**Based On SAT Practice Test #7, Fourth passage**

**Vocabulary**

1. **Confound - to confuse and very much surprise someone, so that they are unable to explain or deal with a situation.**

Sentence example - An elderly man from Hull has confounded doctors by recovering after he was officially declared dead.

1. **Impose - to officially force a rule, tax, punishment, etc. to be obeyed or received.**

Sentence example - Very high taxes have recently been imposed on cigarettes.

1. **Conceive - to invent a plan or an idea.**

Sentence example - The exhibition was conceived by the museum's director.

1. **Degrade - to cause people to feel that they or other people have no value and do not have the respect or good opinion of others.**

Sentence example - No one can degrade us except ourselves; that if we are worthy, no influence can defeat us.

1. **Preposterous - very silly or stupid.**

Sentence example - The very idea is preposterous! OR (a preposterous suggestion)

1. **Medley - a varied mixture of people or things; a miscellany.**

Sentence example - The menu described the dessert as 'a medley of exotic fruits'.

1. **Manifest - easily noticed or obvious.**

Sentence example - The work of each will become manifest.

1. **Amicable - relating to behaviour between people that is pleasant and friendly, often despite a difficult situation.**

Sentence example - His manner was perfectly amicable, but I felt uncomfortable.

1. **Mankind (bəşəriyyət)- the whole of the human race, including both men and women.**

Sentence example - Mankind has always been obsessed by power.

1. **Substitute - a person or thing acting or serving in place of another.**

Sentence example - Soy milk is used as a substitute for dairy milk.

1. **Circumstance - a fact or event that makes a situation the way it is.**

Sentence example - Obviously we can't deal with the problem until we know all the circumstances.

1. **Ascertain - to make certain of something.**

Sentence example - I ascertained that no one could overhear us before I told Otto the news.

1. **Discouragement - the state of having lost your confidence or enthusiasm for something.**

Sentence example - Why does the Devil use discouragement as a weapon? Because it often works?