ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 44 – Day 2

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **C) canard**
A **canard** is a false, made-up story that is spread to mislead people. The mayor says the rumour of **antipathy** (dislike) between him and the governor is untrue and was invented by opponents, so **this canard** fits. Not **libel**: libel is a legal term for false, damaging statements in writing, and it is something you sue for, not a rumour you blame on rivals.

2. **I resent your _____ remark that depicts me as a culprit.**
✓ **A) defamatory**
The gap needs an adjective before the noun **remark**. **Defamatory** means damaging someone's good name with false statements. A remark that falsely shows the speaker as a **culprit** (guilty person) is **defamatory**. **Libel** and **canard** are nouns, so they cannot describe **remark** here.

3. **The egregious calumny of the defendant worked to the advantage of the _____.**
✓ **B) plaintiff**
The **plaintiff** is the person who brings a case to court, the complaining party. Its opposite is the **defendant**, the person being sued. If the defendant's **egregious calumny** (outrageous false accusation) is proved, it helps the other side, the **plaintiff**.

4. **Publishers of newspapers and magazines augment their staff with lawyers to represent them when they are sued for _____.**
✓ **E) libel**
The set phrase is **to be sued for libel**. **Libel** is a false written or published statement that damages a person's reputation. That is why publishers of newspapers and magazines need lawyers to defend them. Not **defamatory**: it is an adjective and cannot follow **for** alone.

5. **The cynic will _____ the motives of anyone who tries to ameliorate the iniquities in our society.**
✓ **D) deprecate**
After the modal **will** we need a base-form verb, and **deprecate** is the only verb in the list. **To deprecate** means to express disapproval of something or belittle it, e.g. **He deprecated their efforts.** A cynic doubts and criticises the motives of people who try to improve society.

6. **Definitions:** Study these carefully for the fine differences in meaning.

libel (n.)
✓ **C) degradation by writing or publishing**
Libel is a noun for degrading someone through writing or publishing, i.e. a false printed statement that harms a person's reputation, e.g. **The actor sued the magazine for libel.** Not **damaging character by false reports**: that defines the adjective **defamatory**.

7. **defamatory**
✓ **D) damaging character by false reports**
Defamatory (adjective) describes words or articles that damage someone's character with false reports, e.g. **a defamatory article**. It is the adjective of **defame**. Do not confuse it with **libel**, which is the noun for written defamation.

8. **plaintiff**
✓ **B) the complaining party, in law**
A **plaintiff** is the complaining party in law, the person who starts a lawsuit against someone else. The person being sued is the **defendant**. In the passage, the plaintiff must refute the story and show how he was harmed.

9. **canard**
✓ **E) a made-up sensational story**
A **canard** is a made-up, sensational story or a false rumour, e.g. **The report of the minister's resignation turned out to be a canard.** In the passage, the plaintiff must show the defendant harmed him by printing a **canard**, a false story.

10. **deprecate**
✓ **A) express disapproval**
Deprecate (verb) means to express disapproval of something, e.g. **We all deprecate a situation in which someone suffers because of exposure in the newspapers.** It is the only verb among the definitions, so it matches **express disapproval**. Do not confuse it with **depreciate**, which means to lose value.

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