ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Synonym Questions (Wordpower) MCQ Test + PDF 09

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

Explanations

1. The residents of the small town looked for an **eloquent** civil servant to give the welcoming address at the ceremony.
✔ **C) a good speaker**
Eloquent describes someone who speaks fluently, clearly and persuasively, so an eloquent person is **a good speaker**. The clue is 'to give the welcoming address'. Not **a calm speaker**: calmness is about manner, not skill with words.

2. Imagine my **embarrassment** when I realized that the man I thought was a waiter was the president of the company.
✔ **A) chagrin**
Chagrin is a feeling of embarrassment or annoyance caused by a mistake or failure, just like mistaking the company president for a waiter. Not **surprise**: the speaker may be surprised, but the point is the shame of the mistake.

3. Which country **emerged** as a world power after World War II?
✔ **B) came forth**
To **emerge** is to come out or appear, often as something new or important. **Came forth** has the same meaning: **The country emerged / came forth as a world power.** The other options do not mean 'appear'.

4. We place **emphasis** on mutual aid and cooperation in this organization.
✔ **C) stress**
Emphasis means special importance given to something; its synonym is **stress**, as in **place stress on / place emphasis on** something. Not **pressure**: that means force or demands, not importance.

5. The speaker **emphasized** that cooperation in the project we were to undertake was of utmost importance.
✔ **A) accentuated**
To **emphasize** is to give special importance to something; **accentuate** means the same. **Downplayed** is the opposite, and **discussed** only means talked about, without stressing importance.

6. The most frequently **employed** technique for the purification of solid substances is crystallization.
✔ **A) used**
Employ here means **use** (a method, technique or tool), not 'give a job to'. **The most frequently employed technique** = **the most frequently used technique**.

7. So **engrossed** in his writing was the young writer that he barely noticed the passing of time.
✔ **D) involved**
Engrossed means so completely interested or occupied in something that you notice nothing else; the closest option is **involved** (deeply absorbed). The clue is 'he barely noticed the passing of time'. **Detached** is the opposite.

8. Modern methods of movie-making, such as the widescreen, colour film and improved sound, have **enhanced** realism and audience enjoyment.
✔ **C) improved**
To **enhance** is to increase or improve the quality or value of something: **enhanced realism** = **improved realism**. Not **elaborated**, which means developed in detail, and not **transcended**, which means went beyond.

9. Psychology has always been an **enigma** to me.
✔ **C) mystery**
An **enigma** is something or someone mysterious and hard to understand, so the synonym is **mystery**. Not **problem**: a problem is something to be solved, while an enigma is something you cannot understand.

10. **Enraged** by being overcharged, Mr. Thompson refused to pay the bill.
✔ **B) infuriated**
Enraged means extremely angry, and **infuriated** means the same. The strong reaction, refusing to pay the bill, shows real anger. Not **disappointed**: that is a much weaker, sadder feeling.

11. This vitamin is abundant in **enriched** and whole-grain bread, cheese, lean meats, eggs, leafy vegetables and liver.
✔ **C) fortified**
Enriched food has had vitamins or minerals added to make it more nutritious; the usual synonym is **fortified**, as in **fortified/enriched bread** or **fortified cereals**. Not **enlarged**, which only means made bigger.

12. Cooperative education is regarded as a valued educational **enterprise**.
✔ **B) venture**
An **enterprise** is a project or undertaking, especially a new or ambitious one; its synonym is **venture**. Not **revenue**, which is the money an organization earns.

13. Both a person's heredity and his **environment** help to shape his character.
✓ **D) surroundings**
Your **environment** is the conditions and **surroundings** you live in. The sentence contrasts it with **heredity** (what you inherit), so **genes** is the wrong idea, and **family** or **education** are only parts of the environment.

14. Today a great number of new medicines **eradicate** diseases before they become too widespread.
✓ **A) wipe out**
To **eradicate** is to destroy something completely, so it means **wipe out**: **eradicate/wipe out a disease**. Not **identify**, which only means recognise what it is.

15. The theory that business could operate totally without the aid of government has proved to be an **erroneous** belief.
✓ **C) false**
Erroneous means wrong or based on a mistake, so an **erroneous belief** is a **false** belief. **Authentic** means genuine, the opposite idea.

16. Experienced mountaineers usually **escorted** the amateurs.
✓ **C) accompanied**
To **escort** someone is to go with them to guide or protect them, which is **accompanied**. Not **trained**: escorting is about going together, not teaching.

17. Since **essential** causes of schizophrenia are not yet known, current treatment methods are based on both clinical research and experience.
✓ **B) basic**
Here **essential** means fundamental or underlying, so **essential causes** = **basic causes**. Not **accessory**, which means extra or secondary, the opposite idea.

18. The Civil Defense officers **evacuated** all inhabitants from the area where the earthquake was predicted to strike.
✓ **D) removed**
To **evacuate** people is to move them out of a dangerous place to safety, so the synonym is **removed**. Not **warned** or **notified**: those only mean telling people about the danger, not moving them.

19. Even the richest nations will **eventually** have to adapt to smaller, more economical automobiles.
✓ **E) sooner or later**
Eventually means in the end, after some time, which is **sooner or later**. Not **gradually**, which describes slow step-by-step change, not the final result.

20. By means of a new technique developed in his laboratory, the scientist **examined** the fossils closely to determine their age.
✓ **D) inspected**
To **examine** something is to look at it carefully in order to learn about it, so the synonym is **inspected**. The clue is 'closely to determine their age'.
Processed, **cleaned** and **treated** describe doing something to the fossils, not studying them.

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