

## SAT Vocabulary Study *Anthem* by Ayn Rand

*Note: The words, definitions, and quotations in the first section are given in the order as they appear in the Signet Centennial edition, 1995.*

### Group One Chapter 1

atone	mandate
brigade	portals
cesspool	pulpit
convulsion	transgression
dais	wretch

1. **transgression** (trans-**gresh-uhn**) *n.* a violation of a law, command or duty; the exceeding of due bounds or limits

derivatives: transgress, transgressor, transgressible

“And we know well that there is no **transgression** blacker than to do or think alone...” (17).

2. **portal** (**pohr-tl**) *n.* a doorway, entrance, or gate, especially one that is large and imposing

“Over the **portals** of the Palace of the World Council, there are words cut in the marble...” (19).

3. **mandate** (**man-deyt**) *n.* an authoritative command or instruction; a command or authorization given by a political electorate or its representatives

derivatives: mandated, mandatory

“And we were punished when the Council of Vocations came to give us our life **Mandates** which tell those who reach their fifteenth year what their work is to be for the rest of their lives” (24).

4. **dais** (**dey-is**) *n.* a raised platform, as in a lecture hall, for speakers or honored guests.

“And the Council of Vocations sat on a high **dais**, and they had but two words to speak to each of the Students” (25).

5. **atone** (*uh tohn*) *v.* to make amends, as for a sin or fault

derivatives: atoneable, atoner

“We knew we had been guilty, but now we had a way to **atone** for it” (26).

6. **pulpit** (*pool-pit*) *n.* an elevated platform, lectern, or stand used in preaching or conducting a religious service

“...the Councils of the different Homes stand in a **pulpit**, and they speak to us of our duties and of our brother men” (27).

7. **cesspool** (*ses-pool*) *n.* a covered hole or pit for receiving drainage or sewage, as from a house

“We wished to keep these things and to study them, but we had no place to hide them. So we carried them to the City **Cesspool**” (29).

8. **brigade** (*bri-geyd*) *n.* a group of persons organized for a purpose

derivatives: brigading, brigaded

“We Street Sweepers work in **brigades** of three...” (29).

9. **convulsion** (*kuhn-vuhl-shuhn*) *n.* an intense, involuntary muscular contraction; an uncontrolled fit

derivatives: convulse, convulsive, convulsiveness

“Now Union-5-3992 are a sickly lad and sometimes they are stricken with **convulsions**, when their mouth froths and their eyes turn white” (29).

10. **wretch** (*rech*) *n.* a person regarded as base, mean, or despicable; a miserable, unfortunate, or unhappy person

derivatives: wretched, wretchedly, wretchedness

“And yet there is no shame in us and no regret. We say to ourselves that we are a **wretch** and a traitor” (37).

**Group Two**  
**Chapters 2-3**

avert  
brine  
deign  
eugenics  
fraternity

lassitude  
lodestone  
pyre  
spangle  
taut

1. **spangle** (*spang-guhl*) *n.* a small, often circular piece of sparkling metal or plastic, sewn especially on garments for decoration; a small sparkling object, drop, or spot.

derivatives: spangled, spangling, spangly

“The fields are black and ploughed, and they lie like a great fan before us...like black pleats that sparkle with thin, green **spangles**” (38).

2. **deign** (*deyn*) *v.* to think it appropriate to one’s station or dignity; condescend

“They threw seeds from their hand as if they **deigned** to fling a scornful gift, and the earth was as a beggar under their feet” (39).

3. **taut** (*tawt*) *adj.* pulled or drawn tight; emotionally or mentally strained or tense

derivatives: tautly, tautness

“But their face was **taut**, and their eyes were dark” (40).

4. **lassitude** (*las-i-tood*) *n.* a state or feeling of weariness, diminished energy, or listlessness

“Their head fell back, and their arms fell, as if their arms and their thin white neck were stricken suddenly with a great **lassitude**” (40).

5. **eugenics** (*you-jen-iks*) *n.* the study of hereditary improvement of the human race by controlled selective breeding

derivatives: eugenic, eugenicist, eugenically

“And each of the men have one of the women assigned to them by the Council of **Eugenics**” (41).

6. **avert** (*uh-vurt*) *v.* to turn away

derivatives: avertedly, averter, avertible, avertable

“Their face did not move and they did not **avert** their eyes” (42-43).

7. **fraternity** (*fruh-tur-ni-tee*) *n.* a group of people associated for a common purpose or interest; the quality or condition of being brothers; brotherliness

derivatives: fraternal, fraternize

“All is not well with our brothers. **Fraternity**-2-5503, a quiet boy with wise, kind eyes, who cry suddenly, without reason, in the midst of day or night, and their body shakes with sobs they cannot explain (47).

