. "Idiosyncratic" (peculiar) and "accommodate" (make fit) do not match the severity of control implied. "Authoritarian" (favoring strict obedience) and "extend" (make longer) do not fit the idea of eloping to escape.

6. Answer: C. discouraged - "Discouraged" means dissuaded, fitting the context of critics opposing the fusion of jazz and classical music. "Promoted" (supported), "documented" (recorded), "acclaimed" (praised), and "repeated" (done again) do not convey the opposition described.

7. Answer: C. flagged - "Flagged" means declined in strength, fitting the context of Tennyson's powers never declining. "Recovered" (returned to normal), "manifested" (showed), "blossomed" (flourished), and "broadened" (expanded) do not convey the idea of a lack of decline as effectively.

8. Answer: C. stronghold...protect - "Stronghold" means a fortified place, and "protect" means to keep safe, fitting the context of fortifying the town hall for protection. "Citadel" (fortress) and "alienate" (make hostile) do not fit the need for protection. "Refuge" (shelter) and "distinguish" (recognize) do not fit the context of defense. "Venture" (risky undertaking) and "intimidate" (frighten) do not fit. "Disguise" (conceal) and "safeguard" (protect) do not fit the defensive fortification context as well as "stronghold."

9. Answer: B. a spurious - "Spurious" means not genuine, fitting the context of distinguishing fake from real antiques. "Priceless" (invaluable), "classical" (relating to ancient Greek or Roman), "authentic" (genuine), and "antiquated" (old-fashioned) do not describe fake items as effectively as "spurious."

10. Answer: B. unlimited in - "Unlimited in" means having no limits, fitting the context of the narrator knowing everything that will occur. "Disheartened by" (discouraged), "ostracized for" (excluded), "vindicated by" (proven right), and "uncertain of" (not sure) do not fit the context of omniscient knowledge.

11. Answer: C. euphemism - "Euphemism" means a mild or indirect word substituted for one considered harsh, fitting the context of using a gentle term for firing employees. "Digression" (straying from the main point), "overstatement" (exaggeration), "paradox" (contradictory statement), and "proverb" (short, well-known saying) do not fit as well as "euphemism."

12. Answer: B. juncture - "Juncture" means a particular point in events or time, fitting the context of a TV news magazine being at the intersection of information and entertainment. "Foundation" (basis), "cessation" (ending), "institution" (established organization), and "eclipse" (obscuring) do not fit as well as "juncture."

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 60

1. Even though nonbreeding female mole rats are ____, when the queen mole rat dies, several females suddenly ____ their sexual and reproductive powers and battle one another to replace her.

- A. prolific...accept
- B. sterile...regain
- C. barren...relinquish
- D. fecund...recover
- E. fragile...lose

2. ____ by life's ____, the last emperor of China worked as a lowly gardener in the palace over which he had once ruled.

- A. Fortified...generosity
- B. Deluded...coincidences
- C. Humbled...vicissitudes
- D. Venerated...survivors
- E. Recognized...impostors

3. The observers hope to find out how important ____ foraging is to these endangered shorebirds in order to ____ the importance of restricting nighttime human use of beaches to specific places or times.

- A. nocturnal...ascertain
- B. aerial...convey
- C. underwater...rectify
- D. sporadic...mitigate
- E. desultory...mandate

4. Most people who are color-blind actually can distinguish several colors; some, however, have a truly ____ view of a world all in shades of gray.

- A. monochromatic
- B. opalescent
- C. translucent
- D. astigmatic
- E. roseate

5. Even when being ____ in method, people can come up with incorrect answers by basing their arguments on false premises.

- A. original
- B. logical
- C. slipshod
- D. realistic
- E. careless

6. Was he so thin-skinned, then, to ____ any small ____ at his expense?

- A. support...purchase
- B. repeat...compliment
- C. comprehend...mystery
- D. resent...jest
- E. disregard...insult

7. We look with pride at our new bridges and dams, for they are works of art as well as of ____.

- A. leisure
- B. aesthetics
- C. drudgery
- D. utility
- E. anachronism

8. When clay dries out, it loses its plasticity and becomes less ____.

- A. synthetic
- B. expensive
- C. malleable
- D. tangible
- E. brittle

9. For many years an unheralded researcher, Barbara McClintock gained international ____ when she won the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine.

- A. condemnation
- B. notoriety
- C. renown
- D. affluence
- E. camaraderie

10. In judging the degree of his guilt, the question remains whether he acted out of purely ____ motives or whether he acted with thoughts of his own ____ in mind.

- A. benevolent...fame
- B. disinterested...advantage

- C. selfish...benefit
- D. mercenary...profit
- E. malicious...cleverness

11. Rosa was such a last-minute worker that she could never start writing a paper till the deadline was ____.

- A. known
- B. problematic
- C. imminent
- D. superseded
- E. recent

12. Rather than feeling toward Miss Havisham the ____ due a benefactor, Estella became resentful and even ____ to her patron.

- A. esteem...effusive
- B. obligation...dutiful
- C. altruism...quarrelsome
- D. gratitude...hostile
- E. condescension...benign

Solutions:

1. Answer: B. sterile...regain - "Sterile" means unable to reproduce, which fits nonbreeding female mole rats. "Regain" means to recover something lost, which makes sense when these females suddenly develop reproductive abilities after the queen's death. "Prolific" (highly productive), "barren" (unable to produce offspring), "fecund" (fertile), and "fragile" (delicate) with their respective verbs do not align as effectively with the sudden acquisition of reproductive powers.

2. Answer: C. Humbled...vicissitudes - "Humbled" means brought low in condition or status, fitting someone who has fallen from being an emperor to a gardener. "Vicissitudes" are changes or variations, often unforeseen difficulties. "Fortified" (strengthened), "deluded" (deceived), "venerated" (highly respected), and "recognized" (acknowledged) with their respective nouns do not fit the context of a significant fall from power.

3. Answer: A. nocturnal...ascertain - "Nocturnal" means active at night, which fits the context of shorebirds foraging at night. "Ascertain" means to find out or determine, which aligns with the

purpose of restricting human use of beaches. "Aerial" (related to the air), "underwater" (below water), "sporadic" (occurring at irregular intervals), and "desultory" (lacking a plan) with their respective verbs do not fit the context of nighttime foraging and the need to determine its importance.

4. Answer: A. monochromatic - "Monochromatic" means having one color or shades of one color, fitting the description of seeing the world in shades of gray. "Opalescent" (showing various colors), "translucent" (allowing light to pass through), "astigmatic" (blurred vision due to an irregularly shaped cornea), and "roseate" (optimistically bright) do not describe a color-blind view as effectively.

5. Answer: B. logical - "Logical" means based on clear reasoning, which is the correct approach that still might lead to incorrect answers if the premises are false. "Original" (innovative), "slipshod" (careless), "realistic" (practical), and "careless" (negligent) do not match the need for methodical correctness despite potential errors from false premises.

6. Answer: D. resent...jest - "Resent" means to feel bitterness or indignation at, which fits someone being overly sensitive to jokes ("jest") at their expense. "Support" (assist), "repeat" (say again), "comprehend" (understand), and "disregard" (ignore) with their respective nouns do not capture the emotional reaction to small jokes as accurately.

7. Answer: D. utility - "Utility" refers to practical use or function, fitting the dual nature of bridges and dams as both functional and artistic. "Leisure" (free time), "aesthetics" (concerned with beauty), "drudgery" (tedious work), and "anachronism" (something out of place in time) do not align with the context of combining art with functionality.

8. Answer: C. malleable - "Malleable" means capable of being shaped or bent, which is a key property of clay when it is wet. "Synthetic" (artificial), "expensive" (costly), "tangible" (perceptible by touch), and "brittle" (easily broken) do not describe the flexibility of wet clay as well as "malleable."

9. Answer: C. renown - "Renown" means widespread fame or acclaim, which fits someone gaining international recognition for winning a Nobel Prize. "Condemnation" (strong disapproval), "notoriety" (being famous for something bad), "affluence" (wealth), and "camaraderie" (mutual trust and friendship) do not match the positive fame indicated by winning the Nobel Prize.

10. Answer: B. disinterested...advantage - "Disinterested" means unbiased or impartial, suggesting he acted without personal gain in mind. "Advantage" means a beneficial factor, fitting the context of questioning his motives. "Benevolent" (kind), "selfish" (concerned with one's own benefit), "mercenary" (motivated by money), and "malicious" (intending harm) with their respective nouns do not fit as well with the contrast of selfless versus self-serving motives.

11. Answer: C. imminent - "Imminent" means about to happen, fitting someone who waits until the last possible moment to start a task. "Known" (understood), "problematic" (posing a problem), "superseded" (replaced), and "recent" (having happened not long ago) do not fit the context of an impending deadline as accurately.

12. Answer: D. gratitude...hostile - "Gratitude" means thankfulness, which is the expected feeling towards a benefactor, but "hostile" means unfriendly or antagonistic, describing Estella's unexpected reaction. "Esteem" (respect), "obligation" (duty), "altruism" (selflessness), and "condescension" (patronizing attitude) with their respective adjectives do not capture the contrast in expected versus actual feelings towards the benefactor as effectively.

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 61

1. Trying to prove Hill a liar, Senator Specter repeatedly questioned her ____.

- A. intelligence
- B. veracity
- C. optimism
- D. autonomy
- E. brevity

2. It was only the first day of summer vacation, but his nerves were already ____ by the constant clamor of the children.

- A. eliminated
- B. alleviated
- C. replete
- D. vacillated
- E. frayed

3. Donald Trump's former casino in Atlantic City once was the most ____ gambling palace in the East, easily outglittering its competitors.

- A. professional
- B. speculative
- C. ostentatious
- D. lucrative
- E. restrained

4. Mrs. Thatcher had a better eye for the weaknesses and ____ of her contemporaries than for their virtues.

- A. responsibilities
- B. foibles
- C. merits
- D. talents
- E. attractions

5. American culture now stigmatizes, and sometimes even heavily ____, behavior that was once taken for granted: overt racism, cigarette smoking, the use of sexual stereotypes.

- A. advocates
- B. penalizes
- C. ignores
- D. indoctrinates
- E. advertises

6. Because we have completed our analysis of the major components of the proposed project, we are free to devote the remainder of this session to a study of the project's ____ details.

- A. lurid
- B. scrupulous
- C. unquestionable
- D. incidental
- E. involuntary

7. When we encounter a tentative thought of our own in someone else's writings, any ____ we may have had of its validity is ____, and what we were hesitant to believe is confirmed as truth.

- A. assurance...unfounded
- B. intimation...imprudent
- C. doubt...dispelled
- D. proof...unjustified
- E. suspicion...reinforced

8. Determined to hire employees on the basis of their merits rather than on the basis of their family connections, Johnson refused to ____ nepotism and other forms of favoritism in the engagement of new workers.

