ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron’s 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 25 – Day 3

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **B) hoard**
To **hoard** means to collect and store something, often secretly, so that you can keep it for later. The speaker wishes we could save up perfect autumn days to enjoy them later, just as the passage says we cannot **hoard** water. None of the other words is a verb meaning 'store up'.

2. **A man may be a _____ everywhere, but at home he’s called a “square” by his youngsters.**
✓ **D) sage**
A **sage** is a very wise person whom others respect and listen to. The joke is the contrast: people everywhere think he is wise, but his children think he is old-fashioned (a “square”). The article **a** tells you a noun for a person is needed, so **sage** fits.

3. **The tree in front of my house has the dubious honor of being the spot voted the most _____ by the dogs of the neighborhood.**
✓ **E) congenial**
Congenial means pleasant, agreeable or suited to your taste. The humorous sentence says the dogs find this tree the most pleasant spot to visit. **Most** needs an adjective after it, and **congenial** is the only adjective that fits. **Sage** can also be an adjective, but it means 'wise', which makes no sense for a spot.

4. **It was fortuitous that at the last moment the mayor offered the _____ of his office in finding a solution to the problem.**
✓ **C) aegis**
Aegis means protection, support or sponsorship, as in **under the aegis of the Water Commissioner** in the passage. Here the mayor offers the support and authority of his office to help solve the problem. **Detriment** means harm, which is the opposite of what the mayor offers.

5. **A settlement that causes _____ to neither side is imperative.**
✓ **A) detriment**
Detriment means harm or damage. A settlement that causes **detriment to neither side** is one that hurts neither party. Compare the passage: waste **will work to the detriment of all**, meaning it will harm everyone.

6. **Definitions:** Remember, words may have many synonyms.

congenial
✓ **B) sympathetic, agreeable**
Congenial means pleasant, friendly and agreeable, as in **a congenial atmosphere** or **congenial company**. In the passage, a constant supply of clean water is called a **congenial condition**, a pleasant situation we enjoy.

7. **hoard (v.)**
✓ **D) hide, store, accumulate**
To **hoard** means to collect and store something, often secretly or in large amounts, for future use. Example: **Squirrels hoard nuts for the winter.** The passage says **There is no way to hoard water**.

8. **sage**
✓ **E) wise man, philosopher**
As a noun, a **sage** is a wise man or philosopher. As an adjective, it means 'wise', as in the passage: **the sage advice to limit the wasteful uses of water**.

9. **aegis**
✓ **C) shield, protection, sponsorship**
Aegis means protection, support or sponsorship. It is usually used in the phrase **under the aegis of**, as in the passage: **Under the aegis of the Water Commissioner, citizens were encouraged…** The word originally meant the shield of the Greek god Zeus.

10. **detriment**
✓ **A) injury, damage, hurt**
Detriment means harm, damage or injury. It is often used in the phrase **to the detriment of**, as in the passage: wasting water **will work to the detriment of all**. Example: **He worked long hours to the detriment of his health.**

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