ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

400 Must Have Words for the TOEFL LESSON 1 – Food Crops Vocabulary Test

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1	E	2	B	3	C	4	A	5	D	6	C	7	A	8	D	9	B	10	E
11	C	12	A																

Explanations

1. Complete each sentence by choosing the best word. Change the form of the word if necessary. Use each word only once.

Through _____, green plants create organic materials with the help of chlorophyll.
✔ **E) photosynthesis**
Photosynthesis is the process green plants use to make food from sunlight, water and carbon dioxide with the help of chlorophyll. The preposition **through** needs a noun naming a process, and only **photosynthesis** fits the meaning.

2. The coastal city gets half of its _____ during the months of January, February, and March.
✔ **B) precipitation**
Precipitation means water that falls from the sky, such as rain or snow. A city can get half of its yearly **precipitation** in certain months, e.g. **The region gets most of its precipitation in winter.**

3. Farmers use various methods of land _____.
✔ **C) cultivation**
Cultivation is the preparing and use of land to grow crops. The fixed phrase **land cultivation** (**methods of land cultivation**) needs a noun after **land**, so only **cultivation** fits.

4. When they heard the hull crack, all but two of the sailors _____ ship.
✔ **A) abandoned**
Abandon ship means to leave a ship because it is in danger. The past tense **abandoned** matches the past verb **heard**. The sailors left the ship when they heard the hull crack.

5. Inexperienced gardeners may not realize how important it is that they _____ their plants.
✔ **D) fertilize**
Fertilize means to add natural or chemical substances to soil or plants to help them grow. After **it is important that they** we need the base form of a verb, so **fertilize** is correct: **It is important that they fertilize their plants.**

6. Choose the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the opposite of the word below.

obtain
✔ **C) lose**
Obtain means to get something. Its opposite is **lose**, which means to no longer have something, e.g. **She obtained a visa** vs **She lost her visa.**

7. intensify
✔ **A) weaken**
Intensify means to make something stronger or more extreme, e.g. **intensify efforts**. Its opposite is **weaken**, which means to make something less strong.

8. irrigation
✔ **D) drainage**
Irrigation is supplying water to land so that crops can grow. **Drainage** is the opposite process: removing water from land.

9. aggregate
✔ **B) separate**
Aggregate means to gather or combine parts into a whole. As an adjective it means total, e.g. **aggregate production**. Its opposite is **separate**, which means to divide into parts.

10. adversely
✔ **E) positively**
Adversely means in a harmful or negative way, e.g. **Drought adversely affected the crops.** Its opposite is **positively**, which means in a good or helpful way.

11. In this passage, the word adversary is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **C) enemy**
An **adversary** is an opponent or enemy: someone or something working against you. Paragraph 3 says crop revitalization faces an unexpected adversary, **institutional incompetence**. This problem works against the farmers' progress, so **enemy** is closest in meaning.

12. In the last paragraph, the word they refers to _____.
✔ **A) crop specialists**
In the last paragraph, the sentence begins **Where crop specialists have convinced individual farmers...**, and the pronoun **they** in the main clause refers back to that subject. It is the **crop specialists** who cannot readily obtain the governmental cooperation they need. Not **farmers**: the farmers are the ones being convinced, not the ones seeking cooperation from the government.