- A. obscure
- B. proscribe
- C. countenance
- D. misrepresent
- E. discern

9. Just as sloth is the mark of the idler, ____ is the mark of the ____.

- A. grief...miser
- B. obsequiousness...toady
- C. wanderlust...trespasser
- D. suspicion...tyrant
- E. brevity...wit

10. Unlike Sartre, who was born into a cultivated environment, receiving culture in his feeding bottle, so to speak, the child Camus had to fight to ____ a culture that was not ____.

- A. acquire...innate
- B. encourage...barbarous
- C. develop...frivolous
- D. restrain...inferior
- E. justify...conventional

11. Because the damage to his car had been ____, Michael decided he wouldn't bother to report the matter to his insurance company.

- A. intermittent
- B. gratuitous
- C. negligible

- D. spontaneous
- E. significant

12. Such was Brandon's ____ that he was frequently described as being honest as the day was long.

- A. vigilance
- B. munificence
- C. probity
- D. gravity
- E. eminence

Solutions:

1. **Answer: B. veracity** - "Veracity" means truthfulness, fitting the context of questioning someone's honesty. "Intelligence" (mental ability), "optimism" (hopefulness), "autonomy" (independence), and "brevity" (conciseness) do not relate to the idea of proving someone a liar. Therefore, questioning Hill's veracity is most appropriate.
2. **Answer: E. frayed** - "Frayed" means worn out or strained, fitting the context of nerves being affected by noise. "Eliminated" (completely removed), "alleviated" (made less severe), "replete" (filled), and "vacillated" (wavered) do not describe the effect of constant clamor on nerves as effectively as "frayed."
3. **Answer: C. ostentatious** - "Ostentatious" means showy or designed to impress, fitting the description of a glamorous casino. "Professional" (competent), "speculative" (theoretical), "lucrative" (profitable), and "restrained" (controlled) do not capture the lavish nature of the casino as well as "ostentatious."
4. **Answer: B. foibles** - "Foibles" means minor weaknesses or eccentricities, fitting the context of noticing more flaws than virtues. "Responsibilities" (duties), "merits" (advantages), "talents" (skills), and "attractions" (appeals) do not describe minor flaws as accurately as "foibles."

5. **Answer: B. penalizes** - "Penalizes" means punishes, which fits the context of stigmatizing and punishing certain behaviors. "Advocates" (supports), "ignores" (pays no attention to), "indoctrinates" (teaches beliefs), and "advertises" (promotes) do not describe the negative consequences as effectively as "penalizes."
6. **Answer: D. incidental** - "Incidental" means minor or secondary, fitting the context of focusing on less important details after major components. "Lurid" (shocking), "scrupulous" (meticulous), "unquestionable" (undoubted), and "involuntary" (unintentional) do not fit the context as well as "incidental."
7. **Answer: C. doubt...dispelled** - "Doubt" means uncertainty, and "dispelled" means driven away, fitting the context of confirming validity. "Assurance" (confidence), "intimation" (hint), "proof" (evidence), and "suspicion" (mistrust) paired with their respective adjectives do not convey the confirmation of validity as effectively as "doubt...dispelled."
8. **Answer: C. countenance** - "Countenance" means to tolerate or permit, fitting the context of refusing to allow nepotism. "Obscure" (hide), "proscribe" (forbid), "misrepresent" (give a false impression), and "discern" (perceive) do not fit the context of not allowing nepotism as well as "countenance."
9. **Answer: B. obsequiousness...toady** - "Obsequiousness" means excessive flattery, and a "toady" is a sycophant, fitting the context of identifying marks of personality traits. "Grief" (sorrow), "wanderlust" (desire to travel), "suspicion" (mistrust), and "brevity" (conciseness) paired with their respective nouns do not capture the relationship as effectively.
10. **Answer: A. acquire...innate** - "Acquire" means to obtain, and "innate" means inborn, fitting the context of Camus having to struggle for something not

naturally given. "Encourage" (promote), "develop" (grow), "restrain" (hold back), and "justify" (prove) paired with their respective adjectives do not fit the context as well as "acquire...innate."

11. **Answer: C. negligible** - "Negligible" means so small or unimportant as to be not worth considering, fitting the context of damage not worth reporting. "Intermittent" (irregular), "gratuitous" (unwarranted), "spontaneous" (unplanned), and "significant" (important) do not describe minimal damage as effectively as "negligible."
12. **Answer: C. probity** - "Probity" means integrity or honesty, fitting the context of being described as very honest. "Vigilance" (alertness), "munificence" (generosity), "gravity" (seriousness), and "eminence" (fame) do not describe honesty as effectively as "probity."

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 62

1. While the movie *Spellbound* is in many ways a glowing testimonial to the powers of psychoanalysis to overcome the evils of unreason, its portrait of the analytic profession is not entirely _____.

- A. malignant
- B. obscure
- C. adulatory
- D. vehement
- E. derivative

2. Hoping for a rave review of his new show, the playwright was _____ when the critics _____ it unanimously.

- A. gloomy...condoned
- B. incredulous...appraised
- C. vexed...selected
- D. miserable...panned
- E. impressed...divulged

3. Because it had not been blasted into a stable orbit, the satellite moved _____ through space.

- A. innocuously
- B. terminally
- C. erratically
- D. effortlessly
- E. routinely

4. When railroads first began to supplant rivers and canals as highways of commerce, they were regarded as blessings and their promoters were looked upon as ____.

- A. hucksters
- B. upstarts
- C. atheists
- D. benefactors
- E. diehards

5. Though she tried to be happy living with Clara in the city, Heidi ____ for the mountains and for her gruff but loving grandfather.

- A. pined
- B. searched
- C. cheered
- D. labored
- E. trembled

6. The discovery by George Poinar and Roberta Hess that amber can preserve intact tissue from million-year-old insects ____ the possibility, since proved correct, that it also can preserve intact DNA.

- A. eliminated
- B. distorted
- C. raised
- D. precluded
- E. predestined

7. The new dance troupe's gravest problem, one that mars the current production, is a desire for correctness and technical accuracy that ____ both energy and musical response.

- A. enhances
- B. stifles
- C. transforms
- D. reflects
- E. supplies

8. New judges often fear that the influence of their own backgrounds will ____ their verdicts, no matter how sincere they are in wanting to be ____.

- A. contradict...revered
- B. corroborate...silent
- C. condition...impartial
- D. disclose...secretive
- E. falsify...humane

9. Because he had abandoned his post and joined forces with the Indians, his fellow officers considered the hero of *Dances with Wolves* a ____.

- A. martinet
- B. braggart
- C. renegade
- D. skinflint
- E. laggard

10. To take a ____ attitude, looking down on others as one's inferiors, often is to ____ any chance of favorable relations with them.

- A. promising...negate
- B. patronizing...eliminate
- C. modest...reduce
- D. pertinent...violate
- E. benign...deny

11. Contemporary critics often ____ the poet Longfellow as a simple sentimentalist who relied too much on poetic meters only suitable for light verse.

- A. heed
- B. endorse
- C. dismiss
- D. embellish
- E. acclaim

12. On some occasions Monteverdi clearly specifies the instruments he wishes to make up his orchestra, but more often he is ____ or silent on the issue.

- A. enigmatic
- B. precise
- C. eloquent
- D. resolute
- E. vehement

Solutions:

1. **Answer: C. adulatory** - "Adulatory" means excessively praising, which fits the context of the movie's positive portrayal of psychoanalysis. The sentence suggests that the portrayal is not entirely flattering. "Malignant" (harmful), "obscure" (not clear), "vehement" (intense), and "derivative" (imitative) do not fit the context as well as "adulatory."
2. **Answer: D. miserable...panned** - "Miserable" means very unhappy, and "panned" means criticized severely. The playwright's hope for praise is contrasted with the negative reviews, making him feel miserable. "Gloomy" (sad) and "condoned" (accepted), "incredulous" (disbelieving) and "appraised" (evaluated), "vexed" (annoyed) and "selected" (chosen), and "impressed" (admiring) and "divulged" (revealed) do not convey the disappointment as accurately.
3. **Answer: C. erratically** - "Erratically" means in an irregular or unpredictable manner, fitting the context of the satellite not being in a stable orbit. "Innocuously" (harmlessly), "terminally" (leading to death), "effortlessly" (easily), and "routinely" (regularly) do not describe the unstable movement as effectively.
4. **Answer: D. benefactors** - "Benefactors" means people who give help, especially financial support. Railroads were seen as blessings, and their promoters as benefactors. "Hucksters" (dishonest sellers), "upstarts" (newcomers with presumptuous behavior), "atheists" (non-believers in God), and "dichards" (resistant to change) do not fit the positive view.
5. **Answer: A. pined** - "Pined" means to long for something. Heidi missed the mountains and her grandfather. "Searched" (looked for), "cheered" (felt happy), "labored" (worked hard), and "trembled" (shook) do not convey the sense of longing.
6. **Answer: C. raised** - "Raised" means brought up for consideration. The discovery suggested the possibility of preserving DNA. "Eliminated" (removed), "distorted" (twisted), "precluded" (prevented), and "predestined" (determined in advance) do not fit the context as well.
7. **Answer: B. stifles** - "Stifles" means to suppress or restrain. The desire for correctness reduces energy and musical response. "Enhances" (improves), "transforms" (changes), "reflects" (shows), and "supplies" (provides) do not convey the negative impact on energy and response.
8. **Answer: C. condition...impartial** - "Condition" means to influence, and "impartial" means unbiased. Judges worry their backgrounds will affect their fairness. "Contradict" (disagree), "corroborate" (confirm), "disclose" (reveal), and "falsify" (misrepresent) paired with their respective adjectives do not fit the concern as well.
9. **Answer: C. renegade** - "Renegade" means a person who betrays or deserts an organization or set of principles. The hero joining the Indians fits this description. "Martinet" (strict disciplinarian), "braggart" (boastful person), "skinflint" (miser), and "laggard" (slow person) do not fit the context.
10. **Answer: B. patronizing...eliminate** - "Patronizing" means treating with an apparent kindness that betrays a feeling of superiority, and "eliminate" means remove. Looking down on others will remove chances of good relations. "Promising" (hopeful), "modest" (humble), "pertinent" (relevant), and "benign" (kind) paired with their respective verbs do not fit the context as well.
11. **Answer: C. dismiss** - "Dismiss" means to reject as unimportant. Critics see Longfellow as relying too much on simple meters. "Heed" (pay attention to),

"endorse" (support), "embellish" (decorate), and "acclaim" (praise) do not fit the negative view described.

