

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## WORD LIST

1. aberration (n) a variation or change from what is normal or right; something unnatural
2. aghast (adj) shocked; terrified or amazed
3. appellation (n) a name or title; a word used to identify a person or thing
4. bewilder (v) to perplex or confuse; to disorder a person's thinking
5. chattel (n) a thing that is owned; a possession
6. contemptuous (adj) thinking poorly of; scornful or disdainful
7. debonair (adj) charming; having a sophisticated and attractive manner
8. detest (v) to have a profound dislike or abhorrence for; to hate
9. elasticity (n) the physical property of matter wherein matter returns to its original form after being reshaped, as an elastic band returns to its original shape after being stretched
10. fickle (adj) capriciously changeable in affection or belief; not remaining faithful to one idea or feeling
11. hindrance (n) an obstruction or impediment; something that blocks progress
12. inconceivable (adj) unimaginable or unthinkable
13. litigious (adj) willing and likely to pursue a lawsuit
14. minimize (v) to make as small as possible
15. notorious (adj) widely known but viewed negatively or critically
16. ordeal (n) an experience that is extremely difficult or trying
17. ostracize (v) to banish from or force out of a group or situation
18. peccadillo (n) a minor sin or fault; a trifling wrongdoing
19. placid (adj) tranquil and calm; at rest
20. prosaic (adj) matter-of-fact; without spirit, style, or imagination
21. rectitude (n) correctness or uprightness; unerring in following principles
22. salient (adj) noticeable or important; standing out
23. spurious (adj) inauthentic; not bona fide
24. tincture (n) a typically alcoholic mixture containing a medicine or remedy
25. vigilance (n) alertness; unbreaking attention to a duty

## SYNONYMS

**Directions:** In the space provided, write the word from the list above that means the same or about the same as the word given.

1. unbelievable \_\_\_\_\_
2. peaceful \_\_\_\_\_

3. obstacle \_\_\_\_\_
4. false \_\_\_\_\_
5. Horrified \_\_\_\_\_
6. abnormality \_\_\_\_\_
7. righteousness \_\_\_\_\_
8. infamous \_\_\_\_\_
9. Loathe \_\_\_\_\_
10. exclude \_\_\_\_\_

## ANTONYMS

**Directions:** In the space provided, write the word from the list above that means opposite of the word given.

11. rude \_\_\_\_\_
12. Inconspicuous \_\_\_\_\_
13. inattentiveness \_\_\_\_\_
14. plasticity \_\_\_\_\_
15. Help \_\_\_\_\_
16. steadfast \_\_\_\_\_
17. lauded \_\_\_\_\_
18. Enlighten \_\_\_\_\_
19. creative \_\_\_\_\_
20. maximize \_\_\_\_\_

## ANALOGIES

**Directions:** Choose the word from the list that best completes the analogy, creating the same relationship between the second set of words as exists between the first set of words.

21. degree : B.A. :: \_\_\_\_\_ : Mr.
22. hunted : sought :: \_\_\_\_\_ : famous
23. awestruck : admire :: \_\_\_\_\_ : scorn
24. product : buy :: \_\_\_\_\_ : own
25. saline : salt :: \_\_\_\_\_ : medicine
26. conundrum : problem :: \_\_\_\_\_ : situation

27. explain : confusion :: \_\_\_\_\_ : clarity  
28. flirtation : love :: \_\_\_\_\_ : cardinal sin  
29. gorgeous : looks :: \_\_\_\_\_ : manners  
30. ambitious : power :: \_\_\_\_\_ : lawsuits

