Vocab Activities Unit 2

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

1. I trust that we will have the will to improve what can now be improved and the patience to bear what cannot now be (ameliorated, surmised).
2. When the bridge suddenly collapsed in the high winds, the people on it at the time were (permeated, precipitated) to their deaths in the watery abyss below.
3. “Long periods of intense boredom punctuated by short periods of intense fear”—in this famous definition a British general (epitomized, infringed) the nature of war.
4. Must we continue to listen to all this childish (callow, drivel)
5. A sour odor of decay, stale air, and generations of living (permeated, precipitated) every corner of the old tenement.
6. His message may seem (bombastic, callow) but there is a solid framework of practical ideas underlying the rather pompous language.
7. In this situation we cannot act on the basis of what may be (surmised, exhorted), but only in accordance with what is definitely known.
8. In stating that “All men are created equal and endowed…with certain inalienable rights,” the Declaration of Independence proclaims the (intrinsic, callow) value of every human being.
9. Do we need new laws to combat crime, or rather, more (ingratiating, stringent) enforcement of the laws we already have?
10. The publisher will take prompt legal action against anyone who (surmises, infringes) on the copyright of his book.
11. I can usually forgive a(n) (callow, occult) display of feeble jokes and showing off—but not by someone who has passed his 40th birthday!
12. There is evidence that proves that many persons supposed to possess (occult, stringent) powers have either been clever frauds or the victims of self-deception.
13. After the unexpected defeat, the members of the team wanted to be alone and regarded anyone who entered the locker room as a(n) (interloper, epitome).
14. The song had a pleasant, (stringent, ingratiating) melody that gained it quick popularity and then caused it to be forgotten just as quickly.
15. We are all ready and willing to do what must be done; what we need is leadership—not (exhortation, drivel).

Part II: Synonyms & Antonyms

Synonyms:

1. A buttinsky at their reunion
2. A stain that spread through
3. Overdramatic, high-flown language
4. The model of what not to wear
5. A smile meant to curry favor
6. Thought the idea to be hogwash
7. Seemed to be a logical presumption
8. A strict requirement
9. To entreat the people to resist
10. An inexperienced trainee
11. Hints of a supernatural presence

Antonyms:

1. External to the whole plan
2. Swift action to worsen the situations
3. A cautious move on the chess board

Part III: Fill in the blank with the correct vocabulary word.

1. They have a great deal to say on the subject, but unfortunately most of it is meaningless \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. That dancer is very talented, but isn’t it going rather far to call her “the very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of feminine beauty and grace?
3. “The rash and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ actions of that young hothead almost cost us the battle, to say nothing of the war,” the general remarked sourly.
4. The mere fact that we cannot explain at the present time how she was hurt doesn’t mean that she was the victim of some \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ power.
5. We do not know what her motives were, but we may \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that she was mainly concerned for the child’s well-being.
6. A good definition of freedom is “The right to do anything you wish as long as you do not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the rights of others.”
7. “If you think my training rules are too \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and confining,” the coach said, “then you probably shouldn’t be a candidate for the team.”
8. We looked up hungrily as the delightful odor of broiled steak and fried onions \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the room.
9. He tries to give the impression of being a true man of the world, but his conduct clearly shows him to be a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and somewhat feckless youth.
10. The voters of this city are looking for practical answers to urgent questions and will not respond to that kind of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and pretentious claptrap.
11. I refuse to accept the idea that conditions in this slum have deteriorated so far that nothing can be done to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them.
12. How can we have any respect for people who try to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ themselves with their superiors by flattery and favors?
13. This old necklace has little \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ value, but it means a great deal to me because it belonged to my mother.
14. The people trying to “crash” our dance may think of themselves as merry pranksters, but they are really \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who would prevent us all from having a good time.
15. The prophets of old fervently \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the people to amend their lives.