12. **Answer: A. enigmatic** - "Enigmatic" means mysterious or difficult to interpret, fitting the context of Monteverdi being unclear or silent on orchestration. "Precise" (exact), "eloquent" (fluent or persuasive), "resolute" (determined), and "vehement" (intense) do not fit the context as well.

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 63

1. Just as an _____ dish lacks flavor, an inane remark lacks _____.

- A. intriguing...spice
- B. insipid...sense
- C. inedible...listeners
- D. occasional...implications
- E. offensive...taste

2. Deeply _____ by the insult to his dignity, he maintained that no true gentleman would accept such an _____ calmly.

- A. mortified...opportunity
- B. incensed...affront
- C. puzzled...honor
- D. shamed...iconoclasm
- E. gratified...admonition

3. Isozaki's love for detail is apparent everywhere in the new museum, but happily the details are _____ to the building's larger formal composition, which is _____ by the unfortunate busyness of much recent architecture.

- A. important...harmed
- B. irrelevant...fragmented
- C. subordinated...unencumbered
- D. appropriate...echoed
- E. incidental...nullified

4. Although most worthwhile criticism concentrates on the positive, one should not _____ praise everything.

- A. argumentatively
- B. constructively
- C. derogatorily
- D. analytically
- E. indiscriminately

5. The biographer may not have _____ the depths of her subject's self-contradictory character, but she has traced its intriguingly complex _____.

- A. plumbed...tedium
- B. sounded...surface
- C. thwarted...background
- D. reached...insipidity
- E. disregarded...psyche

6. Learned though she was, her _____ never degenerated into _____.

- A. erudition...pedantry
- B. knowledge...ignorance
- C. scholarship...research
- D. speculation...thought
- E. education...inquiry

7. Biologists categorize many of the world's environments as deserts: regions where the _____ availability of some key factor, such as water, sunlight, or an essential nutrient, places sharp constraints on the existence of living things.

- A. ready
- B. gradual
- C. limited
- D. nearby
- E. unprecedented

8. The sea was so rough that the safest thing to do was to seize the railing of the ship and hang on; walking was too _____ a pastime.

- A. leisurely
- B. pleasant
- C. tempting
- D. precarious
- E. prosaic

9. Though the ad writers had come up with a highly creative campaign to publicize the company's newest product, the head office rejected it for a more _____, down-to-earth approach.

- A. innovative
- B. drastic
- C. prosaic
- D. noteworthy
- E. philosophic

10. The Americans and the British seem to have a dog-in-the-manger attitude toward the island of Malta, no longer needing it themselves but nevertheless wishing to ____ it to others.

- A. interpret
- B. offer
- C. deny
- D. praise
- E. reveal

11. Increasingly silent and withdrawn, he changed from a fluent, articulate speaker to someone who gave only ____ answers to any questions asked of him.

- A. bookish
- B. effusive
- C. idiomatic
- D. pretentious
- E. monosyllabic

12. When you learn archaeology solely from lectures, you get only ____ sense of the concepts presented, but when you hold a 5,000-year-old artifact in your hands, you have a chance to involve your senses, not just your intellect.

- A. an invalid
- B. an anachronistic
- C. an abstract
- D. a specious
- E. a tangential

13. Paradoxically, while it is relatively easy to prove a fraudulent work of art is a fraud, it is often virtually impossible to prove that an authentic one is ____.

- A. unpretentious
- B. objective
- C. impartial
- D. dubious
- E. genuine

Solutions:

1. **Answer: B. insipid...sense** - "Insipid" means lacking flavor, which aligns with a dish that has no taste. Similarly, "inane" (lacking sense) is aptly paired with "sense" to describe a remark that lacks meaning or value. "Intriguing" (interesting), "inedible" (not suitable for eating), "occasional" (happening infrequently), and "offensive" (causing displeasure) do not pair well with the context of lacking flavor and sense.
2. **Answer: B. incensed...affront** - "Incensed" means very angry, which fits someone deeply offended by an insult. "Affront" (an open or intentional insult) complements the reaction described. "Mortified" (deeply embarrassed), "puzzled" (confused), "shamed" (feeling humiliation), and "gratified" (pleased) paired with their respective nouns do not convey the strong reaction to an insult as effectively.
3. **Answer: C. subordinated...unencumbered** - "Subordinated" means made less important, fitting the details that do not overshadow the larger composition. "Unencumbered" (not burdened) fits well with the idea of avoiding the busyness of recent architecture. "Important" (significant), "irrelevant" (not related), "appropriate" (suitable), and "incidental" (secondary) paired with their respective adjectives do not describe the relationship between details and the larger composition as accurately.
4. **Answer: E. indiscriminately** - "Indiscriminately" means without careful judgment, fitting the context of not praising everything without discernment. "Argumentatively" (in a contentious manner), "constructively" (in a useful manner), "derogatorily" (in a belittling manner), and "analytically" (in a logical manner) do not capture the lack of discrimination implied in praising everything.

5. **Answer: B. sounded...surface** - "Sounded" means explored or measured, fitting the biographer's effort to understand the subject's character. "Surface" (the outside part or uppermost layer) indicates that only the outer aspects were explored. "Plumbed" (explored in depth), "thwarted" (prevented), "reached" (arrived at), and "disregarded" (ignored) paired with their respective nouns do not align as well with the context of understanding complexity.
6. **Answer: A. erudition...pedantry** - "Erudition" means extensive knowledge, fitting the context of being learned. "Pedantry" (excessive concern with minor details) is the negative degeneration of knowledge. "Knowledge" (facts and information), "scholarship" (academic study), "speculation" (forming theories), and "education" (the process of learning) paired with their respective nouns do not convey the specific transition from knowledge to negative traits as well.
7. **Answer: C. limited** - "Limited" means restricted in size or amount, fitting the context of constraints in deserts. "Ready" (available), "gradual" (happening slowly), "nearby" (close), and "unprecedented" (never done or known before) do not describe the scarcity of key factors as effectively as "limited."
8. **Answer: D. precarious** - "Precarious" means not securely held or in position, fitting the dangerous nature of walking on a rough sea. "Leisurely" (relaxed), "pleasant" (enjoyable), "tempting" (appealing), and "prosaic" (lacking poetic beauty) do not align with the danger described.
9. **Answer: C. prosaic** - "Prosaic" means lacking poetic beauty; ordinary, fitting the head office's preference for a straightforward approach. "Innovative" (new and creative), "drastic" (extreme), "noteworthy" (worthy of attention), and "philosophic" (relating to philosophy) do

not describe a down-to-earth approach as well.

10. **Answer: C. deny** - "Deny" means to refuse to give, fitting the description of withholding something from others. "Interpret" (explain), "offer" (present), "praise" (express admiration), and "reveal" (make known) do not align with the dog-in-the-manger attitude of withholding.
11. **Answer: E. monosyllabic** - "Monosyllabic" means using brief words, fitting the description of someone giving short answers. "Bookish" (fond of reading), "effusive" (expressing feelings of gratitude), "idiomatic" (using expressions natural to a native speaker), and "pretentious" (attempting to impress) do not describe the brief nature of responses.
12. **Answer: C. an abstract** - "Abstract" means existing in thought or as an idea but not having physical or concrete existence, fitting the idea of a theoretical understanding from lectures. "Invalid" (not valid), "anachronistic" (out of place in time), "specious" (misleadingly attractive), and "tangential" (only slightly related) do not describe the nature of theoretical knowledge as well.
13. **Answer: E. genuine** - "Genuine" means truly what something is said to be; authentic, fitting the context of proving the authenticity of art. "Unpretentious" (not attempting to impress), "objective" (unbiased), "impartial" (fair), and "dubious" (doubtful) do not describe the difficulty in proving authenticity as well.

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 64

1. The humorist Mark Twain had a great ____ for history and historians, observing that each year the antiquarians shed new darkness on the past.

- A. reverence
- B. affinity
- C. tolerance
- D. contempt
- E. empathy

2. Since novelty of presentation is apt to add to a performer's popularity, the most successful troubadours were those who were also the most _____ in their delivery.

- A. spontaneous
- B. lyrical
- C. academic
- D. practiced
- E. repetitious

3. Unfortunately, in developing countries rapid economic growth often _____ the overexploitation of natural resources and _____ distribution of wealth.

- A. halts...indiscriminate
- B. holds off...inadequate
- C. leads to...inequitable
- D. continues...evenhanded
- E. goes beyond...ungrateful

4. Untempered by any _____, she spread an ever more militant message to her followers.

- A. conviction
- B. enthusiasm
- C. radicalism
- D. hardship
- E. discretion

5. The idea that people are basically economic creatures, intent only upon their own material advantage, induces disbelief in the _____ of any seemingly _____ motive.

- A. purpose...natural
- B. desirability...ulterior
- C. stupidity...altruistic
- D. seemliness...egoistic
- E. integrity...unselfish

6. Leavening his decisions with humorous, down-to-earth anecdotes, Judge Wapner was not at all the _____ legal scholar.

- A. considerate
- B. pedantic
- C. indecisive
- D. competent
- E. pragmatic

7. The Apache are a _____ society, where husbands typically move into wives' dwellings and women take the leadership role in family affairs.

- A. sedentary
- B. defunct
- C. fragmented
- D. matrilineal
- E. xenophobic

8. _____ James Baldwin, who wrote of black Americans as being in a perpetual state of rage, Mr. Cose asserts that few human beings could _____ the psychic toll of uninterrupted anger.

- A. Corroborating...endure
- B. Refuting...enhance
- C. Dismissing...refine
- D. Challenging...survive
- E. Upholding...weather

9. Rather than allowing these dramatic exchanges between her characters to develop fully, Ms. Norman unfortunately tends to _____ the discussions involving the two women.

- A. exacerbate
- B. protract
- C. truncate
- D. augment
- E. elaborate

10. "The show must go on" is the oldest _____ of show business; every true performer lives by that creed.

- A. euphemism
- B. allegory
- C. precursor
- D. tenet
- E. corroboration

11. The _____ with which musicians and lovers of fine instruments _____ Paul Irvin's professional services attests to his great expertise and craftsmanship as a harpsichord maker.

- A. hesitation...acquire
- B. avidness...solicit
- C. persistence...supersede

D. harmony...conjure
E. vehemence...reject

12. From the critic's perspective, M. F. K. Fisher is a writer who ____ classification, for her food writing reads like love stories, her fiction like memoirs.

- A. remembered
- B. relished
- C. skirted
- D. complied with
- E. matured with

13. Because the apelike members of *Australopithecus afarensis* were capable both of walking and of swinging through trees, the anthropologist described them as a mosaic, bipedal from the waist down and ____ from the waist up.

