ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 23 – Day 2

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **B) neurotic**
Neurotic means suffering from a nervous disorder: very anxious, tense or easily upset. Irritability is a typical feature of such a **personality**, and an adjective is needed before the noun. The passage says people at the bottom of the alphabet were more likely to be **neurotic**. Not **susceptible**, because it needs **to** + something and does not describe a type of personality on its own.

2. **After a _____ of connubial acrimony, the couple decided to consult with a marriage counselor.**
✓ **C) decade**
Decade means a period of ten years. **After a decade of** fights and bitterness, the couple wanted help. The structure **a ___ of** + noun needs a time noun here. Not **phenomenon**, because a phenomenon is an unusual event, not a length of time.

3. **If a miner were to ponder over the high _____ rate in his occupation, he might want to quit.**
✓ **A) mortality**
Mortality means death, and **mortality rate** is the number of deaths in a group. Mining is dangerous, so a high **mortality rate** might make a miner want to quit. The passage uses the same collocation: British **mortality rates**.

4. **Ethan Frome soon learned that his querulous wife was _____ to a variety of ailments.**
✓ **E) susceptible**
Susceptible means easily affected by something, or likely to get it. It is followed by **to**: **susceptible to a variety of ailments**. The preposition **to** after the gap is the key clue. Not **neurotic**, because we do not say **neurotic to** something.

5. **There was no paucity of witnesses to describe the _____ of the flying saucer.**
✓ **D) phenomenon**
Phenomenon means an unusual event or occurrence, something seen that is hard to explain. Witnesses described **the phenomenon of the flying saucer**. A noun is needed after **the**, and only **phenomenon** fits an event that people can see and describe.

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

phenomenon
✓ **D) unusual occurrence**
A **phenomenon** is an unusual occurrence: a fact or event that is remarkable or hard to explain. The passage says Mr. Sloane pursued his investigation of the phenomenon, meaning the strange link between names and life expectancy. Example: **The northern lights are a natural phenomenon.**

7. **mortality**
✓ **A) death**
Mortality means death, especially the number of deaths in a group of people. It is often used in **mortality rate**. Example: **Infant mortality has fallen sharply.**

8. **decade**
✓ **C) ten years**
A **decade** is a period of ten years. Dr. Weston studied mortality rates **over a decade**. Example: **The town has changed a lot in the last decade.**

9. **susceptible**
✓ **E) easily affected, unusually liable**
Susceptible means easily affected by something or likely to suffer from it. It is usually followed by **to**. Example: **Children are more susceptible to colds.**

10. **neurotic**
✓ **B) suffering from a nervous disorder**
Neurotic means suffering from a nervous disorder. In everyday use it describes someone who is very anxious or worried without good reason. Example: **He is neurotic about germs.**

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