ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

4000 Essential English Words 6 Unit 15: Epidemic in Zimbabwe

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Explanations

1. **Choose the answer that best fits the question.**
What can start an epidemic?
✔ **B) A virus**
An **epidemic** is a disease that spreads quickly to many people in one area. Diseases are caused by germs such as a **virus**, so a virus can start an epidemic. A fire or a storm can cause damage, but it does not spread illness from person to person.

2. What is found inside intestines?
✔ **C) Food**
The **intestines** are the long tubes in your body below the stomach. Food passes through them while it is being digested, so **food** is found inside them.

3. If you replenish an empty refrigerator, you _____.
✔ **B) fill it with food**
To **replenish** something means to fill it up again after it has become empty or low. If you replenish an empty refrigerator, you **fill it with food**. Not 'replace the light bulb': that is a repair, not filling something up again.

4. What is a hazard on a street?
✔ **B) A hole in the ground**
A **hazard** is something dangerous that could cause harm or an accident. A **hole in the ground** on a street is dangerous for drivers and walkers. A stop sign, a carpool lane and a crosswalk are there to make the street safer.

5. What can contaminate the air?
✔ **A) Poison**
To **contaminate** something means to make it dirty or harmful by adding a dangerous substance. **Poison** in the air makes it unsafe to breathe. A flower, a mosquito or a flag does not make the air harmful.

6. Which of the following is the most serious to have a deficiency of?
✔ **C) Vitamins**
A **deficiency** is a lack of something you need. A deficiency of **vitamins** is serious because the body needs them to stay healthy, e.g. **a vitamin C deficiency**. Missing pencils or addresses is not a health problem.

7. What process is metabolic?
✔ **D) Digesting food**
Metabolic describes the chemical processes in the body that turn food into energy. **Digesting food** is one of these processes. Not 'Sleeping': it is a state of rest, not a process that breaks down food.

8. What is paramount when swimming underwater without breathing equipment?
✔ **B) Holding your breath**
Paramount means more important than anything else. Without breathing equipment you cannot breathe under water, so **holding your breath** is the most important thing. Not 'Breathing regularly', because that is impossible under water without equipment.

9. What needs to be sterile?
✔ **A) A hospital room**
Sterile means completely clean and free from germs. A **hospital room** must be sterile so that patients do not get infections. An ocean, a bicycle rack or soil does not need to be germ-free.

10. What does a practitioner do?
✔ **D) Treat the sick**
A **practitioner** here means a medical practitioner, a person such as a doctor who works in medicine. A practitioner's job is to **treat the sick**. In the reading, practitioners from other countries came to treat cholera.

11. **Choose the one that is opposite in meaning to the given word.**
voluntary
✔ **B) required**
Voluntary means done because you choose to, not because you must, e.g. **voluntary work**. The opposite is **required**, meaning something you have to do.

12. imperative
✔ **A) unimportant**
Imperative means extremely important or necessary, e.g. **It is imperative that we act now.** The opposite is **unimportant**.

13. compassionate
✔ **D) uncaring**
Compassionate means feeling sympathy for people who suffer and wanting to help them. The opposite is **uncaring**, meaning not interested in other people's problems. Not 'distant': a distant person may be unfriendly, but the word does not mean the opposite of caring.

14. sterile
✔ **B) not clean**
Sterile means completely clean and free from germs, e.g. **sterile equipment**. The opposite is **not clean**.

15. overcrowded
✔ **A) empty**
Overcrowded means having too many people or things in one place, e.g. **an overcrowded bus**. The opposite is **empty**, meaning having nothing or no one inside.

16. The health hazard was a lack of sterile drinking water in overcrowded urban cities.
✓ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 1 says that a severe health **hazard** caused the outbreak: there was **an extreme lack of clean drinking water** in the overcrowded urban cities. **Sterile** (germ-free) water is clean water, so the statement is TRUE.

17. A deficiency of contaminated water caused metabolic processes to stop working correctly.
✓ **B) FALSE**
Paragraph 2 says the illness caused **a deficiency of important fluids**, and without these fluids and minerals metabolic processes stopped working correctly. The problem was a lack of fluids, not a lack of contaminated water. In fact, drinking contaminated water caused the illness, so the statement is **FALSE**.

18. It was imperative that people received viable treatment quickly.
✓ **A) TRUE**
Paragraph 2 says that without **viable treatment** people were likely to die, and **It was imperative for help to come soon.** So it was extremely important that people got treatment quickly, and the statement is **TRUE**.

19. The government used to filter water is being upgraded.
✓ **B) FALSE**
The last paragraph says **The system used to filter water is being upgraded.** It is the filtering system that is being improved, not the government. So the statement is **FALSE**.

20. The government now administers water supply plants to make sure they adhere to guidelines.
✓ **A) TRUE**
The last paragraph says the government **now administers the water supply plants** and makes sure that they **adhere to strict safety guidelines**. This matches the statement, so it is **TRUE**.

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