ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 27 – Day 2

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

Explanations

1. **A GIANT COMPOSER**
Beethoven was able to free music from the traditions that had tended to **constrict** it. He was a child **prodigy** who held an important musical post at the age of 14. He was a successful concert pianist, but when his health began to fail he turned to composing. Even though **bereft** of hearing at the age of 49, he did not **falter** in his work. Some of his later compositions reflect his sadness with his physical condition, but they also evince an **exultation** about man and life.

Sample Sentences: Use the new words in these sentences.

The catastrophe left him _____ of all his possessions.
✓ **E) bereft**
Bereft of means completely without something, having lost it. The pattern **bereft of** + noun fits the gap: the disaster took away everything he owned. In the passage, Beethoven was **bereft of hearing**, meaning he had lost it.

2. **She was filled with _____ when she learned her SAT score was near the maximum.**
✓ **D) exultation**
Exultation means great, triumphant joy. A near-perfect SAT score is a reason to feel it, and **filled with** needs a noun for a feeling. Example: **The team shouted in exultation after the final goal.**

3. **It is imprudent for a youngster to _____ her circle of friends so that there is no opportunity to meet new people.**
✓ **A) constrict**
Constrict means to limit, narrow or squeeze. The clue is **so that there is no opportunity to meet new people**: she makes her circle of friends too small. The gap follows **to**, so it needs a verb, and **constrict** is the only verb that takes an object here.

4. **There is universal wonder when some _____ appears on the stage to perform at the age of 4 or 5.**
✓ **C) prodigy**
A **prodigy** is a person, usually a child, with amazing talent at a very young age. The clue is **perform at the age of 4 or 5**. The passage calls Beethoven **a child prodigy** because he held an important musical post at 14.

5. **Though he knew well the danger involved, the knight did not _____ as he entered the dragon's cave.**
✓ **B) falter**
Falter means to hesitate, waver or lose courage. The clue **Though he knew well the danger** shows a contrast: the knight was brave and did not hesitate. **Did not** needs a verb with no object, and **falter** fits. In the passage, Beethoven **did not falter in his work** even after he lost his hearing.

6. **Definitions:** Your personal test follows through matching.

constrict
✓ **D) limit, bind, squeeze**
Constrict means to limit, bind or squeeze something so it becomes narrower or smaller. Example: **Tight shoes constrict your feet.** In the passage, traditions had **constricted** music, and Beethoven freed it.

7. **prodigy**
✓ **E) marvel, phenomenon**
A **prodigy** is a marvel or phenomenon, especially a young person with extraordinary talent. Example: **a chess prodigy who beat adults at age 8**.

8. **bereft**
✓ **C) deprived of**
Bereft means deprived of something or having lost it. It is usually followed by **of**. Example: **bereft of hope**.

9. **falter**
✓ **B) stumble, hesitate, waver**
Falter means to stumble, hesitate or waver, losing strength or confidence. Example: **Her voice faltered as she began her speech.**

10. **exultation**
✓ **A) triumphant joy**
Exultation is a feeling of triumphant joy, usually after a success. The related verb is **exult**. Example: **They exulted in their victory.**

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