ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 20 – Day 4

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **E) lugubrious**
Lugubrious means very sad and mournful, often in an exaggerated way, so it suits music for a funeral scene. In the passage, the writer makes a **lugubrious plea**, a mock-sorrowful appeal for the cockroach. Not **maudlin**: that means tearfully sentimental, not the heavy, gloomy mood a funeral calls for.

2. **Although the debater's rebuttal was _____, it was totally irrelevant.**
✓ **C) puissant**
Puissant means powerful or forceful. **Although** sets up a contrast: the rebuttal was strong, yet it did not deal with the point. The passage speaks of a **puissant chemical**, a powerful poison against roaches.

3. **The plague continued _____, and the hapless Friar John was unable to deliver the note to Romeo.**
✓ **A) unabated**
Unabated means continuing without becoming weaker or subsiding. It usually follows verbs like **continue**: **The storm continued unabated.** The plague kept raging, so the note could not be delivered. In the passage, extermination campaigns **continue unabated**.

4. **A good barometer of the reunion's success was the number of _____ songs that the alumni sang.**
✓ **D) maudlin**
Maudlin means overly sentimental, tearfully emotional. Former students at a reunion singing many nostalgic, emotional songs shows the event touched their feelings. Not **lugubrious**: that means gloomy and mournful, which would not show a successful reunion.

5. **Dean Flanigan admonished us for our _____ at the graduation exercises.**
✓ **B) levity**
Levity is a noun meaning lightness of manner, or joking about something that should be treated seriously. The dean **admonished** (scolded) the students because they were not serious at a formal ceremony. It is the only noun among the options that fits after **our**.

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

puissant
✓ **E) powerful**
Puissant means powerful or mighty, as in **a puissant chemical** in the passage. It is a formal, literary word.

7. **unabated**
✓ **D) without subsiding**
Unabated means without subsiding, continuing just as strongly as before. Example: **The rain continued unabated all night.**

8. **maudlin**
✓ **A) sentimental**
Maudlin means sentimental in a weak, tearful, often exaggerated way. In the passage, some **sentimental souls become maudlin** when they think about the insects. Not **very sad**: that is **lugubrious**.

9. **levity**
✓ **C) lightness of disposition**
Levity means lightness of disposition, a joking or humorous attitude, especially when seriousness is expected. In the passage, the writer is **noted for his levity**, meaning he is known for his humour.

10. **lugubrious**
✓ **B) very sad**
Lugubrious means very sad and mournful, often in an exaggerated way. Example: **a lugubrious plea** or **lugubrious funeral music**. Not **sentimental**: that is **maudlin**.

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