ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Essential Words for the TOEFL Lesson 19 Vocabulary Test

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Explanations

1. **Choose the synonym.**
nurture
✓ **B) cultivate**
To **nurture** means to care for something and help it grow or develop, so its synonym is **cultivate**: **She nurtured / cultivated her talent for music.** Not **convey**, which means to communicate or carry something.

2. coherent
✓ **C) logical**
Coherent describes ideas or arguments that are clear and connected in a sensible way, so it means **logical**: **a coherent / logical explanation**. **Novel** and **original** both mean new and different.

3. resistance
✓ **A) opposition**
Resistance means refusing to accept something or fighting against it, which is **opposition**: **There was strong resistance / opposition to the new tax.**

4. evolve
✓ **A) develop**
To **evolve** means to change slowly over time into a more advanced form, so it means **develop**: **The company evolved / developed into a global business.** Not **involve**, which only looks similar.

5. varied
✓ **A) diverse**
Varied means consisting of many different types, so it means **diverse**: **a varied / diverse diet**. **Feasible** means possible to do.

6. trigger
✓ **D) generate**
To **trigger** something means to make it start or happen, so it means **generate** (cause or produce): **The earthquake triggered / generated a huge wave.** Not **transform**, which means to change completely.

7. probe
✓ **C) investigation**
As a noun, a **probe** is a careful examination of something to find out the truth, which is an **investigation**: **a police probe / investigation into the crime.**

8. generic
✓ **C) general**
Generic means relating to a whole group or class, not one specific thing, so it means **general**: **a generic / general term for vehicles**. Not **mundane**, which means ordinary and boring.

9. mimic
✓ **C) emulate**
To **mimic** means to copy the way someone or something looks, sounds or behaves, so it means **emulate** (imitate): **Children often mimic / emulate their parents.** Not **stimulate**, which means to encourage activity or interest.

10. unbiased
✓ **D) objective**
Unbiased means fair and not influenced by personal opinions, so it means **objective**: **an unbiased / objective report**. **Antiquated** means very old-fashioned.

11. The capacity among animals to reconstruct body parts is not as common as the ability to compensate for lost tissues. This is due to the complex anatomy of body parts, which requires more elaborate regeneration control mechanisms. If we **look over** only the vertebrates of the animal kingdom, salamanders are the best regenerators of body parts. Because of this characteristic, they are the subject of much folklore. For example, the fire salamander is so called because of an antiquated belief that it could withstand fire.

The phrasal verb **look over** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✓ **B) examine**
In sentence 3, **look over** means to study or consider something carefully, which is **examine**: if we examine only the vertebrates, salamanders are the best regenerators. Not **exclude**, which would mean leaving the vertebrates out, the opposite of the meaning.

12. Throughout history, most technological progress has been a result of relatively minor improvements and refinements rather than through major inventions. Organized research is well suited for this kind of development. However, organized research may discourage **novel** approaches and inhibit creativity, so seminal discoveries are still likely to be made by inventors in the classic individualistic tradition.

The word **novel** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✓ **A) original**
Novel as an adjective means new and unusual, so **novel approaches** are **original** approaches. The passage contrasts them with small improvements and links them to creativity. Not **varied**, which means of different kinds, not new.

13. Economist Alfred Marshall received acclaim for his economic ideas that integrated modern and classical economic theory. Classicists believed that price was determined by the cost of producing goods, but the modern school believed that price was dependent on the **notion** of marginal utility, or usefulness of the goods. Marshall's theory that price is determined by both cost and utility gained wide acceptance.

The word **notion** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **B) concept**
A **notion** is an idea or belief, so it means **concept**. The passage says price depended on the **notion / concept** of marginal utility, which is a theoretical idea.

14. Tidal waves are **triggered** by tectonic displacements. Volcanoes, landslides, or earthquakes on the sea floor can cause a sudden displacement of the water above. This displacement forms a small group of water waves having a wavelength equal to the water depth at the point of origin. In deep water, tidal waves are so long and so slight that ships seldom notice their presence. But as the waves reach shallow water, they increase in amplitude, making them potentially the most catastrophic of all ocean waves.

The word **triggered** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **D) generated**
Triggered means caused to start, so it means **generated** (produced). The next sentence explains it: volcanoes, landslides or earthquakes **cause** a displacement that forms the waves. Not **heightened**, which means made stronger, not caused.

15. Throughout the ages, the role of the heart was long considered a mystery. Some thought that it was the source of the soul. Others thought that it was the center of love, courage, happiness, and sadness. Primitive humans were no doubt aware of the heartbeat and probably recognized that the tiny heart, **normally** about the size of a fist, was an organ whose malfunction could cause sudden death.

The word **normally** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **D) typically**
Normally means in the usual case, so it means **typically**: the heart is **typically** about the size of a fist. Not **roughly**, which means approximately; that idea is already given by **about**.

16. There is a growing sentiment **in opposition to** sea bass fishing. Most sea bass spawn between May and August, which coincides with the height of the fishing season. Fishing affects the reproductive capacity of the species disproportionately since it does not distinguish between males and females. Instead, it captures both indiscriminately. However, it takes six years longer for a female bass to become fertile than a male.

In stating that there is a growing sentiment **in opposition to** sea bass fishing, the author means that people _____.
✔ **D) are against its continuation.**
In opposition to means against something, so people **are against** continuing sea bass fishing. The passage then gives the reasons: fishing happens in the spawning season and harms reproduction. The first two options say the opposite, and the passage is about the fishing, not about disliking the fish.

17. Gymnastic competitions are judged and scored on both an individual and a team basis. Judges award points to each participant in each event on a 0-to-10 scale, 10 being perfect. The goal of completely **unbiased** judging is very difficult to achieve. Although guidelines are provided, judges seldom agree on the quality of a performance.

The word **unbiased** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **A) objective**
Unbiased means not influenced by personal feelings or preferences, so **unbiased judging** is **objective** judging. The passage says this is hard to achieve because judges seldom agree on a performance. Not **strict**, which means demanding or severe, not fair.

18. Prior to highly advanced weather satellite technology, sounding rockets were used to gather weather intelligence. Sounding rockets were unmanned rockets that recorded atmospheric conditions at heights that were 50–100 miles beyond the reach of airplanes and balloons. **Emulating** weather balloon technology, these rockets usually followed a vertical path as they investigated upper atmospheric conditions with their scientific instruments.

The word **emulating** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **C) mimicking**
To **emulate** means to copy or imitate something, so it means **mimicking**. The rockets copied weather balloon technology by following a vertical path. Not **replacing** or **improving**, because the sentence describes doing the same thing as the balloons.

19. Reality is perceived through appearances. However, appearances are incompatible with reality. If an oar in water looks broken but feels straight to the touch, this must be acknowledged. Thus, a **coherent** picture of reality requires that we acknowledge that appearances can be deceptive.

The word **coherent** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **A) logical**
Coherent means clear, consistent and logically connected, so a **coherent** picture of reality is a **logical** one. The passage says such a picture must explain why the oar looks broken but feels straight. Not **acceptable**, which is too general and does not mean consistent.

20. “Speedwriting” was a writing system devised and patented by Emma Dearborn in 1924. The system used words that were recorded as they sounded, and only employed “long vowels.” Thus, “you” is written “u” and “like” is “lik.” Some letters were **transformed** to allow for speedy transcription, and the system often employed abbreviations and flourishes.

The word **transformed** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

✔ **B) altered**

Transformed means changed in form, so it means **altered**: some letters were changed to make writing faster. Not **written** or **illustrated**, which do not mean changing something.

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