

UNIT 6

Homelessness

(A) Use the verbs from the box below to fill the gaps in sentences 1 - 18. Use each verb once only. Change the form if necessary.

pilfer	live	expose	obligate	bottle	cast	sponge	ride
tear	live	hit	carry	lead	turn	addict	take
weather	struggle	plunge	cry	exploit	scrounge	turn	thrust

- The loss of both her parents at such an early age _____ its toll on her mentally and she became disturbed during her adolescent years.
- Those living on the streets are at their most vulnerable during the cold winter months when they are _____ to the elements.
- Society as a whole is _____ to protect the most vulnerable within our midst; young people who find themselves _____ out onto the streets are in particular need of our help and care.
- The temptation to _____ a blind eye to the plight of the homeless is ever-present, but we must not let ourselves forget the most vulnerable and needy.
- Many of the homeless have been _____ roughshod over by the unscrupulous elements within our society, people prepared to _____ them for their own immoral ends and _____ them down the path to a life of crime.
- Often, young people who run away from home and escape from an abusive environment mistakenly believe that they have _____ the worst of the storm; that is, until they realise what awaits them in their life on the streets.
- Emotional instability is only worsened when the affected individual attempts to _____ everything up inside; eventually, their issues will explode forth and the consequences may be very far-reaching.
- We cannot yet seriously consider our society a civilised place in which to live when we are content to pass by the anonymous street-folk on our daily sojourn to work and stand by idly ignoring the squalor in which they _____.
- Those _____ to make ends meet are but one missed mortgage or rent payment away from being thrown out onto the streets and _____ into a life of dire poverty.
- It is always the most vulnerable who are _____ upon, but the predatory tendencies have seldom come from such an alarming source as the government; however, the announcement that the minimum wage is to be cut in the next budget is nothing short of an attack on those on the very margins of society.
- People who _____ their noses up at the homeless as they walk past them on the street would do well to reconsider; after all, given the right combination of calamitous circumstances, it could very well be any one of us in their position. To so scornfully ignore their plight is to surely only _____ them further into the pits of despair.
- Some of the young people who make up the majority of the homeless on the streets of our city look as though they _____ the weight of the world on their shoulders.
- The homeless are _____ out for help, but no one is listening to their pleas.
- They are effectively _____ from hand to mouth, unable to think about tomorrow because they are constantly having to worry about just making it through today.
- A homeless man came up to me and tried to _____ a cigarette; I told him I don't smoke...
- Many of the homeless do not qualify for dole payments, so the accusation that they are _____ off the government is fallacious at best.
- When his wife and children left him, he _____ rock bottom and turned to drink; he has been _____ now for the best part of a decade and it has _____ his life apart.
- He was caught _____ sweets from a local shop.

(B) Match the phrase in **Column A** to its meaning in **Column B**. You will not need all the **Column B** options.

Column A	Answer	Column B
(a) to be on the margins (of society)		(i) waiting around with the intention of causing trouble
(b) to run amok		(ii) having no money, luck or opportunities
(c) to be down-and-out		(iii) to behave in a wild and dangerous manner
(d) to be on the game		(iv) working as a prostitute
(e) to be loitering with intent		(v) focused on what needs to be achieved
		(vi) determined to escape something
		(vii) perched on the edge of greatness
		(viii) excluded/isolated/not significantly involved