ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

400 Must Have Words for the TOEFL LESSON 15 – Social Inequality Vocabulary Test

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

Explanations

1. Choose the word that best completes each sentence.

During the trial, the defense lawyer _____ each claim with an opposite charge.
✔ **B) countered**
To **counter** means to answer or act against something with an opposite argument or action. The words **with an opposite charge** are the clue, and **during the trial** shows the past, so we need **countered**.
Example: **She countered his criticism with facts.**

2. The basketball coach was naturally _____ toward the taller players.
✔ **A) biased**
Biased means unfairly favoring one person or group over others. The phrase **biased toward** the taller players means the coach preferred them. Not **de facto**, because it means 'existing in fact' and does not fit before **toward**.

3. After we saw the fancy car that the Jacobses bought, we gave up the _____ that they could not afford the basic things in life.
✔ **D) notion**
A **notion** is an idea or belief. **Gave up the notion that...** means they stopped believing that the Jacobses were poor. Not **paradigm**, which is a general model or pattern of thinking, not a single belief about someone.

4. The battle was successful, as judged by the prevailing _____ of that era.
✔ **E) paradigm**
A **paradigm** is a model or set of ideas that people use to judge things at a certain time. **The prevailing paradigm of that era** means the standards most people accepted then. Not **notion**, which is a single idea rather than a whole framework.

5. Even though Jovie was a cleaner, not a nanny, she was the baby's _____ caregiver because his parents worked so many hours.
✔ **C) de facto**
De facto means existing in reality, even if not officially. Jovie was not officially a nanny, but in practice she was the baby's caregiver. Example: **English is the de facto language of the company.**

6. Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the opposite of each word.

amend
✔ **C) leave as is**
To **amend** means to change or improve something, such as a law or a text. The opposite is to **leave as is**, which means not changing it at all.

7. burden
✔ **A) relieve**
To **burden** means to put a heavy load, worry or responsibility on someone. The opposite is to **relieve**, which means to take that weight away.

8. oppress
✔ **B) allow to operate freely**
To **oppress** means to control people unfairly and limit their freedom. The opposite is to **allow to operate freely**. Not **relieve**, which is the opposite of **burden**, not of controlling people.

9. indiscriminately
✔ **E) by making careful choices**
Indiscriminately means without choosing carefully, at random. The opposite is **by making careful choices**. Example: **He spent money indiscriminately.**

10. prejudiced
✔ **D) unbiased**
Prejudiced means having an unfair opinion about people before knowing them, often because of their group. The opposite is **unbiased**, which means fair and neutral.

11. Which of the following best expresses the essential information of this passage?
✔ **B) Nelson Mandela fought prejudice in South Africa.**
The first sentence gives the main idea: Mandela **devoted his life to fighting prejudice** in South Africa. The rest of the passage supports this idea with his campaign, his time in prison and his election as president. Not **used illegal means**: civil disobedience is mentioned, but only as one detail, not as the essential information.

12. In the passage, the word **amend** is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **C) change**
To **amend** a law means to **change** it, usually to improve it. Paragraph 2 says the ruling class **refused to amend the state's laws**, so they would not change the unfair laws. Not **discuss**, because talking about laws does not mean changing them.