ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 4 – Day 3

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

Explanations

1. MULLINS FORCED TO EAT HUMBLE PIE
The irate 80-year-old manager pressed charges against K.O. Mullins, suing him for assault. As **tangible** evidence of the attack, he pointed to a deep **laceration** over his eyebrow that had required ten stitches. When the case was brought before the court, the judge **castigated** Mullins for the **sordid** incident. In addition to a costly financial settlement, Mullins was required to make a public apology to the **octogenarian**.

Sample Sentences: Use the new words in the following sentences.

The medic reached into his kit to find a bandage for the ugly _____.
✓ C) laceration
A **laceration** is a deep, jagged cut in the skin. The clues are **bandage** and **ugly**: a medic bandages a wound. In the passage, the manager's **laceration** over his eyebrow needed ten stitches.

2. Mr. Dixon belittled our request for _____ proof of his loyalty.
✓ E) tangible
Tangible means real and able to be seen or touched, so **tangible proof** is solid, concrete evidence. The gap comes before the noun **proof**, so it needs an adjective. Not **sordid**: it is also an adjective, but 'dirty proof' makes no sense here.

3. The kindly foreman was too reticent to openly _____ the clumsy new worker.
✓ A) castigate
Castigate means to criticise or punish someone severely. After **to openly** we need a verb, and **castigate** is the only verb in the list. A kind, **reticent** (quiet, reserved) foreman would not want to scold the worker in public.

4. When the teenager announced her engagement to the _____, the public suspected it to be a publicity stunt.
✓ B) octogenarian
An **octogenarian** is a person in his or her eighties. The sentence needs a noun after **the**. People think it is a **publicity stunt** because of the huge age gap between a teenager and a person of eighty.

5. Stories of their _____ youth poured forth from the unhappy felons.
✓ D) sordid
Sordid means dirty, immoral or shameful, e.g. **a sordid affair**. It describes the noun **youth**, and it fits the **unhappy felons** (criminals) who are telling stories about their bad past. Not **tangible**: it is also an adjective, but 'a youth having actual form' makes no sense.

6. Definitions: Match the new words with their meanings.

tangible
✓ A) having actual form
Tangible means having actual, physical form: something real that can be touched or clearly shown. Example: **tangible evidence**, **tangible results**.

7. laceration
✓ C) jagged wound
A **laceration** is a jagged, torn wound or cut in the skin. Example: **The laceration over his eyebrow required ten stitches.**

8. castigate
✓ B) to correct by punishing
To **castigate** means to correct someone by punishing them, or to criticise them severely. Example: **The judge castigated Mullins for the incident.**

9. sordid
✓ D) dirty, base
Sordid means dirty, or morally low and shameful (**base**). Example: **the sordid details of the crime**.

10. octogenarian
✓ E) person in his or her eighties
An **octogenarian** is a person aged between 80 and 89. It comes from Latin **octo**, 'eight'. Example: **The 80-year-old manager was an octogenarian.**