ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 33 – Day 3

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

Explanations

1. **The inveterate gambler became _____ and contrite when faced with the results of his reprehensible behavior.**
   ✓ **E) penitent**
   Penitent means feeling sorry for having done wrong. The gap needs an adjective after **became**, and it is paired with **contrite**, a near-synonym: the gambler regrets his bad behavior. Not **evanescent**: it is also an adjective, but it means 'short-lived', which makes no sense here.

2. **The optimist knows that the vicissitudes of life are _____, and she always looks on the sanguine side of things.**
   ✓ **C) evanescent**
   Evanescent means fleeting, quickly fading. An optimist believes life's ups and downs (**vicissitudes**) do not last, so she stays hopeful (**sanguine**). **Tantamount** would need **to** after it and means 'equivalent', which doesn't fit.

3. **You should not condone his sordid behavior; rather, _____ him for his fractious manner.**
   ✓ **D) reproach**
   Reproach means to scold or express disapproval of someone. The structure **rather, _____ him** needs a verb that contrasts with **condone** (to excuse or accept bad behavior). Not **abjure**, which means to give something up, not to criticise a person.

4. **At the zenith of his career, he was _____ to a final arbiter on matters of economic policy.**
   ✓ **A) tantamount**
   Tantamount to means equivalent to, amounting to. The preposition **to** after the gap is the clue: at the peak of his career he was effectively the same as a final judge (**arbiter**) on economic policy.

5. **In vain, the entire family tried to importune him to _____ gambling.**
   ✓ **B) abjure**
   Abjure means to renounce or give up something, often a habit or belief, e.g. **to abjure violence**. After **importune him to** (beg him to) we need a base-form verb, and the family wanted him to give up gambling. Not **reproach**, which would take a person, not an activity, as its object.

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

   abjure
   ✓ **C) renounce, abstain from**
   Abjure means to renounce or abstain from something. In the passage, Robert decides to **abjure fruitless searching**, i.e. to stop searching and try another method.

7. **reproach**
   ✓ **B) rebuke, reprimand**
   Reproach means to rebuke or reprimand, to express disapproval. In the ad, Robert writes **I do not reproach you for your actions**, meaning he is not blaming her.

8. **penitent**
   ✓ **D) regretful, confessing guilt**
   Penitent means regretful, sorry for doing wrong and confessing guilt. Robert writes **I expect no penitent confession**: he doesn't need Evelyn to apologise.

9. **evanescent**
   ✓ **E) fleeting, passing, momentary**
   Evanescent means fleeting, passing quickly, momentary. In the passage, Robert's **evanescent concerns disappeared** when he found a letter waiting for him.

10. **tantamount**
    ✓ **A) equivalent, identical**
    Tantamount means equivalent in effect and is used with **to**. Evelyn's note **was tantamount to a challenge**: it amounted to daring Robert to find her.

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