ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 31 – Day 4

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **B) incumbent**
Incumbent on/upon means 'morally required, a duty'. The pattern **It is incumbent on us to…** means 'it is our duty to…', just as the passage says **It is incumbent upon each citizen to choose**. Not **arbiter**, because that is a noun meaning 'judge' and does not fit after **It is … on us**.

2. **With each generation it becomes the vogue for the youth to be in a state of _____.**
✓ **C) ferment**
Ferment (noun) means 'uproar, agitation, turmoil', a state of excitement or unrest. The phrase **in a state of ferment** describes young people who are restless and full of new ideas. Not **dissent**, because **in a state of dissent** is not a natural collocation.

3. **The gist of his ominous suggestion was that we _____ from the majority opinion.**
✓ **A) dissent**
Dissent (verb) means 'to differ, disagree, protest'. It is used with **from**: **to dissent from the majority opinion**. After **his suggestion was that we…**, the base form **dissent** is used (subjunctive).

4. **The strength of her appeal was _____ by the flamboyant embellishments for which many had a strong aversion.**
✓ **E) attenuated**
Attenuated means 'weakened, thinned, decreased'. The sentence says her appeal became weaker because of the decorations people disliked, so **was attenuated** (passive) fits. The clue is **by**, which shows something reduced its strength.

5. **The Supreme Court is our ultimate _____ of legality.**
✓ **D) arbiter**
An **arbiter** is a judge, a person or body that has the power to decide. **The ultimate arbiter of legality** is the one that finally decides what is legal. The passage also calls the people **the inevitable arbiter** in a democracy.

6. **Definitions:** Always be cognizant of the fact that words are used in the paragraphs and sentences with only one meaning. They often have many others. Look up the word incumbent for a good example.

dissent (v.)
✓ **C) differ, disagree, protest**
To **dissent** means to differ, disagree or protest. In the passage, **those who dissent from the official line** are people who disagree with the government's views.

7. **ferment**
✓ **D) uproar, agitation, turmoil**
Ferment means uproar, agitation or turmoil, a state of excited activity or unrest. In the passage, **open ferment of ideas** means lively, open debate with many ideas.

8. **attenuated**
✓ **B) weakened, thinned, decreased**
Attenuated means weakened, thinned or decreased. In the passage, without free debate the chance to tell true from false **is attenuated**, meaning it becomes smaller.

9. **arbiter**
✓ **E) judge**
An **arbiter** is a judge, someone who makes the final decision. The passage says that in a democracy the people are **the inevitable arbiter** of which propaganda is allowed.

10. **incumbent (adj.)**
✓ **A) morally required**
Incumbent (adjective) means morally required, a duty, usually in **incumbent on/upon someone**. As a noun, **incumbent** has another meaning: a person who holds an official position, e.g. **the incumbent president**.

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