ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

400 Must Have Words for the TOEFL LESSON 12 – Surgery Vocabulary Test

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

Explanations

1. **For each word, choose the word or phrase that has the most similar meaning.**

scar
✓ **B) mark**
A **scar** is a **mark** left on the skin after a cut, burn or operation has healed. Example: **The surgery left a small scar on his knee.** Not **bandage**: a bandage covers a wound, but it is not left on the skin afterwards.

2. **augment**
✓ **D) add to**
To **augment** means to make something bigger or greater, so it means to **add to** it. Example: **She took a second job to augment her income. Take away** means the opposite.

3. **complication**
✓ **A) added difficulty**
A **complication** is an **added difficulty**: a new problem that makes a situation, especially a medical one, harder. Example: **Infection is a common complication after surgery.**

4. **obese**
✓ **C) very overweight**
Obese describes a person who is **very overweight**, to a degree that is unhealthy. Not **healthy**: obesity is a health risk.

5. **cure**
✓ **A) heal**
To **cure** means to **heal**, that is, to make a sick person well again or end an illness. Not **diagnose**: to diagnose is only to find out what illness someone has, not to make it go away.

6. **Choose the word that best completes each sentence.**

The _____ to prepare for the surgery took four hours.
✓ **A) procedure**
A **procedure** is a set of actions done in a fixed order, such as the steps of a medical operation. Something that **took four hours** must be a process, so **procedure** fits. A **scar** is a mark on the skin, not a process.

7. Only seriously _____ people should get their stomachs surgically reduced.
✓ **B) obese**
Stomach-reduction surgery is for people who are **obese** (very overweight), so **seriously obese** fits the sentence. **Certifiable** means officially able to be declared insane (informally, crazy), which has nothing to do with weight.

8. He almost died during the operation because the doctors did not give him the right kind of _____.
✓ **A) anesthesia**
Anesthesia (American spelling; British **anaesthesia**) is the drug doctors **give** a patient so they feel no pain during an operation. The clue is **give him the right kind of**. Not **complication**: doctors do not give a complication. A complication is a problem that happens.

9. Doctors are now able to _____ many types of sickness that were usually fatal in the past.
✓ **A) cure**
To **cure** a sickness is to make it go away. The contrast with illnesses that **were usually fatal in the past** shows that doctors can now heal them. To **implant** means to put something into the body by surgery, and you cannot implant a sickness.

10. Before _____ a painkiller, the dentist rubbed cloves on the woman's gums to numb them.
✓ **B) injecting**
To **inject** means to put a drug into the body with a needle, and dentists inject painkillers. The cloves were used to numb the gums **before injecting** the painkiller. **Augmenting** (making larger) makes no sense with **a painkiller**.

11. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **C) Cosmetic surgery is increasing in popularity in the United States.**
The passage opens with its main idea: cosmetic surgery procedures have **risen 175 percent** in the United States since 1992. It then describes two of the most popular procedures, which supports the idea of growing popularity. Not **Cosmetic surgery is dangerous**: the risks are only one detail near the end, not the essential information. The passage never says people avoid surgery because of pain, and it does not mention breast reduction.

12. In the underlined sentence, *trouble spots* refers to _____.

✓ D) specific areas on the body where fat is hard to minimize

The underlined sentence says liposuction should be used when **diet and exercise do not reduce fat** in certain trouble spots. So **trouble spots** are **specific areas on the body where fat is hard to minimize**. Not **places where people are commonly overweight**: the problem is not where fat appears but that it will not go away with diet and exercise.

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