ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron’s 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 44 – Day 4

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **B) impromptu**
Impromptu means done on the spur of the moment, without planning. The clue is that the audience lost all decorum and suddenly started dancing, which nobody had planned: **impromptu dancing**. Not **dulcet** (sweet-sounding), because that word describes sounds, not dancing.

2. **He had no qualms about opposing the clique who insidiously exerted a _____ influence on the president.**
✓ **D) malevolent**
Malevolent means wishing harm to others, ill-intentioned. A clique that acts **insidiously** (secretly and harmfully) and that someone opposes would have an evil, harmful influence: **a malevolent influence**.

3. **The connoisseur was able to glean a worthwhile painting from the _____ variety of poor ones at the exhibit.**
✓ **E) profuse**
Profuse means abundant, existing in large amounts. The connoisseur had to pick one good painting out of a very large number of poor ones: **a profuse variety**. Not **diminutive**, because a tiny selection would make the search easy, not impressive.

4. **Europeans drive _____ cars because their narrow roads and high prices for gasoline are not conducive to or compatible with our large ones.**
✓ **A) diminutive**
Diminutive means very small. The clue is the contrast with **our large ones**. Narrow roads and expensive gasoline lead Europeans to drive small cars: **diminutive cars**.

5. **The blasé devotee of the opera was awakened from his ennui by the _____ tones of the new soprano.**
✓ **C) dulcet**
Dulcet means sweet and pleasant to hear. It typically describes voices and music. The soprano's beautiful singing woke the bored opera fan from his **ennui** (boredom): **the dulcet tones of the soprano**.

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

diminutive
✓ **B) tiny, small**
Diminutive means tiny or very small. In the passage it describes the canary, a small songbird: **that diminutive song bird, the canary**.

7. **profuse**
✓ **E) overflowing, abundant**
Profuse means overflowing or abundant, present in great quantity. The passage says the wild dogs **could be found there in profuse numbers**, which means in very large numbers.

8. **dulcet**
✓ **D) sweet or melodious to the ear**
Dulcet means sweet or melodious to the ear. The passage speaks of **the dulcet song of the wild birds**, a pleasant, musical sound that interested the captain.

9. **impromptu**
✓ **C) spur of the moment, offhand**
Impromptu means done on the spur of the moment, offhand and without preparation. In the passage the birds were taken aboard **in impromptu cages**, meaning cages made quickly on the spot.

10. **malevolent**
✓ **A) ill-disposed, ill-intentioned**
Malevolent means ill-disposed or ill-intentioned, wishing to cause harm. The passage describes **a malevolent storm** that put the boat in danger of sinking, as if the storm meant harm.

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