ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Synonym Questions (Wordpower) MCQ Test + PDF 17

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Explanations

1. Her swollen tonsils are **obstructing** the doctor's view of her throat.
✔ **D) impeding**
To **obstruct** something is to block it or get in its way. **Impeding** means the same: making it difficult for something to happen or be seen. Here, the swollen tonsils block the doctor's view. **Encouraging**, **assisting** and **aiding** mean the opposite.

2. He has always been too **obstinate** to admit he had been wrong.
✔ **A) stubborn**
An **obstinate** person refuses to change their opinion or behaviour, even when they are wrong. The synonym is **stubborn**. The clue is that he is 'too obstinate to admit he had been wrong'.

3. If the information we need is easily **obtainable**, we will find it immediately.
✔ **C) accessible**
Obtainable means possible to get or find. **Accessible** means easy to reach, get or use, so easily obtainable information is easily accessible information. Not **acceptable**, which means good enough or allowed, and not **accessory**, which is a noun for an extra item.

4. The Scottish kilt is a checkered skirt worn by men for both formal and informal **occasions**.
✔ **B) events**
An **occasion** is a particular time when something happens, especially a social event. The synonym is **events**: **formal and informal events**. Not **ceremonies**, because a ceremony is always formal, so 'informal ceremonies' does not fit.

5. The word "Christmas," which is derived from the Old English for "Christ's Mass," is believed to **occur** for the first time in the eleventh century.
✔ **C) appear**
Here **occur** means to be found or to show up, as a word does in a written text. The synonym is **appear**: the word is believed to **appear** for the first time in the eleventh century. Not **revive**, which means to bring something back after it has disappeared.

6. In animal communication, **odour** is substituted for sound as a main form of language.
✔ **A) smell**
Odour (US **odor**) is a neutral or often unpleasant word for a **smell**. In the sentence, animals use smell instead of sound to communicate. Not **aroma** or **perfume**, which mean pleasant smells only, and not **fragrant**, which is an adjective.

7. Your application will be returned to you if you **omit** any answers.
✔ **D) leave out**
To **omit** something is to **leave** it **out** or not include it. The application will come back if you **leave out** some answers. **Include** and **insert** mean the opposite.

8. Ballet is believed to **originate in** the courts of Italian royal families in the 1400s.
✔ **B) begin in**
To **originate in** a place or time means to start or **begin in** it. Ballet first began at the Italian royal courts. Not **develop into**, which describes a later change, not the start of something.

9. There were a number of limiting factors on the **output** of consumer durables in 1973-74.
✔ **B) production**
Output is the amount of goods that a factory, industry or country produces. The synonym is **production**: the **production** of consumer durables. Not **outflow**, which means something going out, such as money or liquid.

10. Your **outrageous** behaviour was more shocking than entertaining.
✔ **E) atrocious**
Outrageous behaviour is so bad or extreme that it shocks people. **Atrocious** also means extremely bad or shocking. The clue is 'more shocking than entertaining'. Not **sinful**, which is about breaking religious or moral laws, and not **courteous**, which means polite.

11. Perhaps you have **overlooked** your mistakes in your last test and that is why you made the same mistakes on this test.
✔ **C) neglected**
To **overlook** something is to fail to notice it or pay attention to it. Here, you **neglected** your mistakes, so you repeated them. Not **perused** or **browsed**: these mean read carefully or looked through, the opposite of ignoring.

12. It was no surprise when they were told that their great-grandmother had **passed away**.
✔ **C) died**
Pass away is a polite, gentle way of saying **die**. The clue 'no surprise' fits an old great-grandmother dying. Not **dozed off**, which means fell asleep.

13. Watermelon crops must be rotated **periodically** with other crops to avoid fungal disease.
✔ **C) regularly**
Periodically means happening again and again at intervals, so the synonym is **regularly**. Crops are rotated from time to time, not all the time. Not **constantly**, which means without stopping.

14. As the saying goes, those who live by the sword will **perish** by the sword.
✔ **C) die**
To **perish** means to **die**, especially in a violent or sudden way. The saying means that people who use violence will die by violence. **Survive** and **flourish** mean the opposite.

15. Tattooing involves putting **permanent** designs on the body by pricking holes and filling them with ink.
✔ **A) lasting**
Permanent means staying the same for ever or for a very long time. The synonym is **lasting**: tattoos are lasting designs. **Short-lived** means the opposite.

16. Everybody should read periodicals which are **related** to his profession.
✔ **A) relevant**
Here **related to** means connected with. **Relevant to** means directly connected with a subject, so periodicals **relevant to** your profession deal with your work. Not **apparent**, which means easy to see or obvious.

17. While they were away on vacation, they allowed their mail to **pile up** at the post office.
✔ **B) accumulate**
When things **pile up**, they collect and grow in number over time. The synonym is **accumulate**. The mail kept arriving and collected at the post office while they were away. Not **dispel**, which means to make something go away.

18. In the 1850s, the British engineer Henry Bessemer **pioneered** a new process for making steel cheaply.
✔ **B) initiated**
To pioneer something is to be the first to develop or use it. The synonym is **initiated**, meaning started or introduced: Bessemer was the first to start using this new way of making steel. Not **explored**, which means studied or investigated; it does not mean being the first to start something.

19. Share prices on the Stock Exchange **plunged** sharply in the morning.
✔ **A) fell**
To **plunge** means to fall suddenly and by a large amount. Share prices **fell** sharply. **Skyrocketed** means the opposite, and **fluctuated** means went up and down.

20. The toxic material coming out of the factory chimney **polluted** the atmosphere.
✔ **A) contaminated**
To **pollute** air, water or land is to make it dirty and harmful. The synonym is **contaminated**. Not **intoxicated**, which describes a person who is drunk or poisoned, and not **littered**, which means covered with rubbish.

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