ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

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

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

Explanations

1. **After the weatherman had seen the _____ clouds, he prognosticated rain.**
   ✔ **E) ominous**
   Ominous means threatening, a sign that something bad is coming. Dark clouds that make a weatherman predict rain are **ominous** clouds. The gap needs an adjective before a noun, so the verbs **bristle** and **repudiate** and the noun **cessation** do not fit. Not **tremulous**: clouds cannot quiver with nerves.

2. **The general attempted to _____ the testimony of the lieutenant, claiming that the young officer was not an authority on low level bombing.**
   ✔ **D) repudiate**
   Repudiate means to reject something or refuse to accept it as true. The general rejects the lieutenant's testimony, and **claiming that the young officer was not an authority** gives his reason. After **to** we need a base verb, so only **repudiate** or **bristle** is possible, and **bristle the testimony** makes no sense.

3. **Upon seeing the snake, the cat began to _____ with fear.**
   ✔ **B) bristle**
   Bristle means to stiffen with fear or anger. A frightened cat's fur stands up, so the cat **bristles with fear**. In the passage, the district attorney **bristled with anger**. Not **tremulous**: it is an adjective and cannot follow **began to**.

4. **The widow’s _____ hands revealed her nervousness.**
   ✔ **A) tremulous**
   Tremulous means quivering or shaking, usually from nervousness or fear. Shaking hands show that the widow is nervous: **tremulous hands**. Not **ominous**: hands that show nervousness are not threatening.

5. **The _____ of the noise from the building site was demanded by the local residents.**
   ✔ **C) cessation**
   Cessation means a stopping. The residents want the noise to stop, so they demand its **cessation**. In the passage, the judge **demanded a cessation of the noise**. After **The** and before **of**, the gap needs a noun, and **cessation** is the only noun among the options.

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

   ominous
   ✔ **D) threatening**
   Ominous means threatening, suggesting that something bad will happen. Example: **There was an ominous silence when the defendant rose.** Not **quivering**: that is the meaning of **tremulous**.

7. **tremulous**
   ✔ **E) quivering**
   Tremulous means quivering or trembling, often from fear or nervousness. Example: **He explained in a tremulous voice.** Not **threatening**: that is the meaning of **ominous**.

8. **repudiate**
   ✔ **B) to reject, decline**
   Repudiate means to reject or decline, that is, to refuse to accept something. Example: **He repudiated his confession.** This means he said it was not valid.

9. **cessation**
   ✔ **A) a stopping**
   Cessation is a noun meaning a stopping, or an end. Example: **The judge demanded a cessation of the noise.** It comes from the verb **cease** (to stop).

10. **bristle (v.)**
    ✔ **C) stiffen with fear or anger**
    As a verb, **bristle** means to stiffen with fear or anger, like an animal's hair standing up. Example: **The district attorney bristled with anger.**

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