ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron’s 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 9 – Day 2

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **B) entourage**
An **entourage** is a group of attendants or followers who go everywhere with an important person. The clue is **of bodyguards**: the dictator travels with a group of guards. In the passage, each bigot has **his tiny entourage**.

2. **Europe’s population was afflicted by a _____ plague known as the Black Death.**
✓ **D) virulent**
Virulent means extremely harmful or deadly. It is often used for diseases (**a virulent plague**, **a virulent virus**) and also for strong hatred (**virulent attacks**). The Black Death killed millions, so it was a **virulent** plague. Not **blatant**, because that means obvious or showy, not deadly.

3. **From each candidate’s headquarters acrimonious charges would _____ forth daily.**
✓ **E) spew**
Spew forth means to pour out or throw out in large amounts, usually something unpleasant. Here the angry (**acrimonious**) charges pour out of the headquarters every day. The gap needs a verb after **would**, and **spew** is the only verb among the options.

4. **Clym Yeobright’s mother succumbed to the _____ of a snake bite.**
✓ **A) venom**
Venom is the poison that some snakes, spiders and insects inject when they bite or sting. The clue is **a snake bite**: the mother died (**succumbed**) from the poison. **Venom** can also mean spite or malice, as in the passage: **the venom they spew forth**.

5. **With _____ discourtesy the reporters continued to harass the bereaved family.**
✓ **C) blatant**
Blatant means very obvious and shameless, done openly without trying to hide it. The reporters were openly rude to a grieving family, so it was **blatant discourtesy**. Not **virulent**, which means deadly or full of hate and does not collocate naturally with **discourtesy**.

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

blatant
✓ **B) disagreeably loud, very showy**
Blatant means disagreeably loud, very showy, or obvious in an offensive way. Example: **a blatant lie** (a lie that is not even hidden).

7. **entourage**
✓ **A) group of attendants**
An **entourage** is a group of attendants or followers around an important person. Example: **The singer arrived with her entourage of assistants and security guards.**

8. **virulent**
✓ **E) full of hate, harmful**
Virulent means full of hate, or very harmful and dangerous. Example: **a virulent disease**; **a virulent attack on the newspaper**.

9. **venom**
✓ **C) poison, spite, malice**
Venom means poison, such as the poison of a snake, and also strong spite or malice. Example: **She spoke with venom about her former boss.** Not **throw up, vomit, eject**, which is the meaning of **spew**.

10. **spew**
✓ **D) throw up, vomit, eject**
Spew means to throw up, vomit, or eject something in a fast stream. Example: **The volcano spewed lava.** In the passage, bigots **spew forth** venom, meaning they pour out hateful words.

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