ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

400 Must Have Words for the TOEFL LESSON 5 – Time Efficiency Vocabulary Test

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

Explanations

1. Complete each sentence by choosing the best word. Change the form of the word if necessary. Use each word only once.

Students felt that the exam was unfair and the grading system was rather _____.
✔ **B) arbitrary**
Arbitrary means based on chance or personal choice, not on a clear system or reason. The clue is **unfair**: students felt the grades were not given according to fair rules. **Rather** and **was** need an adjective here, and **arbitrary** is the only adjective that fits this meaning.

2. The _____ of increase in prices made it difficult for people to afford basic goods.
✔ **E) rate**
Rate means the speed at which something happens or changes. The fixed expression is **the rate of increase**, e.g. **The rate of inflation rose last year.** The gap follows **The** and comes before **of**, so it needs a noun.

3. Politicians promised great changes in the coming year, but any improvement in people's lives was _____.
✔ **D) infinitesimal**
Infinitesimal means extremely small, almost too small to notice. The word **but** sets up a contrast: politicians promised **great changes**, but the real improvement was tiny. Not **arbitrary**, because the sentence is about the size of the improvement, not about whether it was random.

4. She quickly overcame her culture shock and found it easy to _____ to the new country.
✔ **A) adjust**
Adjust to something means to get used to a new situation and change your behaviour to fit it. After **found it easy to** we need a base-form verb, and **adjust** is the only verb in the list. The clue is **overcame her culture shock**.

5. You can add two fractions that have the same _____.
✔ **C) denominator**
A **denominator** is the number below the line in a fraction, e.g. the 4 in **3/4**. Fractions with the same denominator, such as **1/5 + 2/5**, can be added simply by adding the top numbers.

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

arbitrary
✔ **E) planned out**
Arbitrary describes something decided by chance or personal whim, with no clear plan or reason. Its opposite is something that is **planned out**, organised carefully in advance.

7. maximize
✔ **C) minimize**
To **maximize** means to make something as large or as great as possible. Its opposite is **minimize**, which means to make something as small as possible, e.g. **minimize the risk**.

8. sequence
✔ **A) mix up**
As a verb, **sequence** means to arrange things in a particular order. The opposite is to **mix up**, which means to put things in the wrong order or into confusion.

9. infinitesimal
✔ **D) huge**
Infinitesimal means extremely small. Its opposite is **huge**, which means extremely large. Not **minimize**: that is a verb meaning "make smaller", so it is closer in meaning, not opposite.

10. parallel
✔ **B) intersecting**
Parallel lines run side by side at the same distance and never meet. Lines that cross each other are **intersecting**, so this is the opposite.

11. Why does the author mention computer multitasking in this article?
✔ **D) because it is a good example of the efficient use of time**
The passage is about how people try to **use time effectively**. The author then says efficiency has increased **thanks to computers and their ability to multitask**, so multitasking is given as an example of the efficient use of time. Not "because it measures time better than any clock": the passage links clocks and watches to measuring time, not multitasking.

12. The underlined word **sequences** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✓ C) orderings
A **sequence** is a series of things arranged in a particular order. In the passage, the computer runs tasks in different **orderings** at different clock cycles. The words **priority** and **proportion** in the sentence before support this meaning of order.

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