- A. ethereal
- B. arboreal
- C. dysfunctional
- D. articulated
- E. pedestrian

Solutions:

1. Answer: D. contempt - Mark Twain's observation about historians suggests a lack of respect, making "contempt" (a feeling of disdain) the appropriate choice. "Reverence" (deep respect), "affinity" (natural liking), "tolerance" (acceptance), and "empathy" (understanding and sharing feelings) do not match the critical tone of Twain's view.

2. Answer: A. spontaneous - The most successful troubadours would need to be engaging and unpredictable, which aligns with "spontaneous" (acting without planning). "Lyrical" (expressive), "academic" (scholarly), "practiced" (well-rehearsed), and "repetitious" (repeating) do not emphasize the novelty and excitement as effectively.

3. Answer: C. leads to...inequitable - Rapid economic growth often results in overuse of resources and unfair wealth distribution, fitting "leads to" (causes) and "inequitable" (unfair). "Halts" (stops), "holds off" (delays), "continues"

(persists), and "goes beyond" (exceeds) paired with their respective adjectives do not accurately describe the negative outcomes of growth.

4. Answer: E. discretion - "Discretion" (careful judgment) implies a balance that was missing in her militant message. "Conviction" (firm belief), "enthusiasm" (intense interest), "radicalism" (extreme views), and "hardship" (suffering) do not suggest the moderation or caution implied by discretion.

5. Answer: E. integrity...unselfish - The disbelief in the sincerity of any selfless motive highlights "integrity" (honesty) and "unselfish" (not seeking personal gain) as the best fit. "Purpose" (goal), "desirability" (worth), "stupidity" (lack of intelligence), and "seemliness" (propriety) paired with their respective adjectives do not capture the skepticism described.

6. Answer: B. pedantic - "Pedantic" means overly concerned with minute details or formal rules, fitting the contrast with Judge Wapner's down-to-earth style. "Considerate" (thoughtful), "indecisive" (unable to decide), "competent" (capable), and "pragmatic" (practical) do not convey the sense of unnecessary adherence to formality.

7. Answer: D. matrilineal - A society where lineage is traced through the mother and women lead fits "matrilineal." "Sedentary" (inactive), "defunct" (no longer existing), "fragmented" (broken into pieces), and "xenophobic" (fearful of strangers) do not accurately describe the social structure.

8. Answer: D. Challenging...survive - Mr. Cose, differing from Baldwin's view, asserts few can withstand constant anger, fitting "challenging" (opposing) and "survive" (endure). "Corroborating" (supporting), "refuting" (disproving), "dismissing" (rejecting), and "upholding" (supporting) paired with their respective verbs do not capture the debate and endurance context.

9. Answer: C. truncate - "Truncate" means to shorten, fitting the description of cutting short the discussions. "Exacerbate" (worsen), "protract" (lengthen), "augment" (increase), and "elaborate" (add detail) do not describe reducing the length or depth of the exchanges.

10. Answer: D. tenet - A "tenet" is a principle or belief, fitting the context of a fundamental saying in show business. "Euphemism" (mild expression), "allegory" (symbolic story), "precursor" (forerunner), and "corroboration" (confirmation) do not capture the principle nature of the phrase.

11. Answer: B. avidness...solicit - "Avidness" means enthusiasm, and "solicit" means to seek or request, fitting the demand for Irvin's expertise. "Hesitation" (reluctance), "persistence" (determination), "harmony" (concord), and "vehemence" (intensity) paired with their respective verbs do not describe the positive pursuit of services.

12. Answer: C. skirted - "Skirted" means avoided or went around, fitting the idea of defying easy classification. "Remembered" (recalled), "relished" (enjoyed), "complied with" (followed), and "matured with" (developed) do not convey the sense of avoiding categorization.

13. Answer: B. arboreal - "Arboreal" means living in trees, fitting the description of Australopithecus afarensis being part arboreal. "Ethereal" (heavenly), "dysfunctional" (impaired), "articulated" (jointed), and "pedestrian" (ordinary) do not describe the tree-dwelling capabilities as effectively.

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 65

1. To prevent household fires, all flammable liquids, oily rags, and other ----- materials should be properly disposed of.

- A. combustible
- B. unctuous
- C. restricted
- D. diluted
- E. extinguishable

2. Mark was intent on maintaining his status as first in his class; because even the smallest mistakes infuriated him, he reviewed all his papers ----- before submitting them to his teacher.

- A. explicitly
- B. hastily
- C. honestly

- D. unconsciously
- E. meticulously

3. Because Jenkins neither ----- nor defends either side in the labor dispute, both parties admire his journalistic -----.

- A. criticizes . . vitality
- B. attacks . . neutrality
- C. confronts . . aptitude
- D. dismisses . . flair
- E. protects . . integrity

4. It is ironic that the ----- insights of the great thinkers are voiced so often that they have become mere -----.

- A. original . . clichés
- B. banal . . beliefs
- C. dubious . . habits
- D. philosophical . . questions
- E. abstract . . assessments

5. Some anthropologists claim that a few apes have been taught to communicate using rudimentary sign language, but skeptics argue that the apes are only ----- their trainers.

- A. emulating
- B. condoning
- C. instructing
- D. acknowledging
- E. belaboring

6. Most people imagine organ fugues to be ----- and -----, due to their technical difficulty and challenging counterpoint.

- A. diminutive . . uplifting
- B. harmonious . . petrifying
- C. daunting . . esoteric
- D. cacophonous . . enchanting
- E. inscrutable . . classical

7. Since many disadvantaged individuals view their situations as ----- as well as intolerable, their attitudes can best be described as -----.

- A. squalid . . obscure
- B. unpleasant . . bellicose
- C. acute . . sanguine

- D. inalterable . . resigned
E. political . . perplexed

8. Only when one actually visits the ancient ruins of marvelous bygone civilizations does one truly appreciate the sad ----- of human greatness.

- A. perspicacity
B. magnitude
C. artistry
D. transience
E. quiescence

9. If it is true that morality cannot exist without religion, then does not the erosion of religion herald the ----- of morality?

- A. regulation
B. basis
C. belief
D. collapse
E. value

10. Shaken by two decades of virtual anarchy, the majority of people were ready to buy ----- at any price.

- A. stability
B. emancipation
C. prosperity
D. liberty
E. enfranchisement

11. Certain animal behaviors, such as mating rituals, seem to be -----, and therefore ----- external factors such as climate changes, food supply, or the presence of other animals of the same species.

- A. learned . . immune to
B. innate . . unaffected by
C. intricate . . beleaguered by
D. specific . . confused with
E. memorized . . controlled by

12. The stoic former general led his civilian life as he had his military life, with simplicity and ----- dignity.

- A. benevolent
B. informal

- C. austere
D. aggressive
E. succinct

Solutions:

1. **Answer: A. combustible** - "Combustible" means capable of catching fire and burning, which is the appropriate term for materials that should be disposed of to prevent household fires. "Unctuous" (excessively flattering), "restricted" (limited), "diluted" (made thinner or weaker by adding water), and "extinguishable" (capable of being put out) do not specifically refer to materials prone to catching fire, making "combustible" the correct choice.

2. **Answer: E. meticulously** - "Meticulously" means with great attention to detail, which is appropriate for describing how Mark reviews his papers to avoid mistakes. "Explicitly" (clearly and in detail), "hastily" (quickly), "honestly" (with sincerity), and "unconsciously" (without awareness) do not convey the careful and thorough nature of his review process as well as "meticulously."

3. **Answer: E. protects . . integrity** - "Protects" means to keep safe from harm, and "integrity" means the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. Jenkins is admired for not favoring either side, demonstrating his journalistic integrity. "Criticizes" (finds fault with), "attacks" (aggressively confronts), "confronts" (faces in defiance), "dismisses" (rejects), and their respective nouns do not capture the impartiality and moral soundness that "protects" and "integrity" do.

4. **Answer: A. original . . clichés** - "Original" means novel and not derived from something else, while "clichés" are overused phrases or ideas. The irony is that unique insights have become overused. "Banal" (boring), "dubious" (doubtful), "philosophical" (related to

philosophy), "abstract" (theoretical), and their respective nouns do not convey the same irony as "original" and "clichés."

5. **Answer: A. emulating** - "Emulating" means imitating, which fits the context of skeptics arguing that apes are copying their trainers. "Condoning" (accepting or allowing), "instructing" (teaching), "acknowledging" (accepting the truth), and "belaboring" (arguing excessively) do not fit the context of apes possibly copying human actions as closely as "emulating."
6. **Answer: C. daunting . . esoteric** - "Daunting" means intimidating, and "esoteric" means intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with specialized knowledge. These terms fit the description of organ fugues due to their technical complexity. "Diminutive" (small), "harmonious" (tuneful), "cacophonous" (harsh sounding), "inscrutable" (mysterious), and their respective adjectives do not fit the context of describing the difficulty and specialized nature of organ fugues as well as "daunting" and "esoteric."
7. **Answer: D. inalterable . . resigned** - "Inalterable" means unchangeable, and "resigned" means accepting something unpleasant that one cannot change. This fits the context of disadvantaged individuals who see their situations as both unchangeable and intolerable. "Squalid" (dirty), "unpleasant" (not enjoyable), "acute" (severe), "political" (related to politics), and their respective adjectives do not convey the sense of inevitability and acceptance as "inalterable" and "resigned" do.
8. **Answer: D. transience** - "Transience" means the state of being temporary or short-lived, fitting the context of appreciating the fleeting nature of human greatness when visiting ancient ruins. "Perspicacity" (keen insight), "magnitude" (great size), "artistry" (creative skill), and "quiescence" (inactivity) do not capture

the fleeting nature of greatness as well as "transience."

9. **Answer: D. collapse** - "Collapse" means a sudden failure or breakdown, fitting the idea that the decline of religion would lead to the fall of morality. "Regulation" (control), "basis" (foundation), "belief" (faith), and "value" (worth) do not convey the idea of a complete breakdown as effectively as "collapse."
10. **Answer: A. stability** - "Stability" means the state of being steady and unchanging, fitting the context of people desiring peace after a period of anarchy. "Emancipation" (freedom), "prosperity" (wealth), "liberty" (freedom), and "enfranchisement" (granting of rights) do not convey the sense of security and order as well as "stability."
11. **Answer: B. innate . . unaffected by** - "Innate" means inborn or natural, and "unaffected by" means not influenced by. These terms fit the context of animal behaviors being natural and not influenced by external factors. "Learned" (acquired), "intricate" (complex), "specific" (particular), "memorized" (learned by heart), and their respective adjectives do not convey the natural and independent nature of these behaviors as well as "innate" and "unaffected by."
12. **Answer: C. austere** - "Austere" means severe or strict in manner, attitude, or appearance, fitting the description of the general's simple and dignified civilian life. "Benevolent" (kind), "informal" (casual), "aggressive" (forceful), and "succinct" (brief) do not capture the combination of simplicity and dignity as well as "austere."

