ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron’s 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 36 – Day 1

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

Explanations

1. **Harry held the fallacious belief that the menial job would _____ him in the eyes of his friends.**
   ✓ B) degrade
   After **would** we need a verb, and **degrade** is the only verb among the options. **Degrade** means to lower someone in other people's respect or make them seem contemptible. Harry fears that a lowly (menial) job will make his friends think less of him.

2. **Betty’s childish fabrications were judged _____ sins, although they mortified her mother.**
   ✓ D) venial
   Venial means pardonable or easily forgiven, and **a venial sin** is a common collocation. Betty's childish made-up stories were small, forgivable faults, even though they embarrassed her mother. Not **unsavory**: that would make the sins morally bad, which does not fit 'childish' or 'although'.

3. **Modern abstract painting is a highly lucrative _____.**
   ✓ E) genre
   A **genre** is a particular form or style of art or literature. Modern abstract painting is one such style, and here it is described as one that earns a lot of money (**lucrative**).

4. **It is reprehensible, but it doesn’t require much gossip to give a person a (an) _____ reputation.**
   ✓ A) unsavory
   Unsavory means unpleasant or morally offensive, and **an unsavory reputation** is a bad reputation. The sentence says a little gossip can easily damage how people see someone. The article **an** also fits, because **unsavory** begins with a vowel sound.

5. **In my _____ opinion he is a sanctimonious fool.**
   ✓ C) candid
   Candid means frank, open and honest. **In my candid opinion** means 'speaking honestly, this is what I think'. It introduces a blunt judgement like calling someone a self-righteous (**sanctimonious**) fool.

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

   genre
   ✓ C) a certain form or style in painting or literature
   Genre is a noun meaning a certain form or style in painting or literature. In the passage, the novel is the **genre** in which Charlotte Brontë excelled. Example: **Science fiction is my favourite genre.**

7. **candid**
   ✓ E) frank, open, honest
   Candid is an adjective meaning frank, open and honest. In the passage, Brontë gives a **candid** portrait: she shows the situation honestly, without hiding anything. Example: **a candid interview**.

8. **unsavory**
   ✓ B) disagreeable, offensive, morally bad
   Unsavory (American spelling; British **unsavoury**) means disagreeable, offensive or morally bad. In the passage, an affair with a married man is called an **unsavory** subject. Example: **an unsavory character**.

9. **degrade**
   ✓ A) make contemptible, lower
   Degrade is a verb meaning to lower someone or something or make it contemptible. In the passage, Brontë presents the relationship in a way that does not **degrade** it, so it does not make it seem shameful. Example: **Such treatment degrades workers.**

10. **venial**
    ✓ D) pardonable, forgivable
    Venial is an adjective meaning pardonable or forgivable, and it is often used in **a venial sin**. In the passage, Jane's fault is only **venial** because she was always honest. Don't confuse it with **venal**, which means open to bribery.