**Vocab Unit 8 Activities**

Part I: Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

1. On the Western Front in August 1914, the French army steeled itself against the oncoming (slough, saturate) that was the German Second Army.
2. By (razing, sloughing) off the artificiality of her first book, the novelist arrived at a style that was simple, genuine, and highly effective.
3. What possible purpose will be served by setting up yet another hamburger stand in an area already (saturated, exacerbated) with fast-food shops?
4. Our excitement at visiting the world-famous ruins was dampened by the (lackadaisical, irrefutable) attitude of the bored and listless guide.
5. It is a good deal easier to (raze, allege) an old building than it is to destroy a time honored social institution.
6. His debating technique is rooted in the firm belief that anything bellowed in a loud enough voice is absolutely (recantable, irrefutable).
7. In earlier times, people whose views conflicted with “received opinion” often had to (recant, raze) their ideas or face consequences.
8. She excused herself from lending me money I so desperately needed by (sloughing, alleging) that she had financial troubles of her own.
9. By denying your guilt without offering an explanation of your actions, you will only (recant, exacerbate) an already bad situation.
10. Not surprisingly, the committee’s final report was an incongruous mixture of the astute and the (irrefutable, fatuous).
11. The authority of the student council is not absolute because the principal can (countermand, exacerbate) any of its decision.
12. I never ask anyone, “How are you?” anymore because I am afraid I will be treated to an endless (litany, badinage) of symptoms ailments.
13. The views of the two parties involved in this dispute are so diametrically opposed that it will be almost impossible to (conciliate, saturate) them.
14. Only a(n) (arrant, macabre) knave would be capable of devising such an incredibly underhanded and treacherous scheme.
15. Stephen King’s book *Danse* (Macabre, Lackadaisical) surveys popular and obscure horror fiction of the twentieth century.
16. Over the years, hard work and unstinting devotion to duty have raised me from one (echelon, paucity) of company management to the next.
17. Economists believe that the drop in automobile sales and steel production (countermands, portends) serious problems for business in the future.
18. We have many capable and well-meaning people in our organization, but it seems to me that there is a (paucity, juggernaut) of real leadership
19. Someone with such a (catuous, saturnine) outlook on life doesn’t make an agreeable traveling companion, especially on a long journey.
20. With incredible unconcern, the nobles of Europe immersed themselves in social frivolities as the fearful (juggernaut, litany) of World War I steamrolled ineluctably toward them.
21. Ever a bit of melancholic, Mr. Smithers sank into a (litany, slough) in the wintertime.
22. The defense attorney succeeded in portraying the genial witness as a(n) (arrant, saturnine) liar, whose testimony was never credible.
23. The dog’s owner (exacerbated, razed) the situation when he flagrantly encouraged the terrier to romp in the neighbor’s petunias.
24. A plunge in atmospheric pressure (conciliates, portends) an oncoming storm.

Part II A: Find the synonym that best fits with the phrases below.

1. **Claimed** that a crime had been committed 6. An idea that **permeates** all aspects of society
2. Will **aggravate** tensions between the rivals 7. A **listless** response from voters
3. Seemed in a sullen mood 8. The upper **levels** of power
4. **Foreshadows** dangers to come 9. Tried to **placate** both sides of the dispute
5. A long **rigmarole** of questions and answers 10. Wore a very **grotesque** mask

Part II B: Find the antonym that best fits with the phrases below.

1. Has **reaffirmed** her support of free trade
2. **Deny** involvement in the burglary
3. Known for his **sensible** opinions
4. Given to **lighthearted** predictions
5. A growing **abundance** of cheap labor

Part III: Fill in the blank with the word that best completes the sentence.

1. We object to the policy of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ historic old buildings to make way for unsightly parking lots.
2. At first I thought it would be easy to shoot holes in their case, but I soon realized that their arguments were practically \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. As a snake \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ off its old skin, so he hoped to rid himself of his weakness and develop a new and better personality.
4. Though some “home remedies” appear to alleviate the symptoms of a disease, they may in fact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the condition.
5. The men now being held in police custody are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to have robbed eight supermarkets over the last year.
6. My shirt became so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with perspiration on that beastly day that I had to change it more than once during the match.
7. You are not going to do well in your job if you continue to work in such a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and desultory manner.
8. The enemy’s lines crumpled before the mighty \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of our attack like so much wheat before a harvester.
9. However much it may cost me, I will never \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the principles to which I have devoted my life.
10. Ms. Ryan’s warnings to the class to “review thoroughly” seemed to me to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ an unusually difficult examination.