ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron’s 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 45 – Day 3

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know · 10 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/barrons-1100-words-you-need-to-know-mcq-test-pdf-week-45-day-3/

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **D) livid**
Livid describes a face gone pale or grey-blue with strong emotion, especially rage, and it is often used simply to mean **furious**. The fan loses his equanimity (calmness) because the star pitcher was removed, so he becomes **livid**, i.e. furiously angry. In the passage, the mother is **livid** with fear. **Taut** (tense, on edge) is the most tempting wrong option. However, it is mostly used for situations, nerves, muscles or ropes, and it does not express the sudden anger of a fan who has lost his temper.

2. **There was a _____ international situation caused by the proximity of unidentified submarines to our coasts.**
✓ **A) taut**
Taut means tense or strained, literally like a tightly stretched rope. Unidentified submarines near the coast make the international situation **tense**, so **a taut situation** fits. The passage uses the same idea: **the situation is taut with emotion**.

3. **When one enlists in the army, one expects to be under the aegis of a _____.**
✓ **E) martinet**
A **martinet** is a very strict disciplinarian who demands that rules be obeyed exactly. The army is famous for strict discipline, so a recruit expects to be **under the aegis** (control, protection) **of a martinet**. In the passage, the father is **a martinet who rules his family with an iron hand**.

4. **His _____ for imbibing and romping with girls worked to his detriment.**
✓ **B) yen**
A **yen** is a strong desire or longing, and it is usually followed by **for**: **a yen for travel**. Here **his yen for imbibing** (drinking) harmed him. In the passage, the knight **has had a secret yen for the young beauty**.

5. **The little boy tried to wheedle a larger allowance from his father by the caustic observations that it was a mere _____ when compared to the allowances of his friends.**
✓ **C) bagatelle**
A **bagatelle** is a trifle, something small and unimportant. The boy says his allowance is **a mere bagatelle** compared with his friends' allowances, meaning it is tiny. In the passage, the knight holds his life **as a mere bagatelle** against his duty.

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

taut
✓ **B) tense, keyed up, on edge**
Taut means tense, keyed up, on edge. Literally it describes something pulled tight, such as **a taut rope**; figuratively it describes a strained mood, as in **the situation is taut with emotion**.

7. **livid**
✓ **C) pale**
In this book, **livid** is defined as **pale**, especially a face turned pale or grey-blue by strong emotion: **livid with fear**. In modern English it most often means **extremely angry**, because anger can drain colour from the face.

8. **martinet**
✓ **A) strict disciplinarian**
A **martinet** is a strict disciplinarian, someone who insists that rules and orders are followed exactly. Example: **The new sergeant was a martinet who punished every small mistake.**

9. **yen**
✓ **E) strong desire, strong longing**
A **yen** (informal) is a strong desire or longing, usually in the pattern **a yen for something**. Example: **She had a yen for adventure.** Don't confuse it with the **yen**, the Japanese currency.

10. **bagatelle**
✓ **D) a trifle**
A **bagatelle** is a trifle, something of little value or importance. It often appears in the phrase **a mere bagatelle**. Example: **To a millionaire, a hundred dollars is a mere bagatelle.**