ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron’s 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 43 – Day 2

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

Explanations

1. **We had to wince as we watched the newcomer try to wheedle and ingratiate himself into the teacher’s favor in the most _____ manner.**
   ✓ **C) unctuous**
   Unctuous means oily, excessively smooth and falsely flattering. The clues **wheedle** and **ingratiate himself** both describe insincere flattery, so **in the most unctuous manner** fits. Not **subservient**: that means obedient and servile, not falsely charming.

2. **It is easy to become a _____ when the same adults who inveigh most vehemently against the uncouth actions that they say permeate our youth drink to satiety and behave fatuously.**
   ✓ **E) cynic**
   A **cynic** is a person who distrusts other people's motives and expects the worst. Adults who criticise young people and then behave badly themselves are hypocrites, and seeing this makes it easy to **become a cynic**. The article **a** before the gap also calls for a noun naming a person.

3. **We all have moments when we vacillate between selfish and _____ desires.**
   ✓ **B) benevolent**
   Benevolent means kind and wishing to help others. The sentence contrasts two opposites with **between selfish and ...**, and the opposite of **selfish** is **benevolent**, e.g. **a benevolent gift to charity**.

4. **While his demeanor remained imperturbable, there was latent anger at the ignominious and _____ role he had to play.**
   ✓ **D) subservient**
   Subservient means too willing to obey others, servile. A **subservient role** is a low, obedient position, which matches **ignominious** (humiliating) and explains his hidden anger. Not **unctuous**: that describes a falsely flattering manner, not a role someone is forced into.

5. **Those who are complacent about any _____ in our society should be wary of the unsavory consequences for all.**
   ✓ **A) iniquity**
   Iniquity means injustice or wickedness. After **any** the gap needs a noun for something bad in society, and being **complacent** (too relaxed) about injustice can lead to **unsavory consequences for all**.

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

   cynic
   ✓ **B) pessimist, skeptic**
   A **cynic** is a pessimist or skeptic: someone who believes people act mainly out of self-interest. Example: **Years of broken promises turned him into a cynic.**

7. **unctuous**
   ✓ **C) affectedly emotional**
   Unctuous means oily, excessively smooth, or **affectedly emotional**: showing feelings or charm that are not sincere. Example: **The salesman's unctuous smile made us distrust him.** Not "servile, obsequious", which is the definition of **subservient**.

8. **benevolent**
   ✓ **D) kindly, charitable**
   Benevolent means kindly and charitable, wishing good to others. Example: **A benevolent donor paid for the new library.**

9. **subservient**
   ✓ **A) servile, obsequious**
   Subservient means servile or obsequious: too eager to obey and please others. Example: **He refused to stay in a subservient position.** Not "affectedly emotional", which defines **unctuous**.

10. **iniquity**
    ✓ **E) injustice, wickedness**
    Iniquity means injustice or wickedness, a grossly unfair or immoral act or situation. Example: **the iniquity of paying women less for the same work**.

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