ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Synonym Questions (Wordpower) MCQ Test + PDF 02

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Explanations

1. **Affluent** nations have an obligation to help their neighbours; however, they quite often do just the opposite, causing poor countries to be even poorer.
✔ **B) wealthy**
Affluent means having a lot of money, so it means **wealthy**. The contrast with 'poor countries' is the clue. Not **advanced** or **industrialized**: these describe a country's development, not its money.

2. Frequent minor **ailments** keep Mrs. Collins from work.
✔ **C) sicknesses**
An **ailment** is an illness, usually not a serious one, so it means **sicknesses**. Example: **minor ailments such as colds and headaches**. Not **irritations**, which are small annoyances, not illnesses.

3. His mother's **alert** mind caught Billy's lies.
✔ **B) vigilant**
An **alert** mind notices things quickly and watches carefully, so it is **vigilant**. That is why she caught Billy's lies. Not **alarming**, which means causing worry or fear.

4. There is **ample** rain and intense sunlight in tropical climates; consequently, plant life is luxuriant and varied.
✔ **B) abundant**
Ample means more than enough, so it means **abundant**. The clue is the result: plant life is luxuriant (growing thickly). **Scant** is the opposite: too little.

5. Workers have **ample** time for recreation and educational pursuits because the workweek consists of only 40 hours.
✔ **D) plenty of**
Ample time means enough time or more than enough, so it means **plenty of** time. The clue is the short 40-hour workweek. Not **too many**: 'ample' is positive and does not mean an excess. **Too many** is also used with countable nouns, not with 'time'.

6. During the flight from Turkey to Moscow, Marilyn **amused** herself by reading comic books.
✔ **E) enjoyed**
To **amuse yourself** means to keep yourself entertained and pass the time pleasantly, so it means **enjoyed herself**. Not **fooled**: 'amuse' here has nothing to do with tricking anyone.

7. Jack's **appetite** has diminished since he started taking the new medicine.
✔ **D) desire for food**
Appetite is the natural wish to eat, so it means **desire for food**. Example: **The illness took away her appetite.** It can be used for other desires, as in **an appetite for adventure**, but on its own it refers to food.

8. A progressive tax **applies** greater tax rates to larger incomes than to smaller ones.
✔ **D) employs**
Here **apply** means to put a rule or rate into use. A progressive tax uses higher rates for higher incomes, so the synonym is **employs** (= uses). Not **involves**, which means 'includes' or 'has as a part'. Not **devotes**, which means giving time or money to a purpose.

9. There are at least 500 kinds of fish that generate **appreciable** amounts of electricity.
✔ **C) measurable**
Appreciable means large enough to be noticed or measured, so it means **measurable**. Example: **an appreciable difference**. **Negligible**, **insignificant** and **inconsequential** mean the opposite: too small to matter.

10. Why argue? There is no alternative; the president must **approve** the bill if Congress passes it.
✔ **C) endorse**
To **approve** a bill means to officially accept or support it, so it means **endorse**. The other options, **admonish**, **criticize**, **condemn** and **censure**, all express disapproval, which is the opposite.

11. River valleys and coastal plains constitute **approximately** a third of the country.
✔ **A) more or less**
Approximately means close to an amount but not exact, so it means **more or less**. **Precisely** is the opposite: exactly.

12. Many writers write satires that expose the **arrogant** nature of the newly rich people.
✔ **E) conceited**
Arrogant describes someone who thinks they are better or more important than others, so it means **conceited**. Not **masterful**, which means skilful or in control; it does not imply excessive pride.
Subservient and **inferior** suggest the opposite attitude.

13. The man felt **ashamed** because he knew that he had been wrong to steal.
✔ **A) disgraced**
To feel **ashamed** is to feel guilty and embarrassed about something wrong you have done, so the closest option is **disgraced**. The clue is 'he knew that he had been wrong to steal'. Not **worried**: worry is about the future, not guilt about a past act.

14. The new manager's greatest **asset** was his reputation for honesty.
✔ **B) advantage**
An **asset** is a useful quality or thing that helps you, so it means **advantage**. Example: **Her language skills are a real asset. Liability** and **weakness** are the opposite.

15. Network employees of **associated** companies are not allowed to participate in TV quiz games.
✔ **C) connected**
Associated companies are linked to each other through business or ownership, so the synonym is **connected**. Not **subsidiary**: a subsidiary is a company owned by another one, which is only one kind of associated company.

16. The news of President Kennedy's death **astonished** the world as it was really unexpected.
✔ **D) astounded**
To **astonish** means to surprise someone greatly, so it means **astound**. The clue is 'it was really unexpected'. Not **alerted**, which means warned of danger.

17. His selling a painting for 100,000 dollars has been the highest **attainment** of his career.
✔ **C) achievement**
An **attainment** is something you succeed in doing through effort, so it means **achievement**. Not **expectation** or **desire**: these are things hoped for, not things already reached.

18. Psychologists believe that the **attraction** of gambling stems from the thrill and tension of taking a chance.
✔ **D) appeal**
The **attraction** of something is the quality that makes people want it or like it, so it means **appeal**. Example: **the appeal of city life**. **Repulsion** is the opposite.

19. The actor raised his voice in order to be **audible** in the balcony.
✔ **D) heard**
Audible means loud enough to be heard, so the answer is **heard**. The clue is that he 'raised his voice' so people far away in the balcony could hear him. Not **appreciated**: being heard is not the same as being liked.

20. Many countries nowadays restrict the exportation of **authentic** artefacts.
✔ **E) genuine**
Authentic means real, not a copy or fake, so it means **genuine**. Example: **an authentic Roman coin**. Not **rare** or **costly**: authentic objects are often rare and expensive, but these words do not mean 'real'.

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