ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Synonym Questions (Wordpower) MCQ Test + PDF 12

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Explanations

1. The only successful control of weather has been the seeding of clouds to **generate** rain.
✔ **E) induce**
To **generate** rain means to cause it to happen. **Induce** also means to cause or bring about something, as in **drugs that induce sleep**. Not **accumulate**, which means to collect or build up gradually, not to cause.

2. **Genetic** components are often responsible for some phases of learning disabilities.
✔ **A) hereditary**
Genetic describes features passed on from parents through genes, so the synonym is **hereditary**. Not **generic**, which looks similar but means general or non-specific, as in **generic drugs**.

3. The jeweller reported that the stolen diamonds were not **genuine**, which comforted the insurance company more than anybody else.
✔ **C) real**
Genuine means real, not fake or copied. The diamonds were not genuine, so they were not **real**. That is why the insurance company was comforted. Not **imitations**, which means the opposite: fake copies.

4. Some musicians have a special **gift** for melodious interpretation.
✔ **B) talent**
A **gift** for something is a natural ability, so the synonym is **talent**, as in **She has a talent for languages**. Not **tendency**, which is a habit of behaving in a certain way, not a special ability.

5. Only recently has more attention been paid in the United States to providing special facilities for **gifted** children.
✔ **B) talented**
Gifted children have unusually high natural ability or intelligence. The synonym is **talented**. The other options describe different groups of children who might also need special facilities, but none of them means **gifted**.

6. The government **got nowhere** with its plan to curtail the housing shortage.
✔ **D) accomplished nothing**
The idiom **get nowhere (with something)** means to make no progress or achieve no result, so the synonym is **accomplished nothing**. Not **moved nowhere**, which copies the words but is not an idiomatic English phrase.

7. The sales representatives were asked to **go over** the figures in their reports before the conference.
✔ **C) review**
To **go over** something means to examine or check it carefully, so the synonym is **review**, as in **review the figures before the meeting**. Not **calculate**: the figures are already in the reports, so they only need to be checked, not worked out.

8. Vicky is such a **good-natured** person that her friends sometimes take advantage of her.
✔ **B) affable**
A **good-natured** person is kind, friendly and easy-going, so the synonym is **affable** (friendly and pleasant to talk to). Not **weak**: people may take advantage of kind people, but **good-natured** describes kindness, not weakness.

9. After struggling hard, the young politician **gradually** succeeded in having people accept the truth of his theory.
✔ **A) slowly**
Gradually means slowly, little by little, over a period of time. The clue is **after struggling hard**: his success came step by step. Not **presently**, which means soon or at the moment.

10. In some primitive cultures, a person who touches a forbidden object will suffer **grave** injury.
✔ **C) critical**
Grave as an adjective means very serious or dangerous. A **grave injury** is a **critical** (extremely serious) one. Not **unexpected** or **frequent**: they describe when or how often something happens, not how serious it is.

11. When people heard the news of Christopher Reeve's death, almost everybody was overcome with **grief**.
✔ **A) sorrow**
Grief is deep sadness, especially after someone dies, so the synonym is **sorrow**. Not **emotion**, which is too general: anger and joy are emotions too.

12. Price, ease of maintenance, a **guarantee** of accuracy and appearance are important when we buy a watch.
✔ **C) warranty**
A **guarantee** is a written promise that a product will work properly or be repaired or replaced. The synonym is **warranty**, as in **The watch comes with a two-year warranty**. Not **extension**, which is extra time added to something.

13. Under the **guise** of asking the way to the station, the detective approached the suspicious-looking young man.
✔ **E) pretense**
Under the guise of means using something as a false reason or appearance to hide your real purpose. The synonym is **pretense** (British **pretence**). The detective only pretended to ask the way. Not **secrecy**: the detective acted openly but hid his real reason.

14. Efforts to ameliorate housing conditions for the old and the poor were **halted** because government funds were cut off.
✔ **D) stopped**
Halted means brought to a stop, so the synonym is **stopped**. The clue is **because government funds were cut off**: without money the efforts could not continue.

15. The writer states that not being born black but being born a female was a **handicap** she faced.
✔ **D) burden**
A **handicap** here is a disadvantage that makes life or progress harder, so the synonym is **burden**. Not **ailment**: an ailment is an illness, and being born female is not an illness.

16. Children can learn how to **handle** paints and brushes by starting with simple drawings.
✔ **C) manipulate**
To **handle** tools or materials means to use and control them with your hands. The synonym is **manipulate** (to work or control something skilfully with the hands). Not **touch**, which only means to put your hand on something, not to use it.

17. By now everybody knows that smoking is **harmful** to health.
✔ **B) hazardous**
Harmful means causing damage, so the synonym is **hazardous** (dangerous, risky). Not **lethal** or **deadly**: they mean causing death, which is much stronger than **harmful**.

18. All the cleaning products are **hazardous** to the skin and eyes; therefore, keep them out of reach of children.
✔ **A) dangerous**
Hazardous means likely to cause harm, so the synonym is **dangerous**. The clue is **keep them out of reach of children**. Not **arduous**, which means difficult and tiring.

19. Icy roads and poor visibility are familiar traffic **hazards** in this region.
✔ **B) dangers**
As a noun, a **hazard** is something that could cause harm, so traffic **hazards** are traffic **dangers**. Not **chances**: although **hazard** once meant chance, in modern English it means a danger or risk.

20. According to the latest findings, both a person's **heredity** and his environment help to shape his character.
✔ **B) qualities by birth**
Heredity is the passing of qualities from parents to children through genes, so the closest meaning is **qualities by birth**. It is contrasted with **environment** (the surroundings a person grows up in). Not **intelligence**: intelligence may be partly inherited, but heredity covers all inherited qualities.

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