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 66

1. Although bound to uphold the law, a judge is free to use his discretion to ----- the cruel severity of some criminal penalties.

- A. mitigate
B. understand

- C. condone
D. provoke
E. enforce

2. Max's grandmother seems -----; she is frequently observed behaving in an unconventional manner.

- A. ordinary
B. eccentric
C. chronological
D. sociable
E. industrious

3. The antibiotic ointment was so effective on the infection in Molly's swollen finger that after only one application, the finger was no longer -----.

- A. compressed
B. deflated
C. distended
D. fractured
E. disintegrated

4. Professor Cooligan told his class that since the Industrial Revolution, the global warming trend has been -----; human disregard for the environment precipitated many of the alterations in the earth's climate zones.

- A. inevitable
B. malevolent
C. reciprocal
D. stagnant
E. guileless

5. After just one hour of study, Tyler unrealistically expected a ----- rise in his test scores, and was reluctant to work longer hours for steady, ----- score improvements.

- A. repetitive . . swift
B. sudden . . interminable
C. trivial . . gradual
D. steep . . incremental
E. significant . . rapid

6. When participating in a yoga class, Katarina attains a ----- state; the soothing music and soft lighting invoke a serenity that is otherwise lacking in her frenzied existence.

- A. euphonious
B. perspicuous
C. placid
D. prolific
E. supple

7. Dr. Schwartz's lecture on art, while detailed and scholarly, focused ----- on the pre-modern; some students may have appreciated his specialized knowledge, but those with more ----- interests may have been disappointed.

- A. literally . . medieval
B. completely . . antediluvian
C. prodigiously . . germane
D. voluminously . . creative
E. utterly . . eclectic

8. Nuclear power plants are some of the largest producers of ----- wastes, with each plant producing barrels of radioactive material that must be stored in special protective containers.

- A. biodegradable
B. artificial
C. reasonable
D. durable
E. noxious

9. The scientific community was ----- when a living specimen of the coelacanth, thought to be no longer -----, was discovered by deep-sea fishermen.

- A. perplexed . . common
B. overjoyed . . dangerous
C. unconcerned . . local
D. astounded . . extant
E. dismayed . . alive

10. After the governor's third trip overseas, voters complained that he was paying too little attention to ----- affairs.

- A. intellectual
B. extraneous
C. specialized
D. aesthetic
E. domestic

11. The Roman Emperor Claudius was viewed with ----- by generations of historians until newly discovered evidence showed him to be ----- administrator.

- A. suspicion . . a deficient
- B. reluctance . . an inept
- C. antagonism . . an eager
- D. indignation . . an incompetent
- E. disdain . . a capable

12. Communities in primitive areas where natural ----- is scarce must be resourceful in order to secure adequate nutrition.

- A. development
- B. competition
- C. sustenance
- D. augmentation
- E. intervention

Solutions:

1. **Answer: A. mitigate** - "Mitigate" means to make less severe, which fits the context of a judge reducing the harshness of penalties. "Understand" (comprehend), "condone" (approve or overlook), "provoke" (stimulate or incite), and "enforce" (implement or uphold) do not align with the idea of reducing severity. Thus, "mitigate" is the best choice for describing how a judge can lessen the cruel severity of penalties.
2. **Answer: B. eccentric** - "Eccentric" means unconventional or odd, fitting the description of Max's grandmother's behavior. "Ordinary" (normal), "chronological" (arranged in order of time), "sociable" (friendly), and "industrious" (hardworking) do not accurately describe her unconventional manner. Therefore, "eccentric" is the most suitable word.
3. **Answer: C. distended** - "Distended" means swollen or expanded, which matches the condition of Molly's finger before the antibiotic ointment was applied. "Compressed" (pressed together), "deflated" (collapsed), "fractured" (broken), and "disintegrated" (broken into pieces) do not accurately describe a swollen finger. Thus, "distended" is the best fit.
4. **Answer: A. inevitable** - "Inevitable" means certain to happen, fitting the context of an unavoidable global warming trend since the Industrial Revolution. "Malevolent" (having or showing a wish to do evil), "reciprocal" (mutual), "stagnant" (not moving or changing), and "guileless" (innocent) do not align with the described trend. Therefore, "inevitable" is the appropriate choice.
5. **Answer: D. steep . . incremental** - "Steep" means a sharp rise, and "incremental" means gradual or step-by-step. This matches Tyler's unrealistic expectation for a quick rise in scores versus the reality of steady improvements. "Repetitive" (occurring again and again), "sudden" (unexpected), "trivial" (unimportant), and "significant" (important) paired with their respective second words do not capture the contrast between unrealistic and realistic score improvements as effectively.
6. **Answer: C. placid** - "Placid" means calm and peaceful, fitting the state Katarina attains during yoga. "Euphonious" (pleasing to the ear), "perspicuous" (clearly expressed), "prolific" (productive), and "supple" (flexible) do not describe a state of serenity. Thus, "placid" is the best choice.
7. **Answer: E. utterly . . eclectic** - "Utterly" means completely, fitting the focus of the lecture, and "eclectic" means having diverse interests, matching the potential disappointment of students with varied interests. "Literally" (exactly), "completely" (entirely), "prodigiously" (impressively), and "voluminously" (large volume) paired with their respective second words do not capture the focus and breadth of interest described.
8. **Answer: E. noxious** - "Noxious" means harmful or poisonous, which accurately

describes radioactive waste. "Biodegradable" (able to be broken down naturally), "artificial" (man-made), "reasonable" (fair), and "durable" (long-lasting) do not fit the context of hazardous waste. Therefore, "noxious" is the appropriate choice.

9. **Answer: D. astounded . . extant** -

"Astounded" means greatly surprised, fitting the reaction to finding a living coelacanth, and "extant" means still in existence. "Perplexed" (confused), "overjoyed" (extremely happy), "unconcerned" (indifferent), and "dismayed" (distressed) paired with their respective second words do not capture the surprise and existence as effectively. Thus, "astounded" and "extant" are the best choices.

10. **Answer: E. domestic** - "Domestic" means related to home or internal affairs, fitting the voters' complaint. "Intellectual" (related to intellect), "extraneous" (irrelevant), "specialized" (specific), and "aesthetic" (related to beauty) do not align with the context of internal governance. Therefore, "domestic" is the appropriate choice.

11. **Answer: E. disdain . . a capable** - "Disdain" means contempt, fitting the historians' view of Claudius, and "a capable" means competent, matching the new evidence. "Suspicion" (doubt), "reluctance" (unwillingness), "antagonism" (hostility), and "indignation" (anger) paired with their respective second words do not capture the change in perception as effectively. Thus, "disdain" and "a capable" are the best choices.

12. **Answer: C. sustenance** - "Sustenance" means food and drink regarded as a source of strength, fitting the need for nutrition in primitive areas. "Development" (growth), "competition" (rivalry), "augmentation" (increase), and "intervention" (interference) do not specifically relate to the essential resources for nutrition.

Therefore, "sustenance" is the appropriate choice.

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 67

1. Morgan's interest was focused on ----- the division between theory and empiricism; she was convinced that a ----- of philosophy and applied science was possible and necessary.

- A. eradicating . . synthesis
- B. maintaining . . restoration
- C. crossing . . stabilization
- D. overlooking . . duplicity
- E. refuting . . delineation

2. His style is best described as -----: his signature vivid colors and mixture of bold patterns, combined with his dramatic bearing, always make him the center of attention.

- A. vehement
- B. imperious
- C. modest
- D. flamboyant
- E. stoic

3. Although at times Nikolai could be disagreeable and even -----, more often than not he was the most ----- person you could hope to meet.

- A. contentious . . complaisant
- B. disgruntled . . befuddled
- C. contradictory . . disconcerted
- D. misguided . . solicitous
- E. curmudgeonly . . didactic

4. Plants that grow in the desert or on high rocky ledges can survive long periods of ----- because they hoard water in their leaves, stems, and root systems.

- A. darkness
- B. inactivity
- C. dormancy
- D. warmth
- E. aridity

5. Thanks to his eloquence and logic, Liam spoke ----- and made it difficult for even his most bitter opponents to ----- his opinions.

- A. monotonously . . clash with
B. charmingly . . yield to
C. tediously . . contend with
D. abhorrently . . concede to
E. cogently . . disagree with

6. Some subatomic particles, ----- only through their effects on other bodies, have been compared to outer planets whose ----- was first deduced from eccentricities in other planets' orbits.

- A. feasible . . irregularity
B. palpable . . creation
C. perceptible . . fallacy
D. discernable . . existence
E. verifiable . . proximity

7. Miranda, in her desire to foster -----, often felt compelled to ----- readily to others in tense situations.

- A. cooperation . . object
B. fortitude . . defer
C. dissension . . surrender
D. harmony . . acquiesce
E. discourse . . appeal

8. Although detractors labeled Margaret Thatcher's policies -----, she asserted that her ideas ultimately helped bring about a period of prosperity in the United Kingdom.

- A. premature
B. autocratic
C. regressive
D. ingenious
E. seditious

9. The success of the school's book club is owed to the club's policy that the novels selected, authored by a ----- group, cover a broad array of subject matters and range of historical eras.

- A. scholarly
B. meritorious
C. diverse
D. erudite
E. sophisticated

10. The apparent ----- with which professional skiers descend the slopes is deceptive; this activity requires ----- effort and intense concentration.

- A. trepidation . . conscious
B. motivation . . resolute
C. nonchalance . . strenuous
D. consideration . . unpredictable
E. insouciance . . minimal

11. The children in the parade wore a range of costumes, some dressing in classic ghost or witch costumes, some as civic figures such as firefighters or police officers, and others as famous singers and other ----- of popular culture.

- A. monikers
B. diplomats
C. icons
D. pariahs
E. dupes

12. Mr. Planka's explanations were unnecessarily -----, incorporating entirely too many layers of trivial information that his students did not need.

- A. winsome
B. terse
C. convoluted
D. fallacious
E. deafening

Solutions:

1. Answer: A. eradicating . . synthesis -
"Eradicating" means to completely remove or eliminate, fitting the context of removing the division between theory and empiricism. "Synthesis" means the combination of components to form a connected whole, which aligns with the blending of philosophy and applied science. "Maintaining" (keeping unchanged), "crossing" (moving across), "overlooking" (failing to notice), and "refuting" (proving to be wrong) paired with their respective nouns do not capture the goal of eliminating a division and achieving a unified approach.

