ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 30 – Day 3

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **C) zenith**
Zenith means the highest point or peak of something. The phrase **reached the zenith of his career** means he reached the most successful point of his career. The passage uses it the same way: Twain felt at the **zenith** of his life when he was a pilot.

2. **We would scoff at anyone calling himself _____.**
✓ **E) omnipotent**
Omnipotent means all-powerful, with unlimited power. People would **scoff at** (laugh at, mock) anyone who claims to have unlimited power, because no person really does. In the passage, the riverboat pilot was considered **omnipotent** by all.

3. **There is no _____ for voting when there is no quorum.**
✓ **A) precedent**
A **precedent** is an earlier example or custom that serves as a model for later actions. The sentence means there is no earlier example that allows a vote without a **quorum** (the minimum number of members needed). In the passage, criticising the pilot would set a harmful **precedent**.

4. **The _____ poet lived a frugal life.**
✓ **B) fledgling**
Fledgling describes someone or something new and inexperienced, just starting out. A **fledgling poet** is a beginner poet who is not yet well known, so a **frugal** (very simple and economical) life fits. In the passage, Twain started as a **fledgling** pilot's apprentice.

5. **No one had the temerity to disobey the officer's _____ order.**
✓ **D) peremptory**
Peremptory describes an order that must be obeyed at once, with no discussion allowed. This explains why no one had the **temerity** (the boldness) to disobey it. The passage says the pilot issued **peremptory commands** like an absolute monarch. Not **omnipotent**: it describes a person or power, not an order.

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

omnipotent
✓ **E) almighty, unlimited in power or authority**
Omnipotent means almighty, having unlimited power or authority (**omni-** = all, **potent** = powerful). Example: **In the story, the king believed he was omnipotent.**

7. **zenith**
✓ **A) summit, top, prime**
Zenith means the summit, top or prime of something: its highest or most successful point. Example: **At the zenith of her fame, she sold millions of records.**

8. **fledgling**
✓ **B) little known, newly developed**
Fledgling means new, inexperienced or newly developed and not yet well known. It originally describes a young bird learning to fly. Example: **a fledgling business**.

9. **peremptory**
✓ **C) absolute, compulsory, binding**
Peremptory means absolute, compulsory or binding. A **peremptory** command must be obeyed with no questions or refusal. It can also describe a rude, commanding manner. Example: **a peremptory tone**.

10. **precedent**
✓ **D) custom, model**
A **precedent** is a custom or model: an earlier action or decision that is used as an example for later ones. Example: **The court's decision set a precedent for similar cases.**

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