ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron’s 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 40 – Day 3

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **D) proximity**
Proximity means **nearness**, and it is usually followed by **to**: **in proximity to** something. As the heir of a rich family, he was often near luxury, so **in proximity to opulence** fits. In the passage, one group sat **in proximity to** good loudspeakers, which means close to them. None of the other words fits the pattern **in ___ to**.

2. **After playing with his progeny in the enervating sun, he staggered back to his room where he was overcome with _____.**
✓ **E) lassitude**
Lassitude is a noun meaning **weariness** or **lack of energy**. The clues are the **enervating** (draining) sun and the fact that he **staggered** back, so he was **overcome with lassitude**. The passage uses the word the same way: the students **took on the appearance of extreme lassitude** and became lethargic. **Vapid** is an adjective, so it cannot follow **overcome with**.

3. **As a concomitant to his belligerent and vituperative antipathy toward his government, he became an expatriate, but he found it a _____ life.**
✓ **A) vapid**
Vapid means **dull**, **uninteresting** or **lacking liveliness**. The word **but** signals a contrast: he chose a dramatic act and left his country, yet his new life turned out to be dull, a **vapid life**. The gap needs an adjective before **life**. **Lassitude** is a noun, and **unwieldy** (bulky) does not describe a life.

4. **Kyra was so disgruntled about having to move the _____ piano, she procrastinated for days.**
✓ **C) unwieldy**
Unwieldy means **bulky and difficult to handle or move**. A piano is large and awkward to move, which is why Kyra kept putting the job off. In the passage, the class was **unwieldy because of its large size**, so it was too big to manage easily. **Vapid** (dull) describes speech or a life, not a heavy object.

5. **The irrelevant evidence seemed to _____ the prosecutor’s case and precluded a conviction.**
✓ **B) vitiate**
Vitiate is a verb meaning **to spoil, weaken or destroy the value or effectiveness of something**. The irrelevant evidence weakened the prosecutor's case, so there was no conviction. The gap comes after **to**, so it needs a verb, and **vitiate** is the only verb among the options. In the passage, separating seeing from hearing **tended to vitiate the learning process**.

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

vapid
✓ **C) uninteresting, dull**
Vapid means **uninteresting, dull, lacking liveliness or flavour**. The passage says gestures help **even the most vapid speech**, which means even very dull talks. Example: **a vapid conversation about the weather**.

7. **unwieldy**
✓ **A) bulky, difficult to handle**
Unwieldy means **bulky, awkward, difficult to handle or manage** because of its size or shape. In the passage, the class was **unwieldy because of its large size**. Example: **an unwieldy piano**.

8. **proximity**
✓ **D) nearness**
Proximity means **nearness** in space, time or relationship. It is often used in the phrase **in proximity to**. In the passage, students sat **in proximity to** good loudspeakers, which means close to them.

9. **lassitude**
✓ **E) weariness, weakness**
Lassitude means **weariness, weakness, a lack of energy or interest**. In the passage, the listening-only students showed **extreme lassitude**: they became lethargic and rested their heads on their desks.

10. **vitiate**
✓ **B) destroy the use or value**
Vitiate means **to destroy the use or value of something**, or to spoil or weaken it. In the passage, separating visual and aural communication tended to **vitiate the learning process**. In law, a weak point can **vitiate** a case or a contract.