ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

400 Must Have Words for the TOEFL LESSON 25 – Politics Vocabulary Test

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

Explanations

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

policy
✓ D) a way of handling a situation
A **policy** is a plan or set of rules that a government or organization follows to deal with a situation, so it is **a way of handling a situation**. Example: **The government has a new policy on immigration.**

2. **candidate**
✓ C) a kind of person
A **candidate** is a person who tries to be chosen for a job or position, for example in an election, so it is **a kind of person**. Example: **Two candidates are running for president.**

3. **authority**
✓ B) a kind of power
Authority is the power or right to give orders and make decisions, so it is **a kind of power**. Example: **The commission had the authority to choose the winner.**

4. **coalition**
✓ E) a kind of group
A **coalition** is a group of people, parties or countries that join together for a shared aim, so it is **a kind of group**. Example: **Three parties formed a coalition government.**

5. **election**
✓ A) a process of choosing
An **election** is the event in which people vote to choose a leader or representative, so it is **a process of choosing**. Example: **The election will be held in November.**

6. **Complete each sentence by filling in each blank with the best word. Change the form of the word if necessary. Use each word only once.**

In the early twentieth century, politicians fought _____ about whether the U.S. dollar should be based on gold.
✓ B) bitterly
The gap comes after the verb **fought**, so it needs an adverb. **Bitterly** means in a very angry, hostile way: **to fight bitterly** is a common collocation. The other options are verbs, so they cannot describe how the politicians fought.

7. Only one month after he was _____, President Harrison fell sick and died.
✓ D) inaugurated
To be inaugurated means to be officially put into a new position, such as president, at a formal ceremony. After **he was** we need a past participle, and the meaning fits: he became president, and one month later he died.

8. My opponent says that I cheated on my taxes. I _____ that charge, and I will prove him wrong.
✓ C) contest
To contest a charge or claim means to say formally that it is wrong and to argue against it. The clue is **I will prove him wrong**. The present tense **contest** matches the subject **I** and the present situation.

9. Their predictions about the election results were not very accurate because they _____ too few people in advance.
✓ E) polled
To poll people means to ask them questions to find out their opinions, for example how they will vote. The clue is **predictions about the election results** and **too few people**: they asked too few people, so the predictions were wrong. The past tense **polled** fits.

10. Last year, the Freedom Party _____ giving medical treatment even to people who could not pay for it.
✓ A) advocated
To advocate something means to publicly support or recommend it. **Last year** shows we need the past tense **advocated**. The party supported the idea of giving medical treatment to people who could not pay.

11. **In what way was the 1876 election even odder than that in 2000?**
✓ D) The uncertainty over who would win the presidency lasted many months.
The passage says the 1876 situation **was not settled until March 2 of 1877**, months after the November election. It also says the problem **was settled much faster in 2000**. So the long uncertainty is what made 1876 odder. Not the split between the popular and electoral vote: the passage says this happened **just as** in 2000, so it was not a difference between the two elections.

12. **Who decided the outcome of the 1876 election?**
✓ A) a special electoral commission
The passage says **a special electoral commission was given the authority to determine which candidate** had won. Not Thomas Ferry: the Democrats chose the commission so that Ferry would **not** declare the winner. Not the Supreme Court: it settled the 2000 election, not the 1876 one.