ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Synonym Questions (Wordpower) MCQ Test + PDF 08

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Explanations

1. The boy felt **disgraced** because he knew that he had been wrong to cheat on the exam.
✔ **A) ashamed**
Disgraced here means feeling **ashamed**: embarrassed and guilty because you know you did something wrong. The clue is that he knew he had been wrong to cheat. Not **worried**, which is anxiety about what might happen, not guilt about what you did.

2. The circus performer asked for the safety net to be taken down during the performances, thinking that in this way he would **display** his skill more effectively.
✔ **A) exhibit**
To **display** a skill is to **exhibit** or show it to others so they can see it clearly. Removing the net would let the audience see his skill more dramatically. Not **improve**: the net doesn't change how good he is, only how impressive he looks.

3. He **disregarded** his wife's feelings in the matter, which made her furious enough to think of divorce.
✔ **B) paid no attention to**
To **disregard** something is to **pay no attention to** it or ignore it, often on purpose. Ignoring his wife's feelings is why she was furious. Not **was careless**: this describes general behaviour and does not take an object like 'his wife's feelings'.

4. The fact that economists are able to **distinguish** virtually all of the causes of recessions does not mean they can accurately predict them.
✔ **B) discern**
Here **distinguish** means to recognise or identify something clearly, which is the meaning of **discern**. Economists can identify the causes of recessions but still cannot predict them. Not **define**, which means to explain the meaning of something, not to identify it.

5. Dogs were kept as **domestic** animals by early nomadic hunters.
✔ **D) tame**
Domestic animals live with people and are not wild, so they are **tame**. Dogs were kept by hunters as companions and helpers. **Foreign**, **exotic** and **alien** relate to another meaning of 'domestic' (of one's own country), and here they are opposites, not synonyms.

6. It is said that brown genes are **dominant** and blue ones are recessive.
✔ **A) controlling**
A **dominant** gene is the stronger, **controlling** one: it decides the trait even when a recessive gene is present. The contrast with **recessive** is the clue. Not **dormant**, which means inactive or sleeping.

7. Manufacturers are planning to **donate** computers to schools in poor areas.
✔ **E) give**
To **donate** is to **give** something, usually to a charity or a group in need, without payment. Example: **She donated her old clothes to the hospital.** Not **dedicate**, which means to devote time or effort, or to name something in someone's honour.

8. The public seems **doubtful** about the government's latest plan on the economy.
✔ **D) dubious**
Doubtful and **dubious** both mean not sure or not convinced that something is good, true or will work. Example: **I'm dubious about his promises.** Not **delirious**, which means confused and excited, often because of illness.

9. Millions of Americans were **down and out** in the '30s.
✔ **D) impoverished**
Down and out is an idiom for someone with no money, job or home, so it means **impoverished** (very poor). The 1930s were the years of the Great Depression in the USA. Not **divided**, which has nothing to do with poverty.

10. The government took some **drastic** measures against reckless drivers to be able to decrease the number of traffic accidents.
✔ **C) radical**
Drastic measures are extreme and have a strong effect, so they are **radical**. The government wanted a big drop in accidents, so it acted forcefully. **Moderate** and **compromising** are near opposites. Not **wild**, which suggests uncontrolled rather than deliberately severe.

11. During the 1930s, a long period of **drought** turned the great Texas plains into a dustbowl.
✔ **B) dry weather**
A **drought** is a long period of **dry weather** with little or no rain. Dry soil blows away, which is how the plains became a 'dustbowl'. **Violent winds** spread the dust, but they are not the meaning of drought.

12. Most businessmen are **dubious** about predictions of a speedy economic recovery in Turkey.
✔ **D) doubtful**
Dubious means **doubtful**: not believing that something is true or will happen. Businessmen doubt that the economy will recover quickly. Not **worried**, which expresses fear rather than disbelief.

13. The captives were thrown into a dark, damp, filthy **dungeon** and were given almost nothing to eat.
✓ **D) cell**
A **dungeon** is a dark underground prison **cell**, especially in a castle. The words 'captives', 'dark' and 'damp' point to a prison. Not **tunnel**, which is a passage, not a place for keeping prisoners.

14. Can this be a **duplicate** of the document?
✓ **D) copy**
A **duplicate** is an exact **copy** of something. Example: **Keep a duplicate of the key.** A **summary**, **outline** or **paraphrase** gives only the content in a shorter or different form, so it is not identical.

15. The **earliest** watches were actually small clocks hung from a strap around the neck.
✓ **A) first**
Earliest means the **first** in time, the oldest. The first watches were simply small clocks worn around the neck. Not **timely**, which means happening at the right moment.

16. My uncle is not crazy. He is just a bit **eccentric**.
✓ **B) strange**
An **eccentric** person behaves in an unusual, **strange** way but is harmless. The clue is 'not crazy... just a bit', which rules out **lunatic** (insane). **Ordinary** is the opposite.

17. In spite of being **economical** in most things, he spends a lot of money on ties.
✓ **C) thrifty**
Economical (of a person) means careful with money, not wasteful, which is the meaning of **thrifty**. 'In spite of' shows a contrast with spending a lot on ties. **Extravagant** is the opposite. **Profitable** relates to 'economic', not 'economical'.

18. The plant has an **edible**, bulb-shaped stem.
✓ **A) eatable**
Edible means safe and suitable to eat, which is also the meaning of **eatable**. Example: **edible mushrooms**. **Poisonous** is the opposite, and **rotund** and **convex** describe shape.

19. The detectives use various means to **elicit** a confession from murderers.
✓ **E) draw out**
To **elicit** is to **draw out** information or a reaction from someone, often with skill or effort. Example: **elicit a response**. Not **force**: eliciting does not necessarily involve pressure, while 'force' always does.

20. He worked hard for the **enlightenment** of his people.
✓ **E) education**
Enlightenment means giving people knowledge and understanding, so it means **education**. Example: **He worked for the enlightenment of the poor.** Not **brightness**: the word comes from 'light' but here means spiritual and intellectual light, not physical light.

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