ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

4000 Essential English Words 4 Unit 28: Thucydides and the Plague of Athens

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1	**D**	2	**D**	3	**A**	4	**A**	5	**C**	6	**C**	7	**A**	8	**C**	9	**B**	10	**D**
11	**B**	12	**A**	13	**B**	14	**A**	15	**A**	16	**B**	17	**B**	18	**A**	19	**B**	20	**B**
21	**B**	22	**A**	23	**A**	24	**B**	25	**A**	26	**A**	27	**B**	28	**C**	29	**D**	30	**B**

Explanations

1. **Choose the right word for the given definition.**
to ask someone to come
✓ **D) summon**
To **summon** someone means to ask or order them to come, e.g. **The manager summoned all the staff to a meeting.**

2. basic
✓ **D) fundamental**
Fundamental means basic and very important, e.g. **a fundamental rule**.

3. to get bigger
✓ **A) expand**
To **expand** means to get bigger, e.g. **The city expanded quickly.**

4. to be afraid
✓ **A) dread**
To **dread** something means to be very afraid of it, e.g. **I dread going to the dentist.** Not **horrifying**, which is an adjective meaning very unpleasant.

5. not believing
✓ **C) incredulous**
Incredulous means not able or not willing to believe something, e.g. **She was incredulous when she heard the news.**

6. **Choose the right definition for the given word.**
plague
✓ **C) a disease**
A **plague** is a serious disease that spreads quickly and kills many people.

7. solitude
✓ **A) being alone**
Solitude is the state of being alone, often by choice, e.g. **He enjoys the solitude of the mountains.**

8. define
✓ **C) to explain clearly**
To **define** something means to explain clearly what it is or what it means, e.g. **Can you define this word?** (**To last a long time** is the meaning of **linger**.)

9. organism
✓ **B) a living thing**
An **organism** is a living thing, such as a plant, an animal or a bacterium.

10. horrifying
✓ **D) very unpleasant**
Horrifying means very unpleasant and shocking, e.g. **a horrifying accident**.

11. **Choose the word that is the better fit for each blank.**
There was a _____ in the city yesterday, but the _____ was not damaged.
✓ **B) riot / shrine**
A **riot** is a violent protest by a crowd, which can happen **in the city**. A **shrine** is a religious building, which can be **damaged**.

12. For the book report, I _____ the book and clearly _____ the author's purpose for writing it.
✓ **A) paraphrased / defined**
You **paraphrase** a book when you retell it in your own words. You **define** a purpose when you explain it clearly, which matches **clearly**.

13. There are 15 members in the group _____, but I expect that number to _____.
✓ **B) presently / expand**
Presently means now: there are 15 members at the moment. After **to** we need a verb, and **expand** (get bigger) fits the idea of the number growing.

14. His attempt to catch the train was to no _____. He spent hours in _____ waiting for the next one.
✓ **A) avail / solitude**
To no avail is a fixed phrase meaning without success. **In solitude** means alone, which fits waiting for hours for the next train.

15. The _____ point of my speech was to show that people need to act. If we don't do something, things will _____.
✓ **A) fundamental / worsen**
Fundamental (basic, most important) describes the noun **point**. After **will** we need a verb, and **worsen** means to get worse.

16. I tried to _____ the information as fast as I could because I didn't have time to _____.
✓ **B) scribble / linger**
To **scribble** means to write quickly and carelessly, which fits **as fast as I could**. To **linger** means to stay longer than necessary, which you can't do if you have no time.

17. After seeing that _____ plane crash, I _____ flying.
✔ **B) horrifying / dreaded**
Horrifying is an adjective describing the **plane crash**. After **I** we need a verb: **dreaded** means was very afraid of.

18. She was _____ that there could be such a _____ contrast between boys' and girls' grades.
✔ **A) incredulous / stark**
Incredulous describes a person who can't believe something. **Stark** means very clear and obvious, and **a stark contrast** is a common collocation.

19. We should _____ scientists from around the world to study this new _____.
✔ **B) summon / organism**
After **should** we need a verb: **summon** means to ask people to come. **This new organism** is the living thing they will study.

20. At first, we thought _____ people were getting sick. Then we realized that a _____ was spreading.
✔ **B) random / plague**
Random means happening without any pattern or reason and describes **people**. **A plague** is a disease that was spreading.

21. Presently, a horrifying plague has broken out in Athens.
✔ **B) FALSE**
Paragraph 2 says the plague happened in **430 BCE**, so it is not happening **presently** (now). The passage uses **Presently** only once, to say that today we get our knowledge about Greece from Thucydides.

22. At first, people thought the spread of the disease was random.
✔ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 2 says no one understood how the disease spread and **It seemed random**. Later they learned it spread from person to person.

23. The people summoned doctors to no avail.
✔ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 2 says **People summoned doctors. But it was to no avail**, which means the doctors could not help.

24. Thucydides was incredulous that the plague was caused by an organism.
✔ **B) FALSE**
Paragraph 2 says Thucydides was **incredulous that gods caused the plague**, not that an organism caused it. People at that time did not know it was an organism.

25. By gathering in shrines, people made the plague worse.
✔ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 2 says large crowds gathered at shrines and **the situation only worsened** because people were so close to each other that they became sick.

26. Thucydides luckily survived the plague.
✔ **A) TRUE**
The last paragraph says **But luckily, Thucydides survived.**

27. Why did Athens' population expand?
✔ **B) Because people were hiding from the army**
Paragraph 2 says **Thousands of people hid from the army behind Athens' large walls**, so the population **expanded**. Not **the plague**: the disease broke out after the city was already crowded.

28. Thucydides scribbled quickly because _____.
✔ **C) he thought he'd die soon**
The last paragraph says **He quickly scribbled down notes because he thought he would soon die.**

29. What fundamental lesson did the people learn?
✔ **D) The plague was spread between people.**
Paragraph 2 ends: **a fundamental lesson about the plague: it spread from person to person.** Not **a punishment**: that is what people believed before they learned this lesson.

30. What is NOT true of Thucydides?
✔ **B) He thought gods caused the plague.**
Paragraph 2 says Thucydides was **incredulous** that gods caused the plague, so he did NOT think gods caused it. The other three sentences are all true according to the passage.

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