

# UNIT FOUR

## WORD SET 1

1. <b>astound (v.):</b> amaze; astonsih
2. <b>austere (adj.):</b> simple: plain
3. <b>clandestine (adj.):</b> secret; surreptitious; furtive
4. <b>contingency (n.):</b> future unexpected event
5. <b>egocentric (adj.):</b> selfish; egotistical; egoistical
6. <b>esoteric (adj.):</b> diffiult to understand; sophisticated; abstruse
7. <b>exonerate (v.):</b> clear of charges; absolve; acquit
8. <b>facsimile (n.):</b> copy; duplicate
9. <b>grandiose (adj.):</b> good but impractical
10. <b>incongruous (adj.):</b> unusual; out of the place
11. <b>liability (n.):</b> weakness; shortcoming: drawback; draw
12. <b>mesmerize (v.):</b> attract; captivate; fascinate
13. <b>prolific (adj.):</b> producing too much or too many of anything
14. <b>reinstate (v.):</b> repeat
15. <b>superfluous (adj.):</b> extra; redundant

### Exercise 1

**For each of Questions 1-6, select ONE entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices.**

1. Documenting science's influence on philosophy would be -----, since it is almost axiomatic that many philosophers use scientific concepts as the foundations for their speculations.

- (A) mesmerizing
- (B) superfluous
- (C) esoteric
- (D) clandestine
- (E) austere

2. Farm families of the previous century were often -----, with each of the many children assigned farm chores as soon as they were old enough.

- (A) prolific
- (B) abstruse
- (C) reinstated
- (D) redundant
- (E) grandiose

3. The simplicity of the theory—its main attraction—is also its -----, for only by accepting the assumptions of the theory is it possible to explain the most recent observations made by researchers.

- (A) facsimile

- (B) contingency
- (C) egocentricity
- (D) austerity
- (E) liability

4. At the jewelers' convention, (i) ----- of several gems were on display. I enjoyed seeing them, but I didn't understand the accompanying (ii) ----- explanation of the technical methods used to produce the copies.

Blank i	Blank ii
A. facsimiles	D. surreptitious
B. contingencies	E. esoteric
C. reinstatements	F. plain

5. Nancy is so (i) ----- that when I told her my car had been stolen, her only reaction was, "Does this mean you can't drive me to work tomorrow?" a reaction which (ii) ----- me to death.

Blank i	Blank ii
A. incompatible	D. astounded
B. egocentric	E. mesmerized
C. ascetic	F. absolved

6. Although the architect's concept at first sounded too (i) ----- to be (ii) ----- , his careful analysis of every aspect of the project convinced the panel that the proposed building was indeed, structurally feasible, on the one hand, and sturdy enough to withstand such (iii) ----- as earthquakes that frequently inflicted loss of life and property in the area.

Blank i	Blank ii	Blank iii
A. clandestine	D. unreasonable	G. superfluities
B. grandiose	E. affordable	H. austerities
C. prolific	F. affable	I. contingencies

**For each of Questions 7- 8, select the TWO answer choices that when used to complete the sentence blank, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.**

7. Though he refused any responsibility for the failure of the negotiations, Stevenson had no right to ----- himself: it was his acrimony that had caused the debacle.

- (A) confound
- (B) absolve
- (C) captivate
- (D) fascinate
- (E) exonerate
- (F) astound

8. There is something ----- about the way the building of monasteries proliferated in eighteenth-century Bavaria, while in the rest of the Western world religious ardor was diminishing and church building was consequently declining.

- (A) surreptitious
- (B) superfluous

- (C) esoteric
- (D) incongruous
- (E) rudimentary
- (F) bizarre