8. **pyre** (*pahyuhr*) *n.* a heap of combustibles, especially for burning a corpse as a funeral rite

“They brought the Transgressor out into the square and they led him to the **pyre**.” (50)

9. **brine** (*brahyn*) *n.* water saturated with a large amount of salt; salt water used for preserving and pickling foods

“[I]t had been the metal of our knife which had sent a strange power to the copper through the **brine** of the frog’s body” (52).

10. **lodestone** (*loh-d-stohn*) *n.* a piece of magnetite that has magnetic properties and attracts iron or steel

“It makes the needle move and turn on the compass which we stole from the Home of the Scholars; but we had been taught, when still a child, that the **lodestone** points to the north and that this is a law which nothing can change, yet our new power defied all laws” (53).

**Group Three**  
**Chapters 4-9**

abyss  
boon  
collective  
corruption  
detention

illustrious  
infamy  
redemption  
solidarity  
solitude

1. **abyss** (*uh-bis*) *n.* an immeasurably deep chasm, depth, or void

derivatives: abyssal

“We could not see our body nor feel it, and in that moment nothing existed save our two hands over a wire glowing in a black **abyss**” (60).

2. **detention** (*dih-ten-shuhn*) *n.* a period of temporary custody or confinement while awaiting trial

derivatives: detain, detained, detaining

“Take our brother Equality 7-2521 to the Palace of Corrective **Detention**. Lash them until they tell” (64).

3. **illustrious** (*ih-luhs-tree-uhs*) *adj.* well-known and very distinguished, eminent

derivatives: illustriously, illustriousness

“We saw a great painting on the wall over their heads, of the twenty **illustrious** men who had invented the candle” (68).

4. **collective** (*kuh-lek-tiv*) *adj.* assembled into a whole; a number of people acting as a group

derivatives: collectively, collectiveness

“‘Our brothers!’ we cried. ‘Have you nothing to say to us?’ Then **Collective** 0-0009 moved forward. They moved to the table and the others followed” (71).

5. **infamy** (*in-fuh-mee*) *n.* evil fame or reputation as a result of a shameful, criminal, or outrageous act

derivatives: infamous

“[W]e have much to say to a wretch who have broken all the laws and who boast of their **infamy!**” (71).

6. **solidarity** (sol-i-dar-i-tee) *n.* a union of interests, purposes, and sympathies of a group arising from common responsibilities

“‘Many men in the Homes of the Scholars have had strange new ideas in the past,’ said **Solidarity** 8-1164, ‘but when the majority of their brother Scholars voted against them, they abandoned their ideas, as all men must’” (73).

7. **boon** (boon) *n.* something to be thankful for; blessing; benefit

“The candle is a great **boon** to mankind, as approved by all men” (73).

8. **corruption** (kuh-ruh-p-shuhn) *n.* a state of immorality and perversion; depravity; contamination

derivatives: corrupt, corruptible, corruptibility, corruptibleness, corruptibly

“Whatever days are left to us, we shall spend them alone. And we have heard of the **corruption** to be found in solitude” (76).

9. **solitude** (sol-i-tyood) *n.* the state of being or living alone; seclusion

derivatives: solitudinous

“Whatever days are left to us, we shall spend them alone. And we have heard of the corruption to be found in **solitude**” (76).

10. **redemption** (ri-demp-shuhn) *n.* deliverance or rescue; salvation

derivatives: redeem, redemptional, redemptive, redemptory

“We have torn ourselves from the truth which is our brother men, and there is no road back for us, and no **redemption**” (76).

**Group Four  
Chapters 10-12**

alms  
depraved  
impotent  
martyr  
raze

reverence  
sanction  
shackled  
undefiled  
vindicate

1. **reverence** (**rev-er-uhns**, **rev-ruhns**) *n.* a feeling or attitude of deep respect tinged with awe; veneration

derivatives: revere, revered, reverencing

“[W]e beg our heart for guidance in answering this call no voice has spoken, yet we have heard...And yet it stirs no fear within our heart, but only silent **reverence** and pity” (93).

2. **sanction** (**sangk-shuhn**) *n.* authoritative permission or approval, as for an action

derivatives: sanctioned, sanctioning, sanctionable

“I wished to know the meaning of things. I am the meaning. I wished to find a warrant for being. I need no warrant for being, and no word of **sanction** upon my being” (94).

3. **vindicate** (**vin-di-keyt**) *v.* to uphold or justify by argument or evidence

derivatives: vindicator, vindication

“For I know what happiness is possible to me on earth. And my happiness needs no higher aim to **vindicate** it” (95).

