ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 40 – Day 1

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **E) clique**
A **clique** is a small, exclusive group of people who stay close together and keep others out. The clues are **around him** and the plural verb **who … get**: the gap needs a noun for a group of people. In the passage, the candidate's advance work is done by a **clique of trustworthy aides**. Not **mentor**, because a mentor is one person, which does not fit **who … get**.

2. **At a time that requires tangible proposals, all he offers is unconscionable _____.**
✓ **C) rhetoric**
Rhetoric is the use of language to persuade, often in an exaggerated or empty way. The sentence contrasts **tangible proposals** (real, concrete plans) with the opposite: fine-sounding words with nothing behind them. The adjective **unconscionable** needs a noun after it, and only **rhetoric** makes sense. Compare the passage: politicians **maintain a fervid flow of rhetoric for hours**.

3. **The detective interrogated the adamant prisoner in such a _____ way that he confessed after giving incontrovertible evidence.**
✓ **D) facile**
Facile means easily done or achieved, smooth and effortless. In **such a _____ way**, the gap needs an adjective that describes the noun **way**, and **facile** is the only adjective among the options. The detective questioned the stubborn (**adamant**) prisoner so skilfully and easily that he confessed. The other options are nouns (**mentor, rhetoric, clique**) or a verb (**extol**).

4. **Youngsters scoff when their elders _____ the halcyon days of long ago.**
✓ **A) extol**
To **extol** means to praise highly. After the subject **their elders**, the gap needs a verb, and **extol** is the only verb in the list. Older people praise the **halcyon** (happy, peaceful) days of the past, and young people **scoff** (laugh at them). Example: **Critics extolled her new novel.**

5. **Amidst the adulation of the throng, the film star, in all humility, credited her _____ as the one most responsible.**
✓ **B) mentor**
A **mentor** is a trusted counselor, coach or teacher who guides someone. The film star modestly (**in all humility**) gave the credit for her success to the person who had trained and advised her. **Credited her _____** needs a singular noun for a person. Not **clique**, because a clique is a group, and it would not normally be given credit for a star's success in this way.

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

rhetoric
✓ **B) use (sometimes exaggerated) of language**
Rhetoric means the use of language, sometimes exaggerated, to impress or persuade. Example: **His speech was full of rhetoric but offered no real plan.** In the passage, politicians **maintain a fervid flow of rhetoric for hours at a time**.

7. **clique**
✓ **E) small, exclusive group of people**
A **clique** is a small, exclusive group of people who stick together and often keep others out. Example: **She was never part of the popular clique at school.** In the passage, the advance work is prepared by **a clique of trustworthy aides**.

8. **extol**
✓ **D) praise highly**
To **extol** means to praise highly or enthusiastically. Example: **The coach extolled the team's hard work.** In the passage, loudspeakers are used **to extol the erudite qualities of their candidate**.

9. **mentor**
✓ **A) counselor, coach, tutor**
A **mentor** is a counselor, coach or tutor: an experienced person who guides and advises someone. Example: **Her mentor helped her plan her career.** In the passage, party workers **shake the hand of their mentor**, the candidate.

10. **facile**
✓ **C) easily accomplished or attained**
Facile means easily accomplished or attained. It is often used critically to mean too simple, without real thought. Example: **There are no facile answers to poverty.** In the passage, the candidate memorizes **facile solutions to complex problems**: answers that sound easy but are too simple.