ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron’s 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 35 – Day 1

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✔ **C) lampoon**
To **lampoon** someone is to ridicule them publicly, often in satirical writing. Swift was a famous satirist who mocked egotists to bring them down, as Thurber's stories **lampoon** human behaviour in the passage. Not **countenance**, which means to tolerate or approve, the opposite of attacking someone.

2. **What one person finds _____, the other may find asinine.**
✔ **D) whimsical**
Whimsical means playfully humorous or fanciful. The sentence contrasts it with **asinine** (stupid): one person finds something charmingly funny, while another finds it silly. Only an adjective fits after **finds**, and **whimsical** gives the positive meaning that the contrast needs.

3. **The expression, “Sour grapes,” is the gist of a famous _____ about a fox who couldn’t get what he wanted.**
✔ **E) parable**
A **parable** is a short, simple story that teaches a moral lesson. The fox who can't reach the grapes and then says they are sour is a famous moral tale. The article **a** and the word **famous** show that a noun is needed, and **parable** is the only noun meaning a story.

4. **We should eschew our _____ façade; away with pretext!**
✔ **A) sanctimonious**
Sanctimonious means acting morally or religiously superior in a hypocritical way. A **façade** is a false outward show, and **away with pretext** confirms the idea of pretending to be holier than we are. Not **whimsical**: a playful manner is not something we would need to drop as hypocritical.

5. **If we want to live in a salubrious milieu, we cannot _____ the noisome fumes that are deleterious to health.**
✔ **B) countenance**
As a verb, **countenance** means to tolerate or approve of something. If we want a healthy environment, we cannot accept harmful fumes. Not **lampoon**: we would ridicule people or ideas, not fumes, and the sentence is about tolerating them.

6. **Definitions:** Note the distinction between countenance as a noun and as a verb.

parable
✔ **D) a moralistic story**
A **parable** is a simple story that teaches a moral or religious lesson. The passage says the **parable** is found **teaching a moral lesson in the Bible**.

7. **whimsical**
✔ **A) humorous, witty**
Whimsical means playfully humorous, witty or fanciful. The passage describes Thurber's **whimsical** approach to life, his light, amusing way of looking at human behaviour.

8. **lampoon (v.)**
✔ **E) ridicule**
To **lampoon** means to ridicule or mock someone, especially in writing. In the passage, Thurber's stories **lampoon** the strange behaviour of his fellow men.

9. **countenance (v.)**
✔ **C) tolerate, approve**
As a verb, **countenance** means to tolerate or approve. The passage says Thurber seems unable to **countenance** society's ideas, and the next sentence restates this as being unable to **accept** them. As a noun, **countenance** means a face or facial expression.

10. **sanctimonious**
✔ **B) hypocritically religious**
Sanctimonious means hypocritically religious or self-righteous: showing that you think you are morally better than others. The passage calls the preachy idea that good always wins over evil a **sanctimonious** notion.

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