**Bonus Unit 3**

**Study the following words:**

**1. Altruism**

when you care about or help other people, even though this brings no advantage to yourself

*Many choose to work in underdeveloped countries out of altruism.*

**2. Approbation**

approval

*The would simply do anything without his father’s approbation.*

**3. Cohesive**

connected or related in a reasonable way to form a whole

*a cohesive community*

**4. Cumbersome**

a process or system that is cumbersome is slow and difficult

*Doctors are complaining that the system is cumbersome and bureaucratic.*

**5. Cupidity**

very strong desire for something, especially money or property; greed

*They need to figure out how to make a reasonable profit and knock off the cupidity.*

**6. Dearth**

a lack of something; shortage

*Unfortunately, there has been a dearth of rain this season.*

**7. Humdrum**

boring and ordinary, and having no variety or interest

*Going to night school might improve your chances of getting out of that humdrum job.*

**8. Laud**

praise very much; extol

*Honig lauded his wife’s charity work.*

**9. Override**

to use your power or authority to change someone else’s decision

*City council members voted to override the mayor’s veto.*

**10. Plausible**

reasonable and likely to be true or successful [≠ implausible]

*His story certainly sounds plausible.*

**11. Redundant**

not necessary because something else means or does the same thing

*the removal of redundant information*

**12. Strive**

to make a great effort to achieve something; attempt

*Toni has been striving to achieve musical recognition for the past ten years.*

**13. Triviality**

something that is not important at all

*Don’t waste time on trivialities.*

**14. Venerable**

a venerable person or thing is respected because of their great age, experience etc

*venerable financial institutions*

**15. Underplay**

to make something seem less important or less serious than it really is

*She underplays her achievements.*

**START THE TEST**

**For each of Questions 1-4, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices.**

1. Those who fear the influence of television deliberately ----- its persuasive  power,

     hoping that they might keep knowledge of its potential to effect  change from

    being widely disseminated.

     (A) improve

     (B) override

     (C) laud

     (D) attempt

     (E) underplay

2. The naked ------- endemic in our corporate culture was well documented in the

     criminal trial of the CEO, who confessed to embezzling employee retirement

     funds in order to purchase his third Italian villa.

     (A) dearth

     (B) cupidity

     (C) triviality

     (D) altruism

     (E) approbation

3. The fact that a theory is (i) ----- does not necessarily (ii) ----- its scientific

     truth, which must be established by unbiased controlled studies.

**Blank i                                           Blank ii**

     (A) cumbersome                           (D) ensure

     (B) humdrum                                (E) limit

     (C) plausible                                  (F) praise

 4. Joe spoke of superfluous and (i) ----- matters with exactly the same degree of

      intensity, (ii) -----  for him serious issues mattered neither more less

      than  did (iii) -----.

**Blank i                                     Blank ii                                Blank iii**

   (A) venerable                         (D) unless                              (G) trivialities

   (B) redundant                        (E) as though                        (H) approbations

   (C) significant                        (F) whereas                            (I)  cohesive issues

**For each of Questions 5- 6, 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.**

5. The -------- of available housing units means that supply went beyond demand and

      drove down the price that renters were willing to pay.

   (A) insignificance

   (B) approbation

   (C) shortage

   (D) approval

   (E) dearth

   (F) triviality

6. While health care reform was being debated in the legislature, the opposition

 repeatedly ------- to filibuster the bill.

   (A) strived

   (B) underplayed

   (C) attempted

   (D) praised

   (E) extolled

   (F) lauded

**Answer key:** 1. E   2. B   3.C/D    4. C/E/G      5. C/E     6. A/C