4. **alms** (**ahmz**) *n.* money, food, or other donations given to the poor or needy; anything given as charity

“The fortune of my spirit is not to be blown into coins of brass and flung to the winds as **alms** for the poor of the spirit” (95).

5. **undefiled** (**un-dih-fahyld**) *adj.* clean, unpolluted, pure

“Let each man keep his temple untouched and **undefiled**” (96).

6. **depraved** (dih-preyvd) *adj.* morally corrupt, perverted

derivatives: deprave, depravedly, depravity, depravation, depraver

“[We] is the word by which the **depraved** steal the virtue of the good, by which the weak steal the might of the strong, by which the fools steal the wisdom of the sages” (97).

7. **martyr** (mahr-ter) *n.* one who is put to death or who makes great sacrifices or suffers much in order to further a belief, cause, or principle

derivatives: martyred, martyring, martyrdom

“The Saint of the pyre had seen the future when he chose me as his heir, as the heir of all the saints and all the **martyrs** who came before him and who died for the same cause...” (99).

8. **shackled** (shak-uld) *v.* to restrict, confine, or hamper; to confine with a metal fastening, usually one of a pair, for encircling and confining the ankle or wrist of a prisoner or captive

derivatives: shackling, shackles, shackler

“...[T]heir minds are **shackled** to the weakest and dullest ones among them” (100).

9. **impotent** (im-puh-tuhnt) *adj.* lacking in power, helpless

derivatives: impotence, impotency, impotently

“And the roads of the world... will carry the best of the world’s blood to my threshold. And all my brothers, and the Councils of my brothers, will hear of it, but they will be **impotent** against me” (104).

10. **raze** (reyz) *v.* to level to the ground; demolish, tear down

derivatives: razed, razing, razes

“And the day will come when I shall break all the chains of the earth, and **raze** the cities of the enslaved...” (104).

**Complete List of Vocabulary Words for *Anthem***

abyss	lassitude
alms	lodestone
atone	mandate
avert	martyr
boon	portal
brigade	pulpit
brine	pyre
cesspool	raze
collective	redemption
convulsion	reverence
corruption	sanction
dais	shackled
deign	spangle
depraved	solidarity
detention	solitude
eugenics	taut
fraternity	transgression
illustrious	undefiled
infamy	vindicate
impotent	wretch

*Anthem*  
**Fill-in the Blank Activity**  
**Group One**

atone  
brigade  
cesspool  
convulsion  
dais

mandate  
portal  
pulpit  
transgression  
wretch

1. When Equality 7-2521 turns fifteen years old, the Council of Vocations \_\_\_\_\_ that he become a Street Sweeper, despite the fact that he wants to be a Scholar.
2. The Council of Vocations organizes the Street Sweepers into \_\_\_\_\_, as no one person may work alone.
3. Equality 7-2521 commits a \_\_\_\_\_ when he spends time alone experimenting with the glass box.
4. By hiding his stolen supplies in the city's \_\_\_\_\_, Equality 7-2521 tries to prevent others from discovering his illicit activities.
5. Trying to \_\_\_\_\_ for his rebellious thoughts, Equality 7-2521 tells himself to serve his brothers with happiness as a Street Sweeper.
6. The leaders of the different Councils stand in a \_\_\_\_\_, much like a pastor would, while lecturing the brothers on their duty to each other.
7. Equality 7-2521 calls himself a \_\_\_\_\_ for defying the will of the Council, but he does not feel guilty or shameful for his secret behavior.
8. Having only half a brain, Union 5-3992 suffers from \_\_\_\_\_ which prevent him from working.
9. The words carved over the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Palace of the World Council remind the brothers that they are part of the great WE, one and indivisible forever.
10. Members of the Council of Vocations sit above the students on a \_\_\_\_\_, a symbolic reminder of their power over the lives of their brothers.

