ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 31 – Day 1

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **C) fervid**
Fervid means intense and passionate. The clue is the result: the appeal **threw his adherents into a frenzy**, so it must have been full of strong feeling. The passage also speaks of **the most fervid propagandists**. Not **ostensible** ('seeming'), because an appeal that merely seemed real would not explain the frenzy.

2. **He accused the leader of the opposition of political _____, and the mob was exhorted to burn his effigy.**
✓ **E) heresy**
Heresy is a belief or opinion that goes against the accepted or official view (dissent). **Political heresy** means disloyal or unacceptable political opinions, which is why the mob was urged to burn his **effigy** (a model of him). It is the only noun among the options, and after **of political** the gap needs a noun.

3. **In the bedlam that followed it was not _____ to appear too apathetic.**
✓ **A) prudent**
Prudent means wise and careful. In the **bedlam** (wild confusion), looking too **apathetic** (uninterested) could be dangerous, so it was not wise to do so. Compare the passage: **The prudent person will choose between cogent and specious propaganda efforts.**

4. **While the _____ enemy was the opposition leader, the main purpose of this rash behavior was the eradication of all opponents.**
✓ **D) ostensible**
Ostensible means seeming or pretended: what appears true on the outside but is not the real situation. The sentence contrasts the **ostensible enemy** (the opposition leader) with **the main purpose**, which was removing all opponents. The passage uses it the same way: propaganda has **the ostensible purpose of informing the public**. Not **spurious**, because the opposition leader really was an enemy; he simply was not the true target.

5. **In the conflagration that followed, no one questioned whether the original charge had been _____.**
✓ **B) spurious**
Spurious means false or not genuine. In the **conflagration** (great fire), no one stopped to ask whether the accusation had been false. The passage speaks of distinguishing **the spurious from the true facts**. Not **ostensible**, because the question is whether the charge was true or false, not whether it only seemed to be something.

6. **Definitions:** Study the fine differences. Be sure how to use them.

heresy
✓ **C) unbelief, dissent, lack of faith**
Heresy means unbelief, dissent or lack of faith: an opinion that goes against what most people or an authority accept. Example: **In those days, questioning the king was considered heresy.**

7. **prudent**
✓ **D) wise, cautious**
Prudent means wise and cautious, thinking carefully before acting. Example: **It is prudent to save some money for emergencies.**

8. **ostensible**
✓ **E) outward, pretended, seeming**
Ostensible means outward, pretended or seeming: it is what is shown or claimed, which may hide the real reason. Example: **The ostensible reason for his visit was business, but he really came to see her.** Do not confuse it with **spurious** (false): **ostensible** is about appearance, not about being fake.

9. **fervid**
✓ **A) intense, enthusiastic, passionate**
Fervid means intense, enthusiastic and passionate, full of strong feeling. Example: **She is a fervid supporter of the local football team.**

10. **spurious**
✓ **B) false, counterfeit, specious**
Spurious means false, counterfeit or specious: it looks real or correct but is not. Example: **He made spurious claims about his qualifications.**