ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron’s 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 32 – Day 1

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **C) expedite**
Expedite means to speed up or carry out promptly. The solution had been elusive (hard to reach) for a long time, so people hoped the arbiter would make it happen faster: **expedite the solution**. In the passage, machines **expedite the selection of pertinent information**. Not **alleviate**: we alleviate a problem or burden, not a solution.

2. **He accepted the lucrative position with _____.**
✓ **E) celerity**
Celerity is a noun meaning speed or swiftness. After the preposition **with** we need a noun, and **with celerity** means "quickly". A well-paid (lucrative) job is something a person accepts without delay. The other options are adjectives or verbs and cannot follow **with** here.

3. **It is easy to construe a superficial remark to be a _____ one.**
✓ **A) profound**
Profound means deep or intense, the opposite of **superficial** (shallow). The sentence contrasts the two: a shallow remark can easily be misread (construed) as a deep one. Not **prodigious**, which means enormous or extraordinary in size or amount, not deep in meaning.

4. **If we cannot _____ the harmful effects entirely, at least we can attenuate them.**
✓ **D) alleviate**
Alleviate means to make a problem or pain easier to bear, or to lighten it. The sentence says that if we cannot fully **alleviate** the harmful effects, we can at least **attenuate** (weaken) them. In the passage, computers **alleviate the burden** of storing information. Not **expedite**: you speed up a process, not harmful effects.

5. **The enemy made a _____ effort to repress the uprising.**
✓ **B) prodigious**
Prodigious means extraordinary or enormous in size, amount or degree. **A prodigious effort** is a huge effort. Not **profound**: it describes deep feelings, thoughts or effects (**a profound change**) and does not normally go with **effort**.

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

profound
✓ **D) deep, intense**
Profound means deep or intense, e.g. **a profound effect** or **profound knowledge**. In the passage, the effect of automation becomes **more profound**, meaning deeper and stronger.

7. **alleviate**
✓ **C) make easier, lighten**
Alleviate means to make easier or lighten a burden, pain or problem, e.g. **This medicine will alleviate the pain.** In the passage, computers **alleviate the burden** of storing information.

8. **prodigious**
✓ **E) extraordinary, enormous**
Prodigious means extraordinary or enormous, e.g. **a prodigious memory**. In the passage, the amount of information is becoming **more prodigious**, meaning larger and larger.

9. **expedite**
✓ **A) carry out promptly**
Expedite is a verb meaning to carry out promptly or speed up a process, e.g. **We will expedite your order.** In the passage, machines help **expedite** the selection of pertinent information. Not "speed, rapidity": that is the meaning of the noun **celerity**, while **expedite** is an action.

10. **celerity**
✓ **B) speed, rapidity**
Celerity is a noun meaning speed or rapidity, e.g. **She answered with celerity.** In the passage, machines with great **celerity** scan thousands of words in nanoseconds. Not "carry out promptly": that describes the verb **expedite**.

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