ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# 400 Must Have Words for the TOEFL LESSON 16 – Expertise Vocabulary Test

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

## Explanations

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

**distinctly**
✓ **A) clearly**
**Distinctly** means in a way that is easy to see, hear or understand, so it means **clearly**: **The letters were distinctly visible.** Not **fully**, which means completely, not easy to notice.

**2.** **erudite**
✓ **B) wise**
**Erudite** describes a person who has a lot of knowledge from study and reading, so the closest word is **wise**: **an erudite professor**. Not **complicated**: an erudite text may be difficult, but the word describes knowledge, not difficulty.

**3.** **fortify**
✓ **C) strengthen**
To **fortify** means to make something stronger, so it means **strengthen**: **Students attend university to fortify basic skills. Weaken** is the opposite.

**4.** **rigor**
✓ **A) strictness**
**Rigor** (British **rigour**) means being very strict, careful and thorough, so it means **strictness**: **the rigor of the exam requirements**. **Recklessness** means acting without care, which is nearly the opposite.

**5.** **suspend**
✓ **C) hang**
The basic meaning of **suspend** is to **hang** something from above: **A lamp was suspended from the ceiling.** It can also mean to stop something for a time, as in **suspend an obligation**. Not **tie**: you may tie something in order to hang it, but suspend means hang.

**6.** **Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the underlined part of each sentence.**

The class list showed that only 12 students had enrolled for spring quarter.
✓ **D) roster**
A **roster** is an official list of names, for example of students in a class or players on a team: **The class roster showed only 12 students.** Not **curriculum**, which is the set of courses taught, not a list of people.

**7.** Many parents feel that public schools are as good as private, religious schools.
✓ **C) parochial**
In American English, a **parochial** school is a private school run by a church or religious group. So **parochial** matches **private, religious**. Not **secular**, which means the opposite: not connected with religion.

**8.** The principal requested parents' feedback on the new set of math classes.
✓ **A) curriculum**
A **curriculum** is the set of subjects or courses taught at a school or university, so a **new set of math classes** is a new math **curriculum**. Not **roster**, which is a list of people, not of classes.

**9.** In the United States, many private grade schools are not affiliated with a religion.
✓ **E) secular**
**Secular** means not connected with religion: **a secular school**. So it matches **not affiliated with a religion**. **Parochial** is the opposite here, because a parochial school is run by a church.

**10.** The janitor agreed indirectly not to turn in the students.
✓ **B) implicitly**
**Implicitly** means in an indirect way, without saying something openly: **He implicitly agreed by staying silent.** It is the only adverb among the options, so it fits **agreed indirectly**. The other options are nouns or adjectives.

**11.** *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **C) The role of higher education is changing, and so is the university curriculum.**
The first sentence says universities have adapted their **curriculums** to meet the **changing purposes of higher education**, and later the passage describes an **evolution in the university's role**. So the author agrees that both the role and the curriculum are changing. Not **completely adaptable**: the last sentences say universities must keep **rigorous requirements** and a core of required classes, so the curriculum should not change completely.

**12.** In this passage, the word elitist is closest in meaning to _____.

**✓ A) superior**

**Elitist** describes the belief that a small group of people is better than others and should get special treatment. The passage links it to an **exclusive opportunity** for an academic **elite**, so the closest meaning is **superior**. Not **academic**: the elite was academic, but **elitist** is about feeling better than others. **Populist** is close to the opposite.

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