ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron’s 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 15 – Day 1

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

Explanations

1. **Proceeding on the premise that the broker was guilty of ____ in the swindle, the detective followed him surreptitiously.**
   ✓ **C) complicity**
   Complicity means taking part with others in a wrongdoing. The phrase **guilty of ... in the swindle** needs a noun for the wrongdoing itself: **guilty of complicity in the swindle**. Not **accomplice**: that is the person who helps, and you cannot be guilty of a person.

2. **After the ____ of the gang leader, a mammoth conflict arose among his ambitious lieutenants who aspired to be boss.**
   ✓ **A) liquidation**
   Liquidation here means getting rid of someone by killing them. After the gang leader was killed, his lieutenants fought over who would become boss. The gap follows **the** and comes before **of**, so it needs a noun for an event, and only **liquidation** fits.

3. **Once the incontrovertible evidence was offered, the servant was held ____ in the theft of the jewels.**
   ✓ **D) culpable**
   Culpable is an adjective meaning deserving blame or guilty. The pattern is **held culpable** (= judged guilty): once the clear evidence was shown, the servant was **held culpable in the theft**. The verb **held** needs an adjective here, so the nouns do not fit.

4. **When the clergyman refused to ____, his superiors were so nettled that they relegated him to an isolated parish in Alaska.**
   ✓ **E) recant**
   Recant means to take back an earlier statement or belief publicly. After **refused to**, we need a base verb, and **recant** is the only verb among the options. The clergyman would not take back his views, so his angry superiors sent him far away.

5. **Although he was judged as a minor ____, the driver had actually played an integral part in planning the crime.**
   ✓ **B) accomplice**
   An **accomplice** is a person who helps someone commit a crime. **A minor accomplice** is a helper with only a small role, which contrasts with **integral part** (= very important part). Not **complicity**: that is the act of taking part, not the person, so it cannot follow **a minor**.

6. **Definitions:** Match the new words with their meanings. Two of the words are very close in meaning.

   complicity
   ✓ **B) partnership in wrongdoing**
   Complicity means partnership in wrongdoing, i.e. being involved in a crime with others. Example: **He denied any complicity in the fraud.** Not **an associate in crime**: that describes a person (**accomplice**), while **complicity** is the act of being involved.

7. **liquidation**
   ✓ **D) disposal of, killing**
   Liquidation means disposal of something or, in crime stories, killing someone. In the passage it refers to the killing of Danny's brother-in-law. It can also mean closing a business and selling its assets.

8. **accomplice**
   ✓ **C) an associate in crime**
   An **accomplice** is an associate in crime, a person who helps another commit it. Example: **The thief's accomplice waited in the car.** Not **partnership in wrongdoing**: that is **complicity**, the act rather than the person.

9. **recant**
   ✓ **E) withdraw previous statements**
   Recant means to withdraw a previous statement, often publicly. In the passage, Danny **recanted his confession**, which means he took it back. Example: **The witness later recanted her testimony.**

10. **culpable**
    ✓ **A) deserving blame**
    Culpable means deserving blame, or responsible for something wrong. In the passage, Danny **was found culpable**, meaning the court decided he was guilty. Example: **The company was held culpable for the accident.**