## SENTENCE COMPLETION

**Directions:** In the space provided, write the word from the list above that best completes each given sentence.

31. The nun lived her life wit \_\_\_\_\_ and propriety.  
32. References to slaves as " \_\_\_\_\_ " from pre-Civil War times make it clear that slaves were viewed more as property than as people.  
33. Jenny felt that her little sister was more of a \_\_\_\_\_ than a help in baking cookies.  
34. In Oedipus Rex, the gods \_\_\_\_\_ Oedipus from Thebes, and he becomes a wanderer.  
35. The artist's work is \_\_\_\_\_, lacking originality.  
36. The conclusion that is most to me in this report is that we must raise our prices.  
37. The monster created by Dr. Frankenstein was an \_\_\_\_\_, an unnatural beast.  
38. Mr. Siddle was \_\_\_\_\_ at the horrifying sight that met his eyes.  
39. Josie learned a recipe to make a homemade \_\_\_\_\_ of medicinal herbs and alcohol.  
40. The waters were so \_\_\_\_\_ that it seemed impossible to believe a storm was brewing.  
41. Like many teenagers, Omar was \_\_\_\_\_, with a new crush each week.  
42. Antonia accused her mother of being \_\_\_\_\_ when she filed her third lawsuit.  
43. Cary Grant was very \_\_\_\_\_, and his suave, refined persona made him popular.  
44. She tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the number of trips she had to make each week to save gas.  
45. Joshua was \_\_\_\_\_ of his older brother, who seemed ignorant and crude.  
46. Arnold Schwarzenegger became known by the informal "the Governator."  
47. Margaret felt that being late for curfew was just a \_\_\_\_\_, but her parents thought it a serious transgression.  
48. The little girl began to \_\_\_\_\_ the taste of spinach, and she refused to eat it.

49. Rubber bands have high \_\_\_\_\_, which constricts them after they've been stretched.
50. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to me that aliens have visited our planet.
51. The artifact turned out to be \_\_\_\_\_, a clever replica made in the 1930s.
52. After the \_\_\_\_\_ of being held hostage, the boys needed time to recover.
53. The calculus teacher's explanations seemed to \_\_\_\_\_ Paul instead of enlightening him.
54. The watchdog showed great \_\_\_\_\_; he always knew when a stranger came near the house.
55. Charles Manson is \_\_\_\_\_ for his crimes; everyone knows his name.

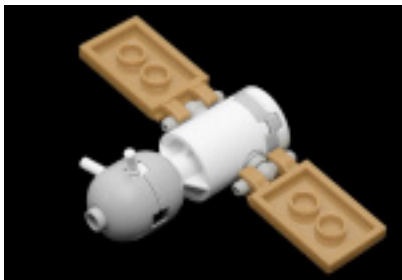
## ESSAY WRITING

This is an expository prompt from a very recent upper level SSAT. Notice how the writer began the introduction with an anonymous quote, which may or may not be real. What's important is that the introductory paragraph piques the reader's interest and presents the thesis statement.

### **Prompt:**

Should countries spend money to send spacecraft to other planets?

**Thesis:** No, countries should not expend resources on the space program



- Strengthen economy
- Create jobs
- Innovate from within

## THE ESSAY

A famous writer once said, "Make sure that your own house is in order before you visit someone else's." Though planetary exploration seems like an exciting prospect, the quality of life on earth should be the world's top priority. Countries should not funnel more money to explore space and instead focus on strengthening our economy, creating jobs, and innovating our world. The U.S. space program spends over a billion dollars a year on its space program, NASA. Other first-world countries spend similar amounts. Imagine if this money were used to strengthen the world economy instead. Thousands of people were affected during the 2009 financial crisis, which could have been averted with more aid from the U.S. government to families with outstanding mortgages. Bank defaults from Argentina and Greece would be precluded by more funding from international banks. With the extra money available to world governments, there will be less threat of a global economic meltdown.

Instead of focusing on an industry that requires limited manpower and increasing automation, countries should invest more on creating jobs on the national and local level. Though NASA employs thousands of workers, it is pale in comparison to other national institutions such as the Social Security Administration and Internal Revenue Service, which employ hundreds of thousands of workers. Local governments will have more available public funds to hire teachers and police officers to improve public schools and law enforcement. These public institutions provide far more employment opportunities than a solitary administration whose main focus is exploring outer space.

Finally, our world will be better off with innovations from within. Scientists and researchers expend a considerable amount of brain power to design efficient spacecrafts and satellites. These "think tanks" will benefit our world more if they continue to innovate machines that we use every day. For example, it is only recently that we have been using solar and electrical powered cars on the road. Companies such as Tesla and Toyota would certainly benefit from NASA-level engineers working on more eco-friendly and energy efficient car

designs. Innovations such as these will flourish more quickly when experts focus on our planet rather than towards outer space.

A stronger economy, healthier employment, and better innovations are all positive by-products of investing on our own home rather than outer space. With the opportunity cost too high for interplanetary exploration, our dreams of Star Trek and Martian Chronicles may have to be put on hold.

**THE END**