ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Synonym Questions (Wordpower) MCQ Test + PDF 01

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Explanations

1. **Find the synonym of the underlined word.**

I hope you are not going to **abandon** your project.
✔ **A) give up completely**
To **abandon** something means to **give up completely** on it, to stop doing it and not return to it: **She abandoned her studies after a year.** Not **postpone**, because postponing means delaying something to a later time, not giving it up.

2. The **abandoned** boat was found miles away from the shore; they never found out who had been on it.
✔ **B) deserted**
An **abandoned** boat has been left by its owners or crew, so it is **deserted** (empty, left alone). The clue is that nobody knew who had been on it. **Shabby** means old and in poor condition, which is a different idea.

3. The pilot changed direction **abruptly**, causing great panic in the plane.
✔ **C) unexpectedly**
Abruptly means suddenly and **unexpectedly**, without warning. That is why the passengers panicked. **Unexpectedly** is also the only adverb among the options; **anticipated**, **foreseen** and **intended** suggest the opposite meaning.

4. Larry was so **absorbed** in his novel that he forgot about his dinner cooking in the oven.
✔ **A) engrossed**
To be **absorbed in** something means your attention is completely taken up by it, so you are **engrossed** in it: **He was engrossed in his book.** The clue is that Larry forgot about his dinner.

5. The only cure for alcoholism is complete **abstinence** from alcohol.
✔ **B) avoidance**
Abstinence is the practice of not doing or having something, especially alcohol, food or other pleasures, by choice. **Avoidance** is the closest meaning: **abstinence from alcohol** means avoiding alcohol completely. Not **absence**, because absence simply means that something is not there; it doesn't express a deliberate choice.

6. Pantothenic acid is **abundant** in eggs, peas and potatoes.
✔ **A) plentiful**
Abundant means existing in large quantities, so it means **plentiful**: **Fish are abundant in this lake.** **Scarce**, **inadequate** and **insufficient** mean the opposite.

7. Adrenalin has the effect of strengthening and **accelerating** the heartbeat.
✔ **C) quickening**
To **accelerate** means to make something go faster, so **quickening** the heartbeat means making it faster. **Diminishing** means making something smaller or weaker, which is the opposite idea.

8. There was no **access** to the large garden of the house except a well-hidden gate.
✔ **A) entrance**
Access here means a way of getting into a place, so it means an **entrance**. The only way into the garden was a well-hidden gate. **Seizure** and **attack** relate to another sense of 'access' (a sudden fit, as in **an access of rage**), which does not fit here.

9. The Turners are looking for a little cabin in the woods where they won't be **accessible** to their relatives.
✔ **C) reachable**
Accessible means able to be reached or contacted, so here it means **reachable**: the Turners want a place where their relatives cannot easily reach them. Not **acceptable**, which only looks similar; it means satisfactory or allowed.

10. When Mrs. Bell was the director of the firm, her first **accomplishment** was to bring about better working conditions.
✔ **B) achievement**
An **accomplishment** is something successfully done, especially with effort, so it means an **achievement**. Bringing about better working conditions was something Mrs. Bell succeeded in doing. **Job** is just a task or position and doesn't carry the idea of success.

11. A treasurer must **account for** every penny that he spends.
✔ **C) explain**
To **account for** money means to give a record of how it was spent, so it means to **explain** it: **You will have to account for every pound you spend.** Not **reckon**, which means to calculate or to think, not to give an explanation.

12. Artificial insemination **accounts for** the birth of over half of dairy cows in the U.S. today.
✔ **B) is responsible for**
Here **account for** means to be the cause or source of something, so it means **is responsible for**. Artificial insemination produces over half of the dairy cows born in the U.S. Not **is the result of**, which reverses cause and effect. **Prevents** and **endangers** suggest the opposite effect.

13. During the ten years he worked in Germany, he **accumulated** a fortune.
✔ **A) made**
To **accumulate** means to gather or collect a lot of something gradually. **Accumulated a fortune** means he **made** (built up) a lot of money over the ten years. Not **increased**, because you cannot 'increase a fortune' that you did not have yet; the sentence describes getting the money.

14. I hope the weatherman has predicted **accurately**. If he has, we will have a perfect picnic tomorrow.
✔ **B) correctly**
Accurately means exactly and without mistakes, so it means **correctly**. The weather forecast must be right for the picnic to be perfect. Not **carefully**: you can predict carefully and still be wrong.

15. Nobody knows where and how the son of the deceased politician **acquired** all his wealth.
✔ **A) gained**
To **acquire** means to get or obtain something, so it means **gained**. **Stole** is a specific (dishonest) way of getting something; **acquire** is neutral and says nothing about how the wealth was obtained.

16. He is proud of his son who is an **active** and athletic youth.
✔ **B) agile**
An **active** and athletic young man moves quickly and easily, so **agile** is the closest meaning. **Awkward**, **ponderous** (slow and heavy) and **inept** (clumsy, unskilled) mean the opposite.

17. The musicians who graduated from that school are **adept** at playing at least four instruments.
✔ **A) proficient**
Adept at something means very skilled at it, so it means **proficient**: **She is adept at handling difficult customers.** Not **careful**, which describes how you do something, not how skilled you are.

18. The human ear **admits** only a very limited range of frequencies.
✔ **D) lets in**
Here **admit** means to allow something to enter, so it means **lets in**: the ear only lets in a limited range of sound frequencies. Not **confesses**, which is the other common meaning of 'admit' (to say that something bad is true) and does not fit an ear.

19. The refusal of some nations to participate in the Olympic Games in Moscow was an **admonishment** to the Soviets.
✔ **C) rebuke**
An **admonishment** is a warning or expression of disapproval, so it means a **rebuke**. Refusing to take part in the Games was a way of showing disapproval. Not **admission**, which only looks similar; **stigma** is a mark of disgrace attached to someone, not an act of criticism.

20. Martin Luther King, influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, made many **adversaries** in his nonviolent quest for equality.
✔ **E) foes**
Adversaries are opponents or enemies, so the synonym is **foes**. Many people opposed Martin Luther King's fight for equality. **Friends** is the opposite, and **advances** only looks similar.

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