ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Synonym Questions (Wordpower) MCQ Test + PDF 04

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

Explanations

1. A **careful** teacher spends hours preparing for classes and correcting students' papers.
✔ **D) conscientious**
Conscientious means careful and hard-working, doing a job thoroughly because you feel it is your duty. The clue is the hours spent preparing and correcting. Not **skillful**: a skilful teacher is good at teaching, but the sentence describes effort and care, not talent.

2. The monetarist **case** has been vividly expressed by Milton Friedman.
✔ **B) argument**
Here **case** means a set of reasons put forward to support a position, so it is a synonym of **argument**: **the case for/against something**. Not **issue**: an issue is the topic being discussed, not the reasoning for one side.

3. The hurricane that hit the city had a **catastrophic** effect because most of the buildings were constructed of wood.
✔ **B) disastrous**
Catastrophic means causing great damage or suffering, which is the same as **disastrous**. The wooden buildings explain why the damage was so severe. Not **frightening**: a hurricane may be frightening, but the word describes the size of the damage, not a feeling.

4. I have a **cavity** that causes me a lot of pain.
✔ **B) hole in a tooth**
A **cavity** is a hole in a tooth caused by decay, usually filled by a dentist. More generally, a cavity is any empty space inside something solid.

5. Picasso was a **celebrated** Spanish painter.
✔ **C) well-known**
Celebrated means famous and much admired, so it matches **well-known**: **a celebrated writer**. Not **artistic**: Picasso was artistic, but **celebrated** describes his fame, not his talent.

6. The judge let the university student off with **clemency** and a stern warning.
✔ **D) mercy**
Clemency is kindness shown when deciding a punishment, so it means **mercy**. The phrase **let off** shows the judge was lenient. **Vengefulness**, **revenge** and **brutality** mean the opposite.

7. For order to grow out of the **chaos** of the universe took millions of years.
✔ **C) confusion**
Chaos is a state of complete disorder, which is close to **confusion**. The contrast with **order** in the sentence is the clue. Not **nebulosity**: it means cloudiness or vagueness, not disorder.

8. The cost of imported products can be increased with a special **charge** called a tariff.
✔ **D) fee**
A **charge** is an amount of money you must pay for something, so it means a **fee**. A tariff is a fee paid on imported goods. Not **rate**: a rate is a fixed level or percentage, not the payment itself.

9. The **charges** brought against the old politician finally hurt nothing but his vanity, as suggested by his supporters.
✔ **C) accusations**
Charges brought against someone are formal statements saying they have done something wrong, which are **accusations**. The collocation **bring charges against** is the clue. Not **defenses**: a defence is the answer to a charge, the opposite idea.

10. The two leaders had a **chat** before beginning formal negotiations.
✔ **D) friendly, unimportant talk**
A **chat** is a friendly, informal conversation about unimportant things. The contrast with **formal negotiations** is the clue. Not **serious discussion**, because a chat is relaxed and informal.

11. A nursery school is a school **chiefly** for three- or four-year-old children.
✔ **A) primarily**
Chiefly means mainly or mostly, the same as **primarily**. Not **exclusively**: that means 'only', but **chiefly** allows for some exceptions.

12. We were asked to list the **chronology** of events in the War of Independence on our history test.
✔ **B) time sequence**
Chronology is the order in which events happened, which is their **time sequence**. It comes from Greek **chronos**, 'time'. The other options are kinds of events, not their order.

13. Martin is no good at sports; he is too **clumsy**; it is no wonder he does not participate in any sports activities.
✔ **C) awkward**
Clumsy describes someone who moves badly and often drops or knocks into things, so it means **awkward**. Being bad at sports is the clue. Not **weak**: weakness is about strength, not about poor coordination.

14. Generally our memories **cluster** around certain topics.
✔ **E) bunch**
As a verb, **cluster** means to gather closely together in a group, the same as **bunch** (together): **Memories bunch around certain topics.** The other verbs mean running away (**flee**), stealing (**pilfer**), being idle (**loaf**) and interfering (**meddle**).

15. Finding the missing paper on Frank's **cluttered** desk is almost impossible.
✓ **E) littered**
Cluttered means covered with an untidy mass of things, which is the same as **littered**. The difficulty of finding the paper is the clue. **Well-organized** means the opposite.

16. Sometimes the most unlikely people manage to **collaborate** successfully.
✓ **E) work together**
To **collaborate** is to **work together** with others to produce or achieve something. Not **stand together**: that means to support each other or stay united, not to work jointly on a task.

17. The **collapse** of the stock market last year signalled the beginning of the economic crisis.
✓ **B) failure**
A **collapse** is a sudden **failure** or fall, here of the stock market. The link to the start of an economic crisis is the clue. **Rise**, **rebirth** and **revival** are opposites.

18. Taoist principles are presented in Lao Tzu, a **collection** of essays from several unknown authors.
✓ **A) assortment**
A **collection** is a group of things gathered together, so an **assortment** of essays is a mix of essays from different sources. Not **entity**: an entity is a single thing that exists on its own, not a group.

19. The general told the soldiers to **commence** firing as soon as they saw the enemy.
✓ **C) begin**
Commence is a formal word for **begin** or start: **The meeting will commence at nine. Stop** and **cease** mean the opposite.

20. Television, which made its first serious appearance in 1939, did not become **common** until the early 1950s.
✓ **D) widespread**
Here **common** means found or used in many places, so it is a synonym of **widespread**. Television existed from 1939, but only a few people had one until the 1950s. Not **affordable**: lower prices helped television spread, but **common** describes how many people had one, not its price.

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