*Anthem*  
**Fill-in-the-Blank Activity**  
**Group Two**

avert  
brine  
deign  
eugenics  
fraternity

lassitude  
lodestone  
pyre  
spangle  
taut

1. The community burns dissenters like the Transgressor of the Unspeakable Word on a \_\_\_\_\_ for their crimes against the collective.
2. Following the practice of \_\_\_\_\_, the Councils control the population's biological development by denying individuals freedom to choose their own mates.
3. By comparing the plowed farmland to a pleated skirt sewn with sparkling green \_\_\_\_\_, Ayn Rand establishes a contrast between the dull, lifeless city and the beautiful, natural landscape.
4. Equality 7-2521 does not \_\_\_\_\_ to follow the rules against preferring one person above all others in the community.
5. Equality 7-2521 refuses to \_\_\_\_\_ his gaze from the members of the Council of Vocations when they assign him the profession of Street Sweeper.
6. Liberty 5-3000's face appears \_\_\_\_\_ and unwelcoming when she first makes eye contact with Equality 7-2521.
7. When Equality 7-2521 discovers the underground subway tracks, any feelings of \_\_\_\_\_ disappear with the knowledge he now has a secret place to study.
8. Equality 7-2521 realizes he has discovered a remarkable power when he uses electricity to manipulate the direction the \_\_\_\_\_ moves in a compass.
9. Equality 7-2521 preserves a frog in \_\_\_\_\_ so he can use it for his experiments.
10. Rather than fostering unity and brotherhood, the Council's emphasis on \_\_\_\_\_ relations among the men causes them anxiety and stress.

*Anthem*  
**Fill-in-the-Blank Activity**  
**Group Three**

abyss  
boon  
collective  
corruption  
detention

illustrious  
infamy  
redemption  
solidarity  
solitude

1. Equality 7-2521's society is organized as a \_\_\_\_\_, a type of social system where citizens operate as a group rather than individually.
2. Ayn Rand uses the word \_\_\_\_\_ sarcastically when she describes the Scholars, implying that the society's best minds can only produce limited technology.
3. The Council of World Scholars preaches that all scientists must be in \_\_\_\_\_ when they decide what topics to discuss or study.
4. Equality 7-2521 is held in \_\_\_\_\_ by the Judges of the City when he refuses to reveal his whereabouts to the Council of the Home.
5. Equality 7-2521 and his brothers are taught that seeking privacy or separateness will lead to the moral \_\_\_\_\_ of the society.
6. Believing that he cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ for his behavior, Equality 7-2521 escapes from City with his glass box and hides in the Uncharted Forest.
7. Arguing that the candle is a \_\_\_\_\_ to mankind, the Scholars suggest that the glass box is dangerous because it would destroy the candle industry.
8. The Scholars do not praise Equality 7-2521 for his invention; rather, they accuse him of desiring attention for his \_\_\_\_\_ behavior.
9. The glowing wire of the glass box illuminates the dark \_\_\_\_\_ of Equality 7-2521's laboratory, symbolically shedding light on society's ignorance.
10. Equality 7-2521 is taught that seeking \_\_\_\_\_ is the worst sin he could commit; therefore he is surprised and pleased to find that he enjoys the state.

*Anthem*  
**Fill-in-the-Blank Activity**  
**Group Four**

alms	reverence
depraved	sanction
impotent	shackle
martyr	undefiled
raze	vindicate

1. When Equality 7-2521 realizes that he does not need the \_\_\_\_\_ of an authority to tell him how to live, he changes his name to Prometheus, the mythological figure who brings fire to mankind.
2. Prometheus's epiphany occurs when he realizes that pursuing individual freedom is not a \_\_\_\_\_ action; rather it is the most moral behavior he can demonstrate.
3. Prometheus believes that in order to be truly free, his mind cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ to the weakest or neediest of his brothers.
4. Refusing to give away the products of his mind like one would give \_\_\_\_\_ to a beggar, Prometheus regards his freedom as his most treasured possession.
5. Prometheus wonders why past generations of individuals stopped showing \_\_\_\_\_ to the ideas of personal freedom and individuality.
6. As part of his rebellion, Prometheus promises to \_\_\_\_\_ the old cities and create a new society.
7. Prometheus does not wish to become a \_\_\_\_\_ to his society like the Transgressor of the Unspeakable Word.
8. Ayn Rand argues that individuals do not need to \_\_\_\_\_ their desire to be happy.
9. Claiming that his former society will be \_\_\_\_\_ to stop him, Prometheus promises to free Mankind from the tyranny of the Councils.
10. Prometheus says each person's spirit should be kept \_\_\_\_\_ from the corrupting influence of collectivism.

