ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Barron's 1100 Words You Need to Know (MCQ Test + PDF) Week 9 – Day 4

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

Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ **D) vexatious**
Vexatious means annoying, causing irritation. The clue is that the buzzing **nearly drove us insane**, so it was extremely irritating. Example: **a vexatious delay**. Not **nefarious**, because that means wicked or villainous, which describes evil people or deeds, not an insect's noise.

2. **Our _____ relations with Latin America are an asset to hemispheric trade.**
✓ **A) amicable**
Amicable means friendly and peaceful. Relations that are **an asset to trade** must be good and friendly. Example: **an amicable agreement**. Not **vexatious**, because annoying relations would harm trade, not help it.

3. **Once the virulent _____ had run its course, my temperature dropped.**
✓ **B) malady**
Malady means a disease or illness. The clues are **virulent** (severe, harmful), **had run its course** and the patient's **temperature dropped**. All of these describe an illness. Only a noun fits after the adjective **virulent**, and **malady** is the only noun among the options.

4. **We were distraught upon hearing the venom spewed forth by the _____ bigot.**
✓ **E) nefarious**
Nefarious means wicked, villainous or vicious. A bigot who spews **venom** (hateful words) is evil, not just irritating. Example: **nefarious activities**. Not **vexatious**, because that only means annoying and is too weak for someone spreading hatred.

5. **No sooner did the lawyer _____ the extortion note than she called the police.**
✓ **C) scrutinize**
Scrutinize means to examine something closely and carefully. The gap needs a verb after **did the lawyer**, and **scrutinize** is the only verb among the options. It makes sense that the lawyer examined the extortion note carefully before calling the police. The pattern **No sooner did … than** means that one action happened immediately after the other.

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

scrutinize
✓ **C) examine closely**
Scrutinize means to examine closely. In the passage, organizations are urged to **scrutinize** (study carefully) the activities of hate-mongers. Example: **She scrutinized the contract before signing.**

7. **nefarious**
✓ **B) villainous, vicious**
Nefarious means villainous or vicious, that is, very wicked. The passage speaks of the **nefarious activities** of hate-mongers. Example: **a nefarious plot**.

8. **amicable**
✓ **E) friendly, peaceful**
Amicable means friendly and peaceful. The passage mentions **amicable inquirers**, meaning people who ask questions in a friendly spirit. Example: **They reached an amicable settlement.**

9. **vexatious**
✓ **A) annoying**
Vexatious means annoying or troublesome. The passage refers to the **vexatious immediate problem**, a problem that irritates and causes trouble. Example: **vexatious complaints**.

10. **malady**
✓ **D) disease**
Malady means a disease or illness. The passage uses it figuratively: bigotry is a **sinister malady** that afflicts society. Example: **a rare malady of the skin**.

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