ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 6 – Day 3

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **C) laudable**
The gap needs an adjective that is the opposite of **despicable**, because the sentence describes a **paradox**. **Laudable** means 'praiseworthy, deserving praise'. Javert's determination was admirable and hateful at the same time. Example: **Her honesty was laudable.**

2. **The affluent storeowner _____ the efforts of his small competitor, saying that he could always tolerate that kind of rivalry.**
✓ **D) disparaged**
The gap needs a past-tense verb. **Disparage** means 'to belittle, to speak of something as unimportant'. The clue is that the rich owner said he could easily tolerate that kind of rivalry, so he was making the small competitor's efforts seem weak. Example: **He disparaged her work in front of everyone.**

3. **To aid in digestion, you must _____ each piece of meat one dozen times.**
✓ **B) masticate**
After **must**, we need the base form of a verb. **Masticate** means 'to chew'. The clues **digestion** and **each piece of meat** point to chewing. Example: **Masticate your food slowly.**

4. **In an acrimonious letter, her father described the project as a complete _____.**
✓ **A) fiasco**
After **a complete**, we need a noun. A **fiasco** is 'a complete failure', often an embarrassing one. The word **acrimonious** (bitter, angry) shows that her father thought very badly of the project. Example: **The party was a fiasco because nobody came.**

5. **Once he sought the limelight, but now he _____ all interviews.**
✓ **E) eschews**
The subject is **he** and the verb is in the present (**now**), so we need a verb ending in -s. **Eschew** means 'to avoid on purpose, to keep away from'. The contrast with **once he sought the limelight** (looked for public attention) shows that he now avoids interviews. Example: **She eschews fast food.**

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

disparage
✓ **A) to discredit, belittle**
Disparage means 'to discredit or belittle', that is, to talk about someone or something as if they had little value. In the passage, the writer hates to **disparage** the scientist's achievement. Example: **Don't disparage other people's ideas.**

7. **laudable**
✓ **D) praiseworthy**
Laudable means 'praiseworthy', or deserving praise. It comes from the same root as **applaud**. In the passage, the pill is called a **laudable achievement**. Example: **Raising money for the hospital was a laudable effort.**

8. **fiasco**
✓ **E) complete failure**
A **fiasco** is 'a complete failure', usually a very public or embarrassing one. In the passage, the writer calls the pill **a laboratory fiasco**, together with **blunder** and **disaster**. Example: **The opening night was a total fiasco.**

9. **masticate**
✓ **C) to chew up**
Masticate means 'to chew up' food. In the passage, the writer enjoys **masticating on a thick steak**, which a pill cannot replace. Example: **Cows masticate grass for a long time.**

10. **eschew**
✓ **B) avoid**
Eschew means 'to avoid' or shun something on purpose. At the end of the passage, the writer makes a joke: he will **eschew** (avoid) the pill because he would rather **chew** real food. Example: **He eschews sugar for health reasons.**

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