ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Synonym Questions (Wordpower) MCQ Test + PDF 16

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1	**A**	2	**C**	3	**D**	4	**B**	5	**A**	6	**A**	7	**D**	8	**C**	9	**B**	10	**C**
11	**E**	12	**D**	13	**B**	14	**B**	15	**B**	16	**B**	17	**B**	18	**A**	19	**D**	20	**C**

Explanations

1. It is **imperative** that you deliver the merchandise on the arranged date; otherwise, we will refuse to pay for your service.
✔ **A) mandatory**
Imperative means absolutely necessary, something that must be done, so its synonym is **mandatory**. The clue is the threat: if the date is missed, **we will refuse to pay**. Not **recommended** or **suggested**, because these are only advice, not a strict requirement.

2. The rule states that if a boxer is knocked down, he must stay down for a **mandatory** eight seconds.
✔ **C) obligatory**
Mandatory means required by a rule, so its synonym is **obligatory**. The clue is **the rule states … he must**. **Optional** is the opposite, and **crucial** means very important, not required.

3. The **martial** music roused everybody to a peak of excitement.
✔ **D) warlike**
Martial means connected with war or fighting, as in **martial arts** or **martial law**, so its synonym is **warlike**. Not **pertaining to marriage**: that is **marital**, a word often confused with **martial**.

4. Doctors may prescribe **massive** doses of penicillin for patients with pneumonia.
✔ **B) heavy**
Massive means very large in amount, so **massive doses** are **heavy** doses. Not **double**, which means exactly twice as much, and not **deadly**, which means able to kill.

5. We are **merely** here to help you.
✔ **A) only**
Merely means only, just and nothing more: **We are merely here to help** means our only purpose is to help you. None of the other options has this limiting meaning.

6. The two companies are going to **merge** by the first month of the year.
✔ **A) become one**
To **merge** means to combine and **become one**, e.g. **Two banks merged to form a larger bank. Divide into two** is the opposite. **Dissolve** means to end a company or partnership.

7. A **minute** crack in the motor block can ruin a car.
✔ **D) very small**
The adjective **minute** (pronounced /maɪ'nju:t/) means extremely small, so its synonym is **very small**. The point is that even a tiny crack can ruin a car. Not **short**, which refers to length, not size in general.

8. Technicolor, originally a two-colour process, was **modified** in 1932 to become a three-colour process.
✔ **C) altered**
To **modify** means to change something partly, often to improve it, so its synonym is **altered**. Technicolor already existed and was changed from two colours to three. That is why **invented** and **designed** are wrong, and **manipulated** suggests unfair or skilful control.

9. The groundnut is found in **moist** places in some parts of Turkey.
✔ **B) damp**
Moist means slightly wet, so its synonym is **damp**. **Arid** is the opposite (very dry). **Fertile** describes good soil, not wetness.

10. Stock-market analysts **monitor** a great variety of financial indicators.
✔ **C) keep track of**
To **monitor** means to watch and check something regularly over time, so its synonym is **keep track of**. Not **look into**, which means to investigate a particular matter once, not to follow it continuously.

11. She is such a **moody** person that her husband never knows what really makes her sad or happy.
✔ **E) temperamental**
A **moody** person's feelings change often and suddenly, so its synonym is **temperamental**. The clue is that her husband never knows what makes her **sad or happy**. Not **passionate**, which means having strong feelings, not changing ones.

12. The death toll is believed to **mount** to 60 after the earthquake.
✔ **D) increase**
Here **mount** means to rise or grow gradually, as in **costs are mounting**, so its synonym is **increase**. **Descend** is the opposite. **Fly** and **support** do not fit with a number like a death toll.

13. Granite is light-coloured, and its crystals are large enough to be seen with the **naked** eye.
✔ **B) unaided**
In the fixed phrase **with the naked eye**, **naked** means without a microscope, glasses or other help, so its synonym is **unaided**. Not **undressed**, which is the literal meaning of **naked** but makes no sense with **eye**.

14. We must not **neglect** to file our income tax if we don't want to pay a fine.
✓ **B) forget**
Neglect to do something means to fail to do it, often through carelessness, so its synonym here is **forget**. Not **refuse**, which means deliberately saying no, while **neglect** suggests not doing it through carelessness.

15. The jury found that the manufacturer was **negligent** in installing safety devices.
✓ **B) careless**
Negligent means not taking enough care, especially when this is a duty, so its synonym is **careless**. Not **carefree**, which means happy and without worries. **Careworn** means looking tired from worry, and **careful** is the opposite.

16. Mrs. Taylor is exhausted today because all her students have been **naughty** all day long.
✓ **B) disobedient**
Naughty describes children who behave badly and do not obey, so its synonym is **disobedient**. The clue is that the teacher is **exhausted**. **Inquisitive** means curious, and **silent** and **passive** would not tire her.

17. Rachel thinks she is **overweight**, so she will go on a crash diet.
✓ **B) obese**
Overweight means heavier than is healthy. The closest synonym is **obese**, although **obese** is stronger and often medical. Not **greasy**, which means covered in oil or fat, and not **fatal**, which means causing death.

18. The **objective** of any government should be protecting the rights and freedoms of the people.
✓ **A) intention**
As a noun, **objective** means an aim or goal, so its synonym is **intention**. Not **inception** or **origin**, which mean the beginning of something, and not **premise**, which is an idea an argument is based on.

19. She is a student who understands her **obligations** and attends to them.
✓ **D) duties**
Obligations are things you must do because of a rule, promise or responsibility, so its synonym is **duties**. Not **restrictions**, which are limits on what you may do. You do not **attend to** restrictions.

20. Some people think that discussions of the dangers of cigarette smoking **obscure** the real issue of restricting smokers' rights.
✓ **C) mask**
As a verb, **obscure** means to hide something or make it hard to see or understand, so its synonym is **mask**. The discussions draw attention away from the **real issue**. **Clarify** and **explain** are the opposite.

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