ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron’s 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 30 – Day 2

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✔ **D) condescend**
Condescend means to lower yourself to do something you think is beneath you. The clue is **disdain**: a person who looks down on a group would not **condescend to speak** to it. The passage uses it the same way: no other steamer would **condescend** to race with Twain's slow boat.

2. **It is most common to _____ the wealthy for their avarice.**
✔ **C) malign**
Malign means to speak badly of someone or to slander them. People often criticise the rich for their **avarice** (greed), so **malign the wealthy** fits. Not **mortify**, because the sentence is about speaking badly of a group, not about embarrassing it.

3. **It is difficult to be _____ in the presence of so many doleful people.**
✔ **E) jocose**
Jocose means humorous or merry. The gap needs an adjective after **be**, and it contrasts with **doleful** (sad): it is hard to be cheerful when everyone around you is gloomy.

4. **When we cannot speak with _____, we utilize euphemisms.**
✔ **A) candor**
Candor means frankness or honesty. It is the only noun that fits after **speak with**. **Euphemisms** are mild words used instead of direct ones, so we use them when we cannot speak with complete **candor**.

5. **Good sportsmanship requires that one not _____ a defeated adversary by making him feel ashamed of his loss.**
✔ **B) mortify**
Mortify means to embarrass or humiliate someone. The clue **making him feel ashamed** shows that the winner should not humiliate the loser. Not **malign**, because that means to say bad or untrue things about someone. It is about speaking ill of a person, not about shaming them.

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

condescend
✔ **C) stoop, lower oneself**
Condescend means to **stoop** or **lower oneself** to do something you consider beneath you, e.g. **She would not condescend to answer such a silly question.**

7. **candor**
✔ **D) frankness, honesty**
Candor (British **candour**) means **frankness** or **honesty** in what you say, e.g. **He spoke with surprising candor about his mistakes.**

8. **mortify**
✔ **E) embarrass, humiliate**
Mortify means to **embarrass** or **humiliate** someone deeply, e.g. **She was mortified when her phone rang during the exam.**

9. **jocose**
✔ **A) humorous, merry**
Jocose means **humorous** or **merry**, given to joking. The passage says Twain wrote **in a jocose manner** about his boat's races with islands and rafts.

10. **malign**
✔ **B) abuse, slander**
Malign means to **abuse** or **slander**, that is, to speak badly of someone or something. In the passage, Twain jokingly **maligns** his slow riverboat, though he clearly loved river life.

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