2. Answer: D. flamboyant - "Flamboyant" means tending to attract attention because of exuberance, confidence, and stylishness, which perfectly fits the description of someone with vivid colors and bold patterns. "Vehement" (showing strong feeling), "imperious" (assuming power without justification), "modest" (unassuming), and "stoic" (enduring pain without showing feelings) do not match the described attention-grabbing style.
3. Answer: A. contentious . . complaisant - "Contentious" means likely to cause an argument, fitting the description of someone disagreeable. "Complaisant" means willing to please others or obliging, which contrasts with contentiousness and highlights the more agreeable aspect of Nikolai. "Disgruntled" (discontented), "contradictory" (mutually opposed), "misguided" (wrongly directed), and "curmudgeonly" (bad-tempered) paired with their respective adjectives do not capture the contrasting personalities as well.
4. Answer: E. aridity - "Aridity" means dryness or lack of moisture, fitting the context of desert plants hoarding water. "Darkness" (absence of light), "inactivity" (lack of activity), "dormancy" (temporary inactivity), and "warmth" (heat) do not relate to the primary challenge of water scarcity that these plants face.
5. Answer: E. cogently . . disagree with - "Cogently" means clearly and persuasively, making it difficult for opponents to disagree with his opinions. "Monotonously" (dull and repetitious), "charmingly" (pleasantly), "tediously" (boringly), and "abhorrently" (disgustingly) paired with their respective verbs do not accurately describe effective and persuasive speech.
6. Answer: D. discernable . . existence - "Discernable" means able to be perceived or recognized, and "existence" refers to being real, fitting the description of particles detected through their effects.
- "Feasible" (possible), "palpable" (tangible), "perceptible" (noticeable), and "verifiable" (provable) paired with their respective nouns do not as accurately describe the indirect detection of particles.
7. Answer: D. harmony . . acquiesce - "Harmony" means peace and agreement, and "acquiesce" means to accept something reluctantly but without protest, fitting the context of fostering peace by yielding to others. "Cooperation" (working together), "fortitude" (courage), "dissension" (disagreement), and "discourse" (conversation) paired with their respective verbs do not capture the act of yielding to maintain peace.
8. Answer: C. regressive - "Regressive" means returning to a less advanced state, fitting the description of policies labeled as moving backward. "Premature" (occurring too soon), "autocratic" (tyrannical), "ingenious" (clever), and "seditious" (inciting rebellion) do not accurately reflect policies viewed as backward-moving.
9. Answer: C. diverse - "Diverse" means showing a great deal of variety, fitting the description of authors from various backgrounds covering a wide range of topics. "Scholarly" (academic), "meritorious" (deserving reward), "erudite" (learned), and "sophisticated" (complex) do not capture the variety described.
10. Answer: C. nonchalance . . strenuous - "Nonchalance" means casual lack of concern, fitting the deceptive ease of professional skiers. "Strenuous" means requiring great effort, reflecting the reality of the intense effort involved. "Trepidation" (fear), "motivation" (drive), "consideration" (thoughtfulness), and "insouciance" (carefree attitude) paired with their respective adjectives do not accurately convey the deceptive appearance versus the reality of effort.
11. Answer: C. icons - "Icons" means symbols or representatives, fitting the description

of famous figures in popular culture. "Monikers" (nicknames), "diplomats" (representatives), "pariahs" (outcasts), and "dupes" (deceived people) do not accurately capture the idea of well-known cultural symbols.

12. Answer: C. convoluted - "Convoluted" means extremely complex and difficult to follow, fitting the description of overly detailed explanations. "Winsome" (attractive), "terse" (brief), "fallacious" (based on a mistaken belief), and "deafening" (very loud) do not describe unnecessarily complex explanations.

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 68

1. Reflecting upon her vacation, Cecilia felt that it was both ----- and -----; she enjoyed visiting New York, but did not like all the traveling required to get there.

- A. arduous . . distressing
- B. realistic . . dramatic
- C. relaxing . . peaceful
- D. restful . . wearisome
- E. traditional . . consistent

2. Despite appearing stylistically -----, Pablo Picasso's paintings exhibit artistic ----- on multiple levels.

- A. superficial . . inaccuracy
- B. excessive . . abundance
- C. precise . . elegance
- D. unsophisticated . . complexity
- E. imaginative . . creativity

3. While Sarah may have been rather quiet, she was by no means a -----, for she often spent evenings with other people and considered that time to be quite -----.

- A. recluse . . enjoyable
- B. conservative . . worthless
- C. reformer . . irritating
- D. barbarian . . confusing
- E. critic . . demanding

4. One of the serious ----- of meteorology is that natural weather patterns cannot be ----- in the laboratory for investigation.

- A. successes . . achieved
- B. complexities . . broadened
- C. premises . . accredited
- D. limitations . . recreated
- E. advantages . . analyzed

5. The playwright ----- realism and fantasy in her work so well that the audience is never sure whether the characters' experiences are ----- or imaginary.

- A. integrates . . actual
- B. mingles . . congenial
- C. combines . . apparent
- D. delineates . . indistinct
- E. exposes . . verifiable

6. The improvements made on the new automobile are largely -----; although the exterior has been changed, the engine has remained unchanged.

- A. mechanical
- B. superficial
- C. economical
- D. redundant
- E. expensive

7. Some educators view television as an entirely ----- presence in society, virtually disregarding the idea that television has the potential to be -----.

- A. pernicious . . understood
- B. auxiliary . . discontinued
- C. deleterious . . beneficial
- D. cohesive . . informative
- E. stabilizing . . veiled

8. Zora Neale Hurston's talent at convincing her readers to believe in the world as she describes it in her novels is due to her ability to create extremely ----- characters.

- A. unsavory
- B. demonstrative
- C. ambiguous

- D. unilateral
E. credible

9. It is often said that seventeenth-century literature is ----- to today's readers, especially when compared with more recent works, which introduce fewer problems of -----.

- A. significant . . interpretation
B. impractical . . tradition
C. inscrutable . . comprehension
D. opaque . . contemplation
E. instructional . . agreement

10. Drew was a ----- boss, one who gave generous holiday bonuses and often overlooked minor lapses in judgment.

- A. miserly
B. supercilious
C. disingenuous
D. munificent
E. gregarious

11. The fireworks display created so much ----- that the night sky was completely -----, almost as if it were the middle of the day.

- A. heat . . exploded
B. gunpowder . . polluted
C. color . . decorated
D. refuse . . detonated
E. light . . illuminated

12. In speech and in action, she was never haughty or -----; she was always willing to ----- any recommendations, even if she did not agree with them at first.

- A. arrogant . . deny
B. conceited . . consider
C. ornery . . oppose
D. lenient . . embrace
E. accommodating . . ignore

Solutions:

1. Answer: D. restful . . wearisome - "Restful" means providing rest or relaxation, while "wearisome" means causing tiredness. This duality captures the mixed feelings Cecilia has about her

vacation, enjoying the relaxing visit but finding the traveling tiring. "Arduous" (difficult), "distressing" (upsetting), "realistic" (practical), "dramatic" (sensational), "relaxing" (calming), "peaceful" (tranquil), "traditional" (conventional), and "consistent" (unchanging) do not encapsulate both the enjoyable and tiring aspects of the vacation as accurately.

2. Answer: D. unsophisticated . . complexity - "Unsophisticated" means simple or lacking complexity, which contrasts with "complexity," meaning intricate or detailed. This highlights Picasso's ability to appear simple yet be deeply complex. "Superficial" (lacking depth), "inaccuracy" (incorrectness), "excessive" (too much), "abundance" (plenty), "precise" (exact), "elegance" (grace), "imaginative" (creative), and "creativity" (inventiveness) do not capture the contrast between simplicity and depth as effectively.

3. Answer: A. recluse . . enjoyable - "Recluse" means someone who avoids social interaction, while "enjoyable" means providing pleasure or delight. This juxtaposition emphasizes that Sarah, despite being quiet, is sociable and enjoys company. "Conservative" (traditional), "worthless" (having no value), "reformer" (someone who makes changes), "irritating" (annoying), "barbarian" (uncivilized person), "confusing" (bewildering), "critic" (someone who judges), and "demanding" (challenging) do not fit Sarah's social nature and her enjoyment of company.

4. Answer: D. limitations . . recreated - "Limitations" refers to constraints or restrictions, and "recreated" means to create again. This accurately describes the challenge in meteorology of not being able to reproduce natural weather patterns in a lab. "Successes" (achievements), "achieved" (accomplished), "complexities" (complicated factors), "broadened" (expanded), "premises" (assumptions), "accredited" (recognized as meeting certain standards), "advantages" (benefits), and "analyzed" (examined) do not capture the inability to recreate natural phenomena as effectively.

5. Answer: A. integrates . . actual - "Integrates" means combining things to make a whole, and

"actual" means real or existing in fact. This reflects the playwright's skill in blending realism with fantasy so seamlessly that the audience can't distinguish between them. "Mingles" (mixes), "congenial" (pleasant), "combines" (joins together), "apparent" (clear), "delineates" (describes precisely), "indistinct" (not clear), "exposes" (reveals), and "verifiable" (able to be proven) do not capture the seamless blending of real and imaginary as well.

6. Answer: B. superficial - "Superficial" means only on the surface, not deep or significant, fitting the description of changes that affect only the exterior of the car. "Mechanical" (relating to machines), "economical" (cost-effective), "redundant" (unnecessary), and "expensive" (costly) do not convey the idea of surface-level changes as accurately.

7. Answer: C. deleterious . . beneficial - "Deleterious" means harmful or damaging, while "beneficial" means having a good effect. This captures the contrast in views on television's impact on society. "Pernicious" (harmful), "understood" (comprehended), "auxiliary" (supplementary), "discontinued" (stopped), "cohesive" (forming a whole), "informative" (providing information), "stabilizing" (making stable), and "veiled" (hidden) do not accurately depict the negative versus positive potential of television.

8. Answer: E. credible - "Credible" means believable or convincing, fitting Hurston's talent for creating characters that readers believe in. "Unsavory" (unpleasant), "demonstrative" (expressive), "ambiguous" (unclear), and "unilateral" (one-sided) do not capture the believability and authenticity of her characters as effectively.

9. Answer: C. inscrutable . . comprehension - "Inscrutable" means difficult to understand, and "comprehension" means understanding. This fits the idea that older literature is harder to understand compared to modern works. "Significant" (important), "interpretation" (understanding), "impractical" (not practical), "tradition" (custom), "opaque" (not transparent), "contemplation" (thought), "instructional" (educational), and

"agreement" (harmony) do not capture the challenge of understanding older literature as well.

10. Answer: D. munificent - "Munificent" means very generous, fitting the description of a boss who gives generously and is lenient with minor mistakes. "Miserly" (stingy), "supercilious" (arrogant), "disingenuous" (insincere), and "gregarious" (sociable) do not match the generosity and leniency described.

