ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron’s 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 11 – Day 4

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1	C	2	A	3	D	4	E	5	B	6	E	7	C	8	A	9	D	10	B

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **C) conjecture**
Conjecture is a guess made without full proof. **Sheer conjecture** means the detective was only guessing, yet the guess still led to an arrest. In the passage, the **rash conjecture** about the dog (that it was rabid) turned out to be false. Not **quip**: a joke cannot lead to an arrest in this way.

2. **The newspaper switched from mundane coverage to _____ reporting.**
✓ **A) lurid**
Lurid means sensational, shocking or full of vivid, unpleasant detail. The sentence contrasts it with **mundane** (ordinary, dull) coverage, so the newspaper moved to exciting, shocking stories. Example: **lurid headlines about the crime**.

3. **It was exceedingly _____ of the lightweight to insult the belligerent longshoreman.**
✓ **D) rash**
Rash means too hasty or reckless, acting without thinking about the danger. Insulting a big, aggressive (**belligerent**) dock worker is a reckless thing for a small boxer to do. The pattern **It was rash of someone to do something** needs an adjective, and **rash** is the only adjective that fits the meaning here.

4. **The necessity for preparing sandwiches was _____ when the picnic was postponed.**
✓ **E) obviated**
To **obviate** a need means to remove it or make it unnecessary. Once the picnic was postponed, nobody had to make sandwiches, so the need was **obviated**. In the passage, the dog not being rabid **obviated** the need for the painful treatment.

5. **Hamlet remembered that Yorick was always ready with a lusty _____.**
✓ **B) quip**
A **quip** is a short, clever joke or witty remark. Yorick was the king's jester, so he was always **ready with a quip**. The article **a** and the adjective **lusty** show that a noun is needed here. In the passage, Jerry **quipped** (joked) that the dog's bark was worse than its bite.

6. **Definitions:** Match the new words with their meanings.

rash (adj.)
✓ **E) too hasty, reckless**
Rash (adj.) means too hasty or reckless, done without careful thought. Example: **a rash decision**. In the passage, the **rash conjecture** was a guess made too quickly.

7. **conjecture**
✓ **C) guess**
A **conjecture** is a guess or an opinion formed without complete evidence. Example: **His theory is pure conjecture.** It can also be a verb: **to conjecture** means to guess.

8. **obviate**
✓ **A) do away with, eliminate**
To **obviate** means to do away with or eliminate something, especially a need or a problem, so that it is no longer necessary. Example: **The new bridge obviated the need for a ferry.**

9. **lurid**
✓ **D) sensational**
Lurid means sensational: shocking and described in vivid detail to excite people. Example: **lurid stories in the tabloids**. In the passage, the neighbors looked for other **lurid** (exciting, shocking) happenings.

10. **quip**
✓ **B) joke**
A **quip** is a joke, especially a quick, clever remark. As a verb, **to quip** means to say something witty. Example: **"His bark was worse than his bite," Jerry quipped.**

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