**Multiple Choice Exam**  
*Anthem*

*Answers may be the vocabulary words from your list or any of the derivations.*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. to save<br>a. detain<br>b. transgress<br>c. redeem<br>d. mandate<br>e. deign                                      | 7. to think it appropriate to one's station<br>a. mandate<br>b. corrupt<br>c. deign<br>d. shackle<br>e. defile         |
| 2. a doorway, entrance, or gate<br>a. dais<br>b. boon<br>c. pulpit<br>d. portal<br>e. lodestone                      | 8. a violation of law, command, or duty<br>a. corruption<br>b. transgression<br>c. wretch<br>d. infamy<br>e. impotence |
| 3. pulled or drawn tight, tense<br>a. corruptible<br>b. taut<br>c. infamous<br>d. sanctionable<br>e. undefiled       | 9. assembled into a whole<br>a. collective<br>b. detention<br>c. solitude<br>d. convulsion<br>e. lassitude             |
| 4. well-known; very distinguished<br>a. illustrious<br>b. infamous<br>c. corruptible<br>d. redemptive<br>e. impotent | 10. the state of being alone, seclusion<br>a. fraternity<br>b. collective<br>c. infamy<br>d. reverence<br>e. solitude  |
| 5. an authoritative command<br>a. spangle<br>b. brine<br>c. transgression<br>d. brigade<br>e. mandate                | 11. a raised platform for honored guests<br>a. portal<br>b. sanction<br>c. dais<br>d. boon<br>e. cesspool              |
| 6. to uphold or justify by argument<br>a. defile<br>b. redeem<br>c. deign<br>d. vindicate<br>e. atone                | 12. to make amends, as for a sin or fault<br>a. deign<br>b. avert<br>c. atone<br>d. raze<br>e. shackle                 |

13. evil fame as a result of a shameful act  
a. corruption  
b. infamy  
c. solidarity  
d. sanction  
e. depravity
14. to level to the ground; demolish  
a. shackle  
b. avert  
c. atone  
d. defile  
e. raze
15. lacking in power; helpless  
a. impotent  
b. depraved  
c. taut  
d. abyssal  
e. fraternal
16. a heap of combustibles  
a. lodestone  
b. pulpit  
c. martyr  
d. pyre  
e. abyss
17. a feeling of deep respect and awe  
a. depravity  
b. reverence  
c. solitude  
d. collective  
e. lassitude
18. to turn away  
a. atone  
b. shackle  
c. raze  
d. deign  
e. avert
19. morally corrupt  
a. depraved  
b. illustrious  
c. infamous  
d. convulsive  
e. impotent
20. a group associated for a common purpose or interest  
a. detention  
b. mandate  
c. redemption  
d. fraternity  
e. eugenics

## Writing Activities

### Activity One: Writing a Short Story

*Anthem* is an allegory, a story that presents abstract ideas or principles through characters, figures, or events. Allegories typically have two meanings—a literal meaning and a moral or political one. Using *Anthem* as your model, pick a contemporary issue about which you feel strongly and write a brief allegory in which you warn readers about the issue’s potential problems or dangers.

### Activity Two: Writing an Archetypal Analysis

*Anthem* traces Equality 7-2521’s journey in his quest to become an individual. During this process, Equality 7-2521 defines several moral truths for himself, including the idea that to be truly free, “man must be free of his brothers” (101). In a well-developed essay, examine Equality 7-2521’s journey toward his new insights and explain how his journey critiques the notion that we are morally responsible for the well-being of others. Include at least five vocabulary words in your response.

### Activity Three: Analyzing Tone

An *anthem* is a hymn of praise, devotion, or patriotism, usually dedicated to a revered cause or idea. Read the following passage from chapter eight of *Anthem*, in which author Ayn Rand describes Equality 7-2521’s first morning away from the City and his brothers. In a well-organized essay, discuss how this passage represents an “anthem” to Individualism by considering how devices such as diction, detail, and imagery contribute to a praiseful and reverent tone.

We awoke when a ray of sunlight fell across our face. We wanted to leap up to our feet, as we have had to leap every morning of our life, but we remembered suddenly that no bell had rung and that there was no bell to ring anywhere. We lay on our back, we threw our arms out, and we looked up at the sky. The leaves had edges of silver that trembled and rippled like a river of green and fire flowing high above us.

We did not wish to move. We thought suddenly that we could lie thus as long as we wished, and we laughed aloud at the thought. We could also rise, or run, or leap, or fall down again. We were thinking that these were thoughts without sense, but before we knew it our body had risen in one leap. Our arms stretched out of their own will, and our body whirled and whirled, till it raised a wind to rustle through the leaves of the bushes. Then our hands seized a branch and swung us high into a tree, with no aim save the wonder of learning the strength of our body. The branch snapped under us and we fell upon the moss that was soft as a cushion. Then our body, losing all sense, rolled over and over in the moss, dry leaves in our tunic, in our hair, in our face. And we heard suddenly that we were laughing, laughing aloud, laughing as if there were no power left in us save laughter.

Then we took our glass box, and we went on into the forest. We went on, cutting through the branches, and it was as if we were swimming through a sea of leaves, with the bushes as waves rising and falling and rising around us, and flinging their green sprays high to the treetops. The trees parted before us, calling us forward. The forest seemed to welcome us. We went on, without thought, without care, with nothing to feel save the song of our body (78-79).