11. Answer: E. light . . illuminated - "Light" refers to the brightness produced by the fireworks, and "illuminated" means lit up, describing how the night sky was brightly lit as if it were day. "Heat" (warmth), "exploded" (burst violently), "gunpowder" (explosive powder), "polluted" (contaminated), "color" (hue), "decorated" (adorned), "refuse" (waste), and "detonated" (caused to explode) do not fit the description of the bright, lit-up night sky.

12. Answer: B. conceited . . consider - "Conceited" means having an excessively high opinion of oneself, and "consider" means to think about something carefully. This contrasts her willingness to listen and think about recommendations despite her initial disagreement. "Arrogant" (overbearing), "deny" (refuse), "ornery" (bad-tempered), "oppose" (resist), "lenient" (permissive), "embrace" (accept), "accommodating" (helpful), and "ignore" (disregard) do not as effectively capture the contrast between her initial stance and willingness to consider other viewpoints.

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 69

1. Presidents of large companies have traditionally been very -----; they rarely suggest radical new ideas unless all other options have been investigated and found to be impossible.

- A. inventive
- B. conservative
- C. gentrified
- D. ingenuous
- E. gratuitous

2. Although it has begun to garner -----, until recently, African drum music was virtually ----- by all but those with the most esoteric tastes.

- A. acclaim . . overlooked
B. respect . . praised
C. criticism . . ignored
D. recognition . . played
E. censure . . disregarded

3. While many health-conscious individuals have stopped eating eggs, dietitians say that in appropriate quantities, eggs can be quite -----.

- A. injurious
B. erudite
C. convenient
D. perfunctory
E. salubrious

4. Their daughter's story that she was robbed of her homework by wandering gypsies was so entirely implausible that the parents believed it to be -----.

- A. an explanation
B. an intimidation
C. a fabrication
D. a rationalization
E. a confirmation

5. While industry in the late twentieth century believed itself to be ----- in its treatment of laborers, Cesar Chavez made a career of revealing the ----- experienced by farm workers.

- A. generous . . injustices
B. just . . satisfaction
C. vindictive . . challenges
D. superior . . relationships
E. immutable . . consistency

6. The two teams reached an agreement that was -----: they promised to exchange players of comparable talent.

- A. equitable
B. variable
C. hypocritical
D. inconvenient
E. extended

7. Professor Yang's article was unusually -----, but its brevity did not conceal the importance of Yang's discovery.

- A. intricate
B. coherent
C. irrelevant
D. terse
E. ambitious

8. The Black Plague was so ----- that in a few short years it had reduced the population of medieval Europe substantially.

- A. lenient
B. susceptible
C. suppressed
D. maudlin
E. virulent

9. Her promotional tour was ----- by missteps, but the increasing appreciation for her works suggests that the effects of these blunders were -----.

- A. enervated . . destructive
B. avoided . . ancillary
C. surrounded . . astute
D. beleaguered . . negligible
E. besmirched . . indubitable

10. While the ambassador was not ----- about the path that his country was taking, he did not believe that its economic politics would cause a significant amount of -----.

- A. pragmatic . . affluence
B. sanguine . . distress
C. impartial . . ambivalence
D. despondent . . despair
E. agitated . . tumult

11. Lisa was known for her ----- speeches in which she rambled for a long time with frequent repetitions about trivial topics.

- A. eloquent
B. hoarse
C. garrulous
D. terse
E. compelling

12. Upon learning that she had won the grand prize instead of just any prize, her initial joy turned into -----.

- A. apathy
B. euphoria
C. spontaneity
D. contention
E. misery

Solutions:

1. Answer: B. conservative - "Conservative" means cautious about change or innovation, fitting the description of presidents who avoid radical ideas unless necessary. "Inventive" (creative), "gentrified" (refined), "ingenuous" (naive), and "gratuitous" (unnecessary) do not capture the cautious and traditional approach of company presidents as well as "conservative."

2. Answer: A. acclaim . . overlooked - "Acclaim" means praise or approval, and "overlooked" means not noticed or ignored, fitting the context of African drum music gaining recognition after being largely ignored. "Respect" (admiration), "praise" (commendation), "criticism" (disapproval), "recognition" (acknowledgment), and "censure" (strong disapproval) paired with their respective verbs do not describe the transition from being unnoticed to receiving approval as effectively as "acclaim" and "overlooked."

3. Answer: E. salubrious - "Salubrious" means health-giving or beneficial to health, which fits the context of dietitians recommending eggs in appropriate quantities. "Injurious" (harmful), "erudite" (scholarly), "convenient" (easy to use), and "perfunctory" (done without care) do not accurately reflect the health benefits of eggs as "salubrious" does.

4. Answer: C. a fabrication - "Fabrication" means a lie or made-up story, which fits the implausibility of the daughter's excuse. "Explanation" (clarification), "intimidation" (frightening), "rationalization" (justification), and "confirmation" (verification) do not fit the context of an entirely implausible story as well as "fabrication."

5. Answer: A. generous . . injustices - "Generous" means liberal in giving, and "injustices" means unfair treatments, fitting the contrast between the industry's self-perception and the reality exposed by Cesar Chavez. "Just" (fair) and "satisfaction"

(contentment), "vindictive" (spiteful) and "challenges" (difficulties), "superior" (better) and "relationships" (connections), and "immutable" (unchanging) and "consistency" (steadiness) do not capture the irony of the situation as effectively as "generous" and "injustices."

6. Answer: A. equitable - "Equitable" means fair and impartial, fitting the description of an agreement to exchange players of comparable talent. "Variable" (changeable), "hypocritical" (insincere), "inconvenient" (causing trouble), and "extended" (prolonged) do not accurately describe the fairness of the agreement as "equitable" does.

7. Answer: D. terse - "Terse" means brief and to the point, fitting the description of Yang's article being unusually brief but still important. "Intricate" (complex), "coherent" (clear), "irrelevant" (unrelated), and "ambitious" (having high goals) do not accurately describe a brief yet significant article as "terse" does.

8. Answer: E. virulent - "Virulent" means extremely severe or harmful, fitting the description of the Black Plague drastically reducing the population. "Lenient" (permissive), "susceptible" (easily affected), "suppressed" (restrained), and "maudlin" (overly sentimental) do not capture the devastating impact of the plague as "virulent" does.

9. Answer: D. beleaguered . . negligible - "Beleaguered" means troubled or beset with difficulties, and "negligible" means insignificant, fitting the context of a promotional tour with missteps that had little lasting impact. "Enervated" (weakened) and "destructive" (causing damage), "avoided" (stayed away from) and "ancillary" (supporting), "surrounded" (enclosed) and "astute" (shrewd), and "besmirched" (soiled) and "indubitable" (undeniable) do not describe the minimal impact of the blunders as effectively as "beleaguered" and "negligible."

10. Answer: B. sanguine . . distress - "Sanguine" means optimistic, and "distress" means extreme anxiety or pain, fitting the context of the ambassador not being optimistic about the country's path but not believing it would cause significant problems. "Pragmatic" (practical) and "affluence" (wealth), "impartial" (neutral) and

"ambivalence" (mixed feelings), "despondent" (hopeless) and "despair" (complete loss of hope), and "agitated" (disturbed) and "tumult" (confusion) do not fit the scenario as effectively as "sanguine" and "distress."

11. Answer: C. garrulous - "Garrulous" means excessively talkative, fitting the description of Lisa's long, repetitive speeches about trivial topics. "Eloquent" (fluent and persuasive), "hoarse" (rough or harsh in sound), "terse" (brief), and "compelling" (evoking interest) do not accurately describe rambling speeches as "garrulous" does.

12. Answer: B. euphoria - "Euphoria" means intense excitement and happiness, fitting the context of her initial joy turning into intense happiness upon winning the grand prize. "Apathy" (lack of interest), "spontaneity" (impulsive action), "contention" (disagreement), and "misery" (great suffering) do not fit the context of an increase in joy as effectively as "euphoria."

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 70

1. The increased humidity coupled with oppressively high temperatures made us feel ----- at the beach this summer.

- A. earnest
- B. animated
- C. resilient
- D. exotic
- E. listless

2. Anthropologists had long assumed that hunter-gatherers moved continually in their search for food; however, recent findings indicate that during the Mesolithic period, such groups were often quite -----.

- A. prudent
- B. credulous
- C. industrious
- D. indigent
- E. sedentary

3. Since none of the original doors or windows of the Mayan Indian homes have survived, restoration work on these portions of the buildings has been largely -----.

- A. exquisite
- B. impertinent
- C. speculative
- D. decorous
- E. abstract

4. The council was divided into such strong factions that it was almost impossible to garner ----- support to pass the bill.

- A. biased
- B. strenuous
- C. bureaucratic
- D. bipartisan
- E. unnecessary

5. The boys expected to be admonished for their -----, so it was no surprise when they were severely ----- by their parents.

- A. proficiency . . censured
- B. magnanimity . . beguiled
- C. dilemma . . esteemed
- D. roguery . . nonplussed
- E. impishness . . castigated

6. The fact that some fish ----- their offspring illustrates that these fish lack a ----- instinct.

- A. spurn . . conditional
- B. mesmerize . . visual
- C. consume . . predatory
- D. devour . . nurturing
- E. protect . . maternal

7. Because the company was forced to ----- the faulty product and stop distribution, it soon had ----- of useless inventory.

- A. examine . . a market
- B. challenge . . a mass
- C. explain . . an oversupply
- D. release . . a backlog
- E. recall . . an abundance

8. Every previous attempt to force the mayor from office had failed, yet his critics ----- in their impeachment efforts.

- A. foundered
- B. persevered

- C. lagged
D. condensed
E. receded

9. When Jerome awoke from the nightmare, he had difficulty ----- whether his memory was of an amorphous dream or of an actual reality.

- A. ascertaining
B. exonerating
C. disputing
D. concealing
E. importuning

10. Even though his opponents vehemently ----- Senator Henry Cabot Lodge's antagonism toward the United States joining the League of Nations, they still ----- his eloquence and persuasiveness as a speaker.

- A. deplored . . forbade
B. repudiated . . acknowledged
C. sustained . . admired
D. understood . . bewildered
E. slandered . . overlooked

11. As a person who would never ----- animals, Amelia takes extra care to avoid hitting squirrels while driving.

- A. maltreat
B. accept
C. placate
D. discern
E. entreat

12. Bacteria that cause illness in patients can be ----- by antibiotics, but these drugs can be made less ----- by prescribing them in excessive amounts.

