SAT Prep: Tone/Vocab in Context Homework NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PART ONE: TONE: Label the passage’s overall tone at right. Then, label each answer choice as +, --, or n. Select the best tone word for each passage. Then, highlight two words/phrases in the passage that served as clues to help you reach your answer.**

1. Certain qualities common to the sonnet should be noted. Its definite restrictions make it a challenge to the artistry of the poet and call for all the technical skill at the poet’s command. The more or less set rhyme patterns occurring regularly within the short space of fourteen lines afford a pleasant effect on the ear of the reader and can create truly musical effects. The rigidity of the form precludes a too great economy or too great a prodigality of words. Emphasis is placed on exactness and perfection of expressions. The brevity of the form favors concentrated expression of ideas or passion.

* Positive
* Negative
* Neutral

**🡪**The author’s tone toward the sonnet form can best be described as…

1. Grudging admiration
2. Strong disapprobation
3. Effusive enthusiasm
4. Scholarly appreciation

2. How did the term “spam” come to mean unsolicited commercial email? Flash back to 1937, when Hormel Foods creates a new canned spiced ham, SPAM. Then, in World War II, SPAM luncheon meat becomes a staple of soldiers’ diets (often GIs ate SPAM two or three times a day). Next, SPAM’s wartime omnipresence perhaps inspired the 1987 Monty Python skit in which a breakfast-seeking couple unsuccessfully tries to order a SPAM-free meal while a chorus of Vikings drowns them out, singing “Spam, spam, spam, spam…” To computer users drowning in junk email, the analogy was obvious. “Spam,” they said, “it’s spam.”

* Positive
* Negative
* Neutral

**🡪**The tone of the passage can best be characterized as…

1. Nostalgic
2. Sardonic
3. Detached
4. Confident

* Positive
* Negative
* Neutral

3. Each year in the middle of February, when slush is underfoot and the sky is a depressing gray, I begin dreaming of warm beaches, tropical fruits and sunsets. If only I could save enough for a winter vacation! Maybe next year I’ll win the lottery. Maybe next year I’ll get a bonus at work. Meanwhile, I’ll read travel brochures and hope.

**🡪**The tone of the passage can best be characterized as…

A) unsure

B) bitter

C) longing

D) straightforward

4. We are seriously failing our nation’s teenagers when it comes to education concerning AIDS. Somehow we must convince them, without delay, that this terrible illness can happen to them, not just to isolated groups in big cities. Let’s give them the information they need to protect themselves—before it’s too late.

* Positive
* Negative
* Neutral

**🡪**The tone of the passage can best be described as…

A) urgent

B) scornful

C) hopeful

D) resigned

**OVER🡪**

**PART TWO: VOCAB in CONTEXT: Select the best answer. Remember to check; does your answer choice fit back in the passage?**

5. Disgruntled investors predicted that the company’s final report would probably blame middle-managers and not top executives for failing to follow standard financial **practices**.

**🡪**The word “practices” most nearly means…

1. procedures
2. rehearsals
3. exercises
4. rituals

6. Impressionist paintings are now among the most popular works of art in the world. However, when they first appeared, art critics denounced the paintings, showing no **appreciation** for the Impressionists’ bold new techniques.

**🡪**The word “appreciation” most nearly means…

1. Scientific interest
2. Increase in value
3. Gratitude
4. understanding

7. Although the British victory in the French and Indian War gave them control over Canada, French-speaking settlers still remained the **clear**, and dominant, majority in Quebec.

**🡪**The word “clear” most nearly means…

1. transparent
2. untroubled
3. unmistakable
4. logical

8. With drooping heads and tremulous tails, the horses mashed their way through the thick mud, floundering and stumbling between whiles as if they were falling to pieces at the larger joints. As often as the driver rested them and brought them to a stand, with a wary “Wo-ho! So-ho then!” the near leader violently shook his head and everything upon it—like an unusually emphatic horse, denying that the coach could be got up the hill. Whenever the leader made this rattle, the passenger **started**, as a nervous passenger might, and was disturbed in mind.

**🡪**The word “started” most nearly means

1. Jumped
2. Set out
3. Went first
4. Activated

**9. and 10**. A spider’s very fine hairs growing on their legs are sensitive only to air movement. A light breeze makes them vibrate slowly without disturbing the common hair. When one blows gently on the hairs, a tarantula reacts with a quick jerk of its four front legs. If the front and hind legs are stimulated at the same time, the spider makes a sudden jump. This reaction is quite **independent** of the state of its appetite.

9. The word “independent” most nearly means

1. Individualistic
2. Self-governing
3. Regardless
4. Detached

10. The author’s tone in the excerpt can best be described as…

1. Mocking
2. Defiant
3. Straightforward
4. Admiring