ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Synonym Questions (Wordpower) MCQ Test + PDF 24

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

Explanations

1. Dictators do not **tolerate** opposition of any kind.
✔ **B) permit**
To **tolerate** something means to **permit** or allow it, even if you dislike it. Dictators do not allow any opposition. Not **understand**, which is about knowing the reason for something, not about allowing it.

2. Sandy is still **touchy** on this subject; be careful not to mention the matter to her.
✔ **B) sensitive**
Touchy means **sensitive**: easily upset or offended about a topic. The clue is the advice not to mention the matter to her. Not **ill-mannered**, which means rude, not easily hurt.

3. There was no **trace** of poison in the coffee the chemist analyzed, which disappointed the police.
✔ **A) indication**
A **trace** is a very small sign or amount of something, i.e. an **indication** that it is there. No poison was found, so the police were disappointed. **Taste**, **color** and **smell** are only possible ways of noticing a substance; they do not mean **trace**.

4. The elegant decorations **transformed** the garage into a ballroom.
✔ **B) changed**
To **transform** something is to **change** it completely in form or appearance: the decorations made the garage look like a ballroom. Not **reverted**, which means went back to an earlier state.

5. Some plants thrive if you **transplant** them from indoors to the garden in the hot weather.
✔ **A) transfer**
To **transplant** a plant is to dig it up and move it, i.e. **transfer** it, from one place to another, here from indoors to the garden. Not **plant**, which only means putting it in the ground and loses the idea of moving it.

6. Many minor **tremors** can be felt before an earthquake hits an area.
✔ **C) vibrations**
Tremors are small shaking movements of the ground, i.e. **vibrations**, often felt before or after an earthquake. Not **noises**: tremors are felt, not heard.

7. Among certain groups, wearing vintage clothes has become the latest **trend**. Actors, pop singers and people prominent in the entertainment industry have certainly set the fashion.
✔ **D) fad**
Here **trend** means a popular fashion that may not last long, i.e. a **fad**. The clues are **the latest** and **set the fashion**. Not **drift**, which means a general direction or meaning (**the drift of his argument**), not a passing fashion.

8. Scientists have long known that emotions **trigger** physiological reactions – and vice versa.
✔ **B) activate**
To **trigger** something is to cause it to start, i.e. to **activate** it: emotions set off physical reactions in the body, and physical reactions can set off emotions. Not **impede**, which means the opposite: to slow down or block.

9. At first, the incident seemed to be **trivial**, giving no hint of the terrible consequences it would lead to.
✔ **C) unimportant**
Trivial means **unimportant** or minor. The clue is that the incident gave **no hint** of its terrible consequences. **Significant**, **momentous**, **critical** and **of great importance** all mean the opposite.

10. A quiet moment, spent alone, often takes one out of the **turmoil** of a stressful situation.
✔ **C) chaos**
Turmoil is a state of great confusion and disorder, i.e. **chaos**. The quiet moment takes you away from it. **Tranquility** and **peace** are the opposite of turmoil.

11. The country is plagued by **turmoil**.
✔ **C) utter confusion**
Turmoil means a state of great disorder and uncertainty, i.e. **utter confusion**. Not **revolution**: a revolution may cause turmoil, but the word itself does not mean a revolution.

12. Nearsightedness is a defect of sight in which distant objects that should be seen clearly are **unclear**.
✔ **D) blurred**
Blurred means not clear or sharp in outline, which is how distant objects look to a nearsighted person. Not **invisible**: nearsighted people can still see distant objects, just not clearly.

13. It is **undoubtedly** true that the invention of the printing press changed the course of history.
✔ **D) without question**
Undoubtedly means certainly, **without question**: there is no doubt about it. Not **arguably**, which means it can be argued or claimed, but is not certain.

14. Our company possesses **unique** research capabilities.
✔ **C) unequaled**
Here **unique** means so special that nothing else is as good, i.e. **unequaled**. Not **only** or **solely**: they mean there is just one, and they do not fit before 'research capabilities' with this meaning.

15. She is quite an **unlikely** candidate for the position.
✓ **C) improbable**
An **unlikely** candidate is one who is **improbable**, not expected to be chosen or to succeed. Not **unqualified**: someone can be qualified and still be an unlikely choice.

16. His **unsophisticated** manner caused him severe problems when he went to Istanbul to do business.
✓ **B) naive**
Unsophisticated means lacking experience of the world, i.e. **naive** or simple. **Experienced**, **knowledgeable** and **cosmopolitan** all mean the opposite.

17. The human **urge** to express feelings through rhythmic motion is expressed in dance.
✓ **D) desire**
An **urge** is a strong wish or **desire** to do something: people naturally want to express feelings through movement. Not **addiction**, which is a harmful dependence, not a natural wish.

18. The wool of a cashmere goat is **valued** for its fine, silky texture.
✓ **D) prized**
Valued here means considered very precious or important, i.e. **prized**: **prized for its fine texture**. Not **sought**, which needs **after** (**sought after**) to mean popular, and is not the same as valued.

19. The alien spacecraft hovered over the cornfield for a while, and then it **vanished**, never to be sighted again.
✓ **B) disappeared**
To **vanish** means to **disappear** suddenly and completely. The clue is **never to be sighted again**. Not **rose**: the spacecraft may have risen, but that does not mean it could no longer be seen.

20. In early summer, Mexico's **vast** wheat fields look like golden seas of grain.
✓ **B) boundless**
Vast means extremely large, so big it seems to have no limits, i.e. **boundless**. The comparison with **golden seas** supports this. Not **cultivated**: the fields are farmed, but that is not the meaning of **vast**.

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