- A. combated . . effective
B. cultivated . . available
C. diminished . . profitable
D. repelled . . weak
E. digested . . preventative

Solutions:

1. Answer: E. listless - "Listless" means lacking energy or enthusiasm, fitting the description of

feeling drained by high humidity and temperatures. "Earnest" (serious and sincere), "animated" (full of life), "resilient" (able to recover quickly), and "exotic" (unusual or exciting) do not accurately describe the feeling of being exhausted and lifeless due to the oppressive weather.

2. Answer: E. sedentary - "Sedentary" means staying in one place or inactive, contrary to the assumption that hunter-gatherers were always moving. "Prudent" (wise and careful), "credulous" (gullible), "industrious" (hardworking), and "indigent" (poor) do not align with the new findings of settled behavior during the Mesolithic period.

3. Answer: C. speculative - "Speculative" means based on conjecture rather than knowledge, fitting the context of restoring parts of buildings where original structures have not survived. "Exquisite" (beautifully made), "impertinent" (rude), "decorous" (proper), and "abstract" (theoretical) do not relate as directly to the uncertain nature of the restoration work.

4. Answer: D. bipartisan - "Bipartisan" means involving two political parties, which is necessary for garnering broad support to pass a bill. "Biased" (unfairly prejudiced), "strenuous" (requiring effort), "bureaucratic" (relating to government processes), and "unnecessary" (not needed) do not convey the idea of needing cross-party agreement.

5. Answer: E. impishness . . castigated - "Impishness" means mischievousness, fitting the boys' expected behavior, and "castigated" means severely reprimanded, matching the reaction of their parents. "Proficiency" (skill), "censured" (criticized), "magnanimity" (generosity), "beguiled" (charmed), "dilemma" (a difficult situation), "esteemed" (respected), "roguery" (dishonesty), and "nonplussed" (confused) do not fit the context as well.

6. Answer: D. devour . . nurturing - "Devour" means to eat greedily, and "nurturing" means caring for and encouraging growth, fitting the context of fish that consume their offspring. "Spurn" (reject), "conditional" (dependent on conditions), "mesmerize" (fascinate), "visual" (related to sight), "consume" (eat), "predatory"

(hunting others for food), "protect" (keep safe), and "maternal" (motherly) do not match as accurately.

7. Answer: E. recall . . an abundance - "Recall" means to take back, and "abundance" means a large quantity, fitting the context of a company pulling back a faulty product and ending up with a lot of inventory. "Examine" (inspect), "market" (demand), "challenge" (question), "mass" (large amount), "explain" (clarify), "oversupply" (excess amount), "release" (let go), and "backlog" (accumulated work) do not fit the scenario as well.

8. Answer: B. persevered - "Persevered" means continued in spite of difficulty, fitting the context of critics continuing their efforts despite past failures. "Foundered" (failed), "lagged" (fell behind), "condensed" (made denser), and "receded" (moved back) do not capture the persistence described.

9. Answer: A. ascertaining - "Ascertaining" means finding out with certainty, fitting the context of determining whether a memory is of a dream or reality. "Exonerating" (clearing from blame), "disputing" (arguing against), "concealing" (hiding), and "importuning" (begging persistently) do not fit the context of establishing clarity.

10. Answer: B. repudiated . . acknowledged - "Repudiated" means rejected, and "acknowledged" means recognized, fitting the context of opponents disagreeing with Senator Lodge's stance but recognizing his speaking skills. "Deplored" (regretted), "forbade" (prohibited), "sustained" (supported), "admired" (respected), "understood" (comprehended), "bewildered" (confused), "slandered" (defamed), and "overlooked" (ignored) do not capture the duality of opposition and respect.

11. Answer: A. maltreat - "Maltreat" means to treat badly, fitting the context of someone who avoids harming animals. "Accept" (receive), "placate" (calm), "discern" (perceive), and "entreat" (beg) do not align with the idea of avoiding harm.

12. Answer: A. combated . . effective - "Combated" means fought against, and "effective" means successful in producing a desired result, fitting the context of antibiotics fighting bacteria but losing

effectiveness when overused. "Cultivated" (grown), "available" (accessible), "diminished" (reduced), "profitable" (financially beneficial), "repelled" (driven away), "weak" (lacking strength), "digested" (broken down), and "preventative" (designed to prevent) do not match as well.

SAT Sentence Completion Practice Test 71

1. Once rumors of Amy's lack of propriety were substantiated, the bookstore ----- its job offer to her.

- A. fortified
- B. cogitated
- C. tempered
- D. rescinded
- E. regulated

2. Although Mr. Skillman had surreptitiously embezzled a considerable sum of money during his career, he was surprisingly ----- when he ultimately professed his guilt to his superiors.

- A. conspiratorial
- B. dull
- C. forthright
- D. horrified
- E. evasive

3. The supervisor's questionable tactics provoked ----- among the workers that did not ----- until he stepped down.

- A. tranquility . . appear
- B. devotion . . vanish
- C. conflict . . emerge
- D. revolution . . develop
- E. dissent . . subside

4. Just as Higgins is respected for her -----, she is also recognized for her ability to know when to ----- her responsibilities.

- A. lethargy . . transfer
- B. productivity . . hoard
- C. initiative . . delegate
- D. integrity . . overlook
- E. impartiality . . ignore

5. Many people are under the impression that vitamin supplements are -----; however, doses that are not carefully regulated can be lethal.

- A. innocuous
- B. virulent
- C. efficacious
- D. capricious
- E. artificial

6. The architect, whose work has been described as functional but lacking elegance, has been criticized for paying too much attention to ----- concerns and not enough to ----- detail.

- A. financial . . decorative
- B. utilitarian . . aesthetic
- C. decisive . . pragmatic
- D. pedestrian . . opulent
- E. practical . . lucrative

7. Jamal's efforts to ----- his spending habits hit a snag every time he walked by a used bookstore because it seemed that he could always ----- buying more books.

- A. emphasize . . understand
- B. exaggerate . . mandate
- C. curb . . justify
- D. control . . reject
- E. undermine . . imagine

8. To the theater critic, having a CD player on stage during a play about the 1950s was as ridiculously ----- as featuring a cellular phone in a performance set in ancient Rome.

- A. anachronistic
- B. antiquated
- C. naive
- D. timorous
- E. muddled

9. Detectives often solve crimes not through sudden dramatic inspiration, but rather through a gradual investigative approach that ----- all possibilities until only one explanation remains.

- A. foretells
- B. redistributes
- C. exhausts

- D. entraps
- E. disrupts

10. The students in the ballroom dancing class stood in awe of their teachers, a ----- pair that twirled with effortless grace around the dance floor.

- A. menacing
- B. fractious
- C. lithe
- D. contemptuous
- E. deceptive

11. After a sudden ----- in popularity, the director's unique compositional method is now experiencing a mild renaissance among fans of experimental film.

- A. blandishment
- B. disparity
- C. transgression
- D. ebb
- E. elevation

12. It was clear from the ----- in his voice that the contractor was truly sorry for the massive delays in the project and was hoping for ----- for causing the couple such inconvenience.

- A. strain . . adulation
- B. contrition . . clemency
- C. remorse . . justification
- D. gratification . . remediation
- E. jubilation . . amelioration

Solutions:

1. **Answer: D. rescinded** - "Rescinded" means to revoke, cancel, or repeal, which fits the context of the bookstore withdrawing its job offer after substantiating rumors about Amy's lack of propriety. "Fortified" (strengthened), "cogitated" (thought deeply), "tempered" (moderated), and "regulated" (controlled) do not accurately describe the action of withdrawing an offer.
2. **Answer: C. forthright** - "Forthright" means direct and honest, which is

surprising given Mr. Skillman's previous secretive embezzlement. "Conspiratorial" (suggesting a secret plan), "dull" (uninteresting), "horrified" (shocked), and "evasive" (avoiding commitment) do not fit the context of openly confessing guilt.

3. **Answer: E. dissent . . subside** - "Dissent" means disagreement or conflict, which did not "subside" (become less intense) until the supervisor stepped down. "Tranquility" (peace), "devotion" (loyalty), "conflict" (disagreement), and "revolution" (dramatic change) paired with their respective verbs do not fit as well as "dissent" and "subside."

4. **Answer: C. initiative . . delegate** - "Initiative" means the ability to assess and initiate things independently, and "delegate" means to assign responsibilities to others. "Lethargy" (lack of energy), "productivity" (efficiency), "integrity" (honesty), and "impartiality" (fairness) paired with their respective verbs do not fit the context of knowing when to take action and when to assign tasks.

5. **Answer: A. innocuous** - "Innocuous" means harmless, which contrasts with the potential lethality of unregulated vitamin doses. "Virulent" (extremely harmful), "efficacious" (effective), "capricious" (unpredictable), and "artificial" (man-made) do not fit the initial perception of being harmless.

6. **Answer: B. utilitarian . . aesthetic** - "Utilitarian" means practical and functional, and "aesthetic" refers to beauty or artistic detail. "Financial" (related to money), "decisive" (able to make decisions), "pedestrian" (lacking inspiration), and "practical" (sensible) paired with their respective adjectives do not fit as well as "utilitarian" and "aesthetic."

7. **Answer: C. curb . . justify** - "Curb" means to restrain or keep in check, and "justify" means to show or prove to be right. "Emphasize" (give special importance), "exaggerate" (represent as

larger or more important), "control" (manage), and "undermine" (weaken) paired with their respective verbs do not fit the context of struggling to control spending and finding reasons to buy more books.

8. **Answer: A. anachronistic** - "Anachronistic" means out of place in terms of time, fitting the context of having a CD player in a play about the 1950s. "Antiquated" (old-fashioned), "naive" (lacking experience), "timorous" (fearful), and "muddled" (confused) do not describe the time discrepancy as effectively.

9. **Answer: C. exhausts** - "Exhausts" means to use up or consider thoroughly, fitting the context of investigating all possibilities until only one remains. "Foretells" (predicts), "redistributes" (distributes again), "entraps" (captures), and "disrupts" (interrupts) do not fit the methodical process of elimination described.

10. **Answer: C. lithe** - "Lithe" means graceful and flexible, fitting the description of teachers who move with effortless grace. "Menacing" (threatening), "fractious" (irritable), "contemptuous" (showing disdain), and "deceptive" (misleading) do not describe graceful movement.

11. **Answer: D. ebb** - "Ebb" means a decline or decrease, fitting the context of a drop in popularity followed by a mild resurgence. "Blandishment" (flattery), "disparity" (difference), "transgression" (violation), and "elevation" (increase) do not fit the context of fluctuating popularity.

12. **Answer: B. contrition . . clemency** - "Contrition" means sincere remorse, and "clemency" means mercy or lenience, fitting the context of the contractor's apology and hope for forgiveness. "Strain" (tension), "remorse" (deep regret), "gratification" (satisfaction), and "jubilation" (happiness) paired with their respective nouns do not fit as well as "contrition" and "clemency."

