ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Synonym Questions (Wordpower) MCQ Test + PDF 10

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Explanations

1. **Excavation** for the first atomic power plant started officially in 1954.
✔ **D) digging**
Excavation is the act of digging into the ground, for example to prepare a building site or to find ancient remains. So **digging** is the synonym. Not **exploration**: that means searching an area to learn about it, not removing earth.

2. **Excessive** exposure to sunlight is one of the most common causes of skin cancer.
✔ **B) extreme**
Excessive means more than is normal, necessary or safe, so **extreme** is the closest meaning: **excessive/extreme exposure to sunlight**. Not **extravagant**, which is about spending too much money or being showy.

3. Biologists believe that hair is found **exclusively** in mammals.
✔ **D) only**
Exclusively means **only**, with nothing else included: hair is found in mammals and in no other animals. Not **particularly**, which means 'especially' and still allows other cases.

4. Kitaro is often described by critics as an **exemplary** man of creative music.
✔ **E) model**
Exemplary means so good that others should copy it, so it is a **model** to follow: **an exemplary student = a model student**. Not **best**: exemplary praises someone as an example, it does not compare them with everyone else. Note also the pattern **describe someone as …**.

5. Aristotle believed that a thrown ball travelled in a straight line until the force that impelled it was **exhausted**.
✔ **A) used up**
Here **exhausted** means completely **used up**, with nothing left: the force that pushed the ball gradually ran out. Not **tired out**: that is the meaning of **exhausted** for people (**I'm exhausted**), and a force cannot feel tired.

6. Please let me sit down; I'm **exhausted**.
✔ **C) worn out**
When a person is **exhausted**, they are extremely tired, which is **worn out**: **After the long walk I was worn out.** Not **worn down**: that usually means weakened over time, or made to give in, and **worn off** means that an effect has slowly disappeared.

7. No one can **exist** for very long without water.
✔ **E) survive**
Here **exist** means to stay alive, so **survive** is the synonym: no one can survive for long without water. Not **prosper**, which means to be successful or do well.

8. Mr. Steed was not promoted because his work did not meet the director's **expectations**.
✔ **A) anticipations**
Expectations are what someone believes or hopes will happen, so **anticipations** has the closest meaning. His work was not as good as the director expected. Not **expertise**, which means special skill or knowledge.

9. The principal threatened to **expel** her from school if she didn't behave herself.
✔ **C) send out**
To **expel** someone from a school means to officially force them to leave, to **send** them **out**: **He was expelled for cheating.** Not **exhale**, which means to breathe out, and not **excise**, which means to cut something out.

10. The new tax law is **explicit**; there can be no doubt that this type of computer is tax-exempt.
✔ **A) definite**
Explicit means stated clearly and exactly, leaving no doubt, so **definite** is the synonym. The clue is **there can be no doubt**. **Vague** and **imprecise** are the opposite.

11. Hazelnuts are **extensively** grown in most parts of the Black Sea region.
✔ **A) widely**
Extensively means over a large area or to a great degree, so **widely** is the synonym: hazelnuts are grown in many places across the region. Not **increasingly**, which means more and more over time.

12. The **extinction** of some animals changed the history of early nomadic hunters.
✔ **A) dying out**
Extinction is the situation when a type of animal or plant no longer exists, because the last ones have died, so it means **dying out**: **the extinction of the dinosaurs**. Not **exclusion**, which means keeping someone or something out.

13. Daniel is very **extravagant**; he is always buying clothes he can't really afford.
✔ **E) wasteful**
An **extravagant** person spends more money than is sensible or than they can afford, so **wasteful** is the synonym. The clue is **clothes he can't really afford**. Not **expensive**: that describes things that cost a lot, not people who spend too much.

14. The Olympic Games are held in different countries in turn. The host country provides vast **facilities**, including a stadium, swimming pools and living accommodation.
✔ **D) equipment and services**
Facilities are the buildings, equipment and services provided for a particular purpose, so **equipment and services** is the synonym. The list **a stadium, swimming pools and living accommodation** gives examples. Don't confuse it with **facility** meaning a natural ability (**a facility for languages**), which is close to **dexterity** or **cleverness**.

15. The detective looking for the lost woman heard a voice, but it was so **faint** that it was impossible to be sure what it was or even where it came from.
✔ **D) indistinct**
A **faint** sound is very quiet and hard to hear clearly, so **indistinct** is the synonym. The clue is **impossible to be sure what it was**. Not **pale**: that is the meaning of **faint** for colours or light, not for sounds.

16. The first ice-boxes were quite **fancy** pieces of dining-room furniture.
✔ **C) elaborate**
Used as an adjective, **fancy** means highly decorated and not plain, so **elaborate** is the synonym: **fancy furniture** has many detailed decorations. Not **whimsical**, which means playful or unusual in a strange way.

17. The clown in the circus **fascinates** not only the children but their parents as well.
✔ **A) charms**
To **fascinate** means to attract and hold someone's interest strongly, so **charms** is the closest meaning. **Repulses** and **frustrates** are almost the opposite.

18. Some wild mushrooms contain a poison that can be **fatal** if eaten.
✔ **C) deadly**
Fatal means causing death, so **deadly** is the synonym: **a fatal/deadly poison**. Not **disabling**: that means causing a lasting injury or loss of ability, not death.

19. Istanbul enjoys a **favourable** geographical location.
✔ **D) advantageous**
Favourable here means giving an advantage or helping success, so **advantageous** is the synonym: Istanbul's position brings benefits for trade and travel. Not **preferential**, which means treating someone better than others.

20. The Turkish athlete got a gold medal for the **feat** of lifting 300 kilos.
✔ **A) accomplishment**
A **feat** is an impressive achievement that needs great skill or strength, so **accomplishment** is the synonym: **a remarkable feat of engineering**. Don't confuse it with **fear**, which only looks similar. Not **event**, which is just something that happens.

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