ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron’s 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 21 – Day 3

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✔ **D) disciple**
A **disciple** is a follower of a leader, teacher or master. **Extant** means 'still existing', so Billy is the only follower of Count Dracula who is still around. In the passage, Siddhartha attracts 'only a handful of **disciples**'. The other options are not people who follow someone: **ascetic** is a person who denies himself comforts.

2. **In a remarkable _____, her lugubrious mood changed to one of levity.**
✔ **C) metamorphosis**
A **metamorphosis** is a complete change in form or character. Here her mood changes from **lugubrious** (very sad) to **levity** (light-hearted fun), which is a remarkable change. The phrase 'In a remarkable _____' needs a noun, which rules out the adjective **desultory**.

3. **Following a lengthy diatribe against mendacity, the priest imposed _____ upon the sinner.**
✔ **E) penance**
Penance is a punishment or act that a person accepts to make up for a sin. A priest **imposes penance** on a sinner, a common collocation. After the priest's long attack on lying (**mendacity**), the sinner must make up for his wrongdoing. In the passage, Siddhartha does **penance** for his 'previous life of sin'.

4. **The cave of the _____ lacked the opulence and lush decoration of his former mansion.**
✔ **B) ascetic**
An **ascetic** is a person who lives a very simple life without comforts, often for religious reasons. The contrast is the clue. His cave lacks the **opulence** (wealth and luxury) of his former mansion, because an ascetic gives up luxury. Not **disciple**, because a follower does not have to give up comforts.

5. **Larry’s compositions proceed in a _____ manner despite the supplication of his English teacher.**
✔ **A) desultory**
Desultory means aimless and unplanned, jumping from one thing to another without order. Larry writes in a disorganized way even though his teacher begs him (**supplication**) to improve. Not **ascetic**: it can be an adjective, but it means 'strictly self-denying', which does not fit, and it would need **an**, not **a**. In the passage, Siddhartha's **desultory** wandering had no fixed plan.

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

penance
✔ **B) atonement for sin**
Penance is an act of **atonement for sin**: something you do or suffer to make up for wrongdoing. Example: **He fasted as penance for his lies.**

7. **ascetic (n.)**
✔ **D) one who practices self-denial and devotion**
As a noun, an **ascetic** is **one who practices self-denial and devotion**. Such a person gives up comfort and pleasure, often for religious reasons. In the passage, Siddhartha becomes an **ascetic** to cleanse himself.

8. **desultory**
✔ **C) occurring by chance, disconnected**
Desultory means **occurring by chance, disconnected**: aimless and without a clear plan. Example: **a desultory conversation** that jumps from topic to topic.

9. **disciple**
✔ **E) follower**
A **disciple** is a **follower**, especially of a religious or philosophical teacher. Example: **The Buddha's disciples spread his teachings.**

10. **metamorphosis**
✔ **A) change**
Metamorphosis means a complete **change** of form or character. Example: **the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly**. In the passage, Siddhartha undergoes a **metamorphosis** and becomes the Buddha.