ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

400 Must Have Words for the TOEFL LESSON 23 – Employment Vocabulary Test

400 Must Have Words for the TOEFL · 12 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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1	E	2	C	3	A	4	B	5	D	6	A	7	B	8	B	9	B	10	A
11	C	12	B																

Explanations

1. **Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to each word.**

compensate
✓ **E) pay**
To **compensate** someone means to **pay** them for their work or to make up for a loss. Example: **The company compensates its staff well.**

2. **dynamic**
✓ **C) energetic**
Dynamic means **energetic**: full of energy, new ideas and activity. Example: **She is a dynamic young manager.** Not **hard-working**, which is **industrious**.

3. **enterprising**
✓ **A) good at finding business opportunities**
An **enterprising** person is **good at finding business opportunities** and willing to try new ways of making money. Example: **An enterprising student started a delivery business.**

4. **industrious**
✓ **B) hard-working**
Industrious means **hard-working**. Example: **Industrious employees often get promoted.** Don't confuse it with **industrial**, which relates to factories and industry.

5. **promote**
✓ **D) move up**
To **promote** someone means to **move** them **up** to a higher position at work. Example: **He was promoted to sales manager.**

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

Some companies move their factories to poor countries in order to _____ the desperation of people who are willing to work for very low wages.
✓ **A) exploit**
To **exploit** means to use a situation or people unfairly for your own advantage. Companies use people's desperation to pay them very little. **Compensate** (pay) doesn't fit with **the desperation of people**.

7. For the last five years, we've seen only _____ improvements in our productivity.
✓ **B) marginal**
Marginal means very small or not important. The word **only** signals a disappointing result: **only marginal improvements**. **Dynamic** (energetic, active) would not fit with **only**.

8. Judging by actual money-generating _____, Williams is the company's most valuable employee.
✓ **B) merit**
Merit means the quality of being good or deserving praise, here measured by how much money an employee brings in. **Promotion** is moving up to a higher job, which cannot be 'money-generating'.

9. I had a lot of _____ to move to our new facility in Minnesota because two of my brothers live there.
✓ **B) incentive**
An **incentive** is something that encourages you to do something. Having brothers in Minnesota gives the speaker a reason to move. **Compensation** is payment for work or for a loss, which doesn't match the reason given.

10. Unless my employer stops polluting local rivers, I'm going to _____.
✓ **A) resign**
To **resign** means to leave your job by choice. The speaker will quit if the employer keeps polluting rivers. **Exploit** (use unfairly) makes no sense here.

11. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **C) The 1960s and 1970s were times of great change for the American economy.**
The passage describes how the American economy changed in the 1960s and 1970s: old pension systems, promotion by **merit** instead of seniority, and managers asked to **resign**. These are all examples of **great change**. The option about compensation is only one detail, and the passage never says people should move to the United States.

12. **The author of this article expresses a negative opinion about _____.**
✓ **B) workers who depended on seniority for promotion**
The author says changes came **much to the disadvantage of less-industrious workers**, who had relied on **seniority** rather than **merit** for promotion. This is the only group described negatively. The author is positive about **enterprising** businesspeople who exploit change and about the growing American economy.