ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron’s 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 38 – Day 4

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

Explanations

1. **The reporter divulged the blatant _____ involved in the awarding of the contract.**
   ✓ **D) chicanery**
   Chicanery means trickery or dishonest, underhand methods. The clues are **blatant** (very obvious, shameless) and **the awarding of the contract**: a reporter reveals dishonest tricks in business deals. Example: **The election was won by chicanery.** Not **tacit**, because that is an adjective and cannot follow **the blatant** on its own.

2. **Even the most _____ person may become fractious when he gets only a pittance for his hard labor.**
   ✓ **E) docile**
   Docile means quiet, calm and easy to control or manage. The sentence contrasts it with **fractious** (irritable, hard to control): even a very calm person becomes difficult when badly paid. Not **reticent**, because that means unwilling to speak, which is not the opposite of **fractious**.

3. **His egregious behavior brought a _____ reproach to his mother’s eyes.**
   ✓ **B) tacit**
   Tacit means understood or implied without being said. A reproach shown only in the **mother's eyes** is silent, not spoken, so it is a **tacit reproach**. Not **reticent**, because that describes a person who doesn't talk much, not a look or a feeling.

4. **Most politicians are _____ when asked to divulge their ambitions.**
   ✓ **A) reticent**
   Reticent means silent or reserved, unwilling to share information or feelings. The clue is **when asked to divulge** (reveal): politicians prefer not to talk about their ambitions. Not **tacit**, because that describes something implied, such as an agreement, not a person who keeps quiet.

5. **He refused to _____ to the rash question about his propensity for imbibing.**
   ✓ **C) retort**
   Retort is a verb meaning to answer or reply, often quickly or sharply. After **refused to** we need a base verb, and **retort** is the only verb among the options. Example: **"Mind your own business," she retorted.**

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

   retort (v.)
   ✓ **C) to answer, reply**
   To **retort** is to answer or reply, usually in a quick, sharp or witty way. Example: **When criticized, he retorted that he was only following orders.**

7. **reticent**
   ✓ **D) silent or reserved**
   Reticent means silent or reserved: not willing to say much, especially about your feelings or private matters. Example: **She was reticent about her plans.** Do not confuse it with **tacit**, which means implied but not spoken.

8. **tacit**
   ✓ **A) understood, implied, not stated**
   Tacit means understood or implied without being stated in words. Example: **By staying silent, he gave his tacit approval.** Not 'silent or reserved', which describes a **reticent** person, not an unspoken agreement.

9. **chicanery**
   ✓ **E) trickery, underhandedness**
   Chicanery is a noun meaning trickery or underhand, dishonest methods used to get what you want. Example: **The company used financial chicanery to hide its losses.**

10. **docile**
    ✓ **B) easy to manage**
    Docile means easy to manage, control or teach; calm and obedient. Example: **The horse was docile enough for children to ride.**

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