ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 44 – Day 3

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **D) excoriate**
Excoriate means to criticize someone very severely. The clue is that she was angry (**piqued**) at his laziness and attacked him **in public**, which was painful (**pathetic**) to hear. In the passage, his philosophy would **excoriate** (strongly condemn) people who stood aside from life. The other options are adjectives, but the gap after **listen to her** needs a verb.

2. **His awesome mental dexterity compensated for his _____ physical condition.**
✓ **E) frail**
Frail means physically weak or delicate. The sentence contrasts his strong mind (**mental dexterity**) with his weak body; **compensated for** signals this contrast. The passage describes Kierkegaard as a **frail** and ungainly man. Not **potent**, because a strong body would not need to be compensated for.

3. **When Ben's muscles began to atrophy, the doctor initiated therapy with a _____ new drug.**
✓ **B) potent**
Potent means powerful or strong in effect, and it is often used for drugs: **a potent new drug**. Wasting muscles (**atrophy**) call for strong treatment. Not **reputed**, which needs a following **to**-infinitive (**reputed to be…**) and cannot stand directly before a noun here.

4. **The drug is _____ to have a salubrious effect on nascent conditions of this type.**
✓ **C) reputed**
Reputed means generally thought or believed. It is used in the pattern **be reputed to + verb**: **The drug is reputed to have a good effect**. This means people say it is helpful, but it is not proven. The passage uses the same pattern: Kierkegaard **is reputed to be** the forerunner of existentialism.

5. **Although he was a _____ adherent of the party, he remained aloof during the vitriolic primary campaign.**
✓ **A) devout**
Devout means deeply sincere and committed, especially in religion, but also in loyalty to a cause: **a devout adherent** (a very loyal supporter). **Although** sets up the contrast: he was very loyal to the party, yet he stayed **aloof** (apart) from the campaign. The passage calls Kierkegaard **a religiously devout man**.

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

reputed
✓ **A) thought, supposed, believed**
Reputed means thought, supposed or believed by people in general. Example: **He is reputed to be the richest man in town.**

7. **frail**
✓ **C) delicate, weak**
Frail means delicate and weak, usually in body or health. Example: **After her illness she looked very frail.**

8. **potent**
✓ **E) powerful, strong, intense**
Potent means powerful, strong or intense in effect. Example: **a potent medicine**, **a potent argument**.

9. **excoriate**
✓ **D) criticize severely**
Excoriate is a formal verb meaning to criticize someone very severely. Example: **The critics excoriated the new film.**

10. **devout**
✓ **B) religious, sincere**
Devout means deeply religious, or sincere and committed to a belief. Example: **a devout believer**, **a devout supporter of the team**.