ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Essential Words for the TOEFL Lesson 21 Vocabulary Test

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11	**B**	12	**D**	13	**C**	14	**D**	15	**A**	16	**A**	17	**C**	18	**A**	19	**D**	20	**C**

Explanations

1. **Choose the synonym.**
picturesque
✓ **A) scenic**
Picturesque means very pretty to look at, like a painting, which is the same as **scenic**: **a picturesque village** = **a scenic village**. Not **calm**, which describes a quiet, peaceful state, not beauty.

2. partisan
✓ **D) biased**
Partisan means strongly supporting one side or group, so it is not fair or neutral. That is the meaning of **biased**: **a partisan newspaper** gives only one side of the story.

3. eruption
✓ **B) outburst**
An **eruption** is a sudden, violent release, as of lava from a volcano or of anger or noise. An **outburst** has the same meaning: **an eruption/outburst of violence**.

4. disappear
✓ **B) vanish**
To **disappear** is to stop being seen or to stop existing, which is what **vanish** means: **The sun vanished behind the clouds.**

5. shallow
✓ **D) superficial**
Used of ideas or people, **shallow** means not deep or serious, only dealing with the surface. That is the meaning of **superficial**: **a shallow/superficial argument**. Not **placid**, which means calm.

6. propensity
✓ **B) tendency**
A **propensity** is a natural habit of behaving in a certain way, which is a **tendency**: **a propensity to exaggerate**. Not **intuition**, which is knowing something without reasoning.

7. reaction
✓ **C) response**
A **reaction** is what you say, do or feel because of something that happens, which is a **response**: **Her reaction/response to the news was calm.**

8. rich
✓ **D) affluent**
Rich most often means having a lot of money, which is the meaning of **affluent**: **an affluent/rich family**. Not **influential**: rich people are often influential, but the word means having power over others, not having money.

9. protected
✓ **C) sheltered**
Protected means kept safe from harm or danger, and **sheltered** means the same: **a sheltered/protected bay** is safe from wind and waves.

10. rhythm
✓ **B) pattern**
A **rhythm** is a regular, repeated **pattern** of sounds, movements or events: **the rhythm/pattern of the seasons**. Not **notion**, which means an idea.

11. Until the latter half of the twentieth century, the Chesapeake Bay's sheltered, nutrient-rich waters supported **plentiful** populations of marine life. Commercial fishing and recreational activities abounded. By the 1970s, however, residential and industrial development of the surrounding land had led to significant pollution of the bay. Various projects have been initiated in an effort to reverse the environmental damage that the bay has suffered.

The word **plentiful** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✓ **B) abundant**
Plentiful means existing in large amounts, which is **abundant**. The passage says the bay's nutrient-rich waters supported large populations and fishing **abounded**. Not **declining**: the decline only came later, with pollution in the 1970s.

12. The bee family Apidae, which includes honeybees, no longer uses honeypots that could be damaged by exposure to the elements. Instead, honey and pollen are stored in vertical combs with a layer of cells on each surface. Of the four species of honeybees in this family, only three are found in Asia. Their nests have several combs and are **sheltered** in crevices of rocks or hollows of trees.

The word **sheltered** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✓ **D) protected**
Sheltered means kept safe from danger or bad weather, which is **protected**. The nests are placed in rock crevices and tree hollows, so they are protected from the elements. Not **discovered**, which means found.

13. Andrew Carnegie established several independent, **philanthropic** foundations. Among them are funds for the recognition of heroic acts. These include the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, the Endowment for International Peace, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, which was established in 1905 to provide pensions for college teachers.

The word **philanthropic** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **C) humanitarian**
Philanthropic means giving money and help to improve other people's lives, which is **humanitarian**. The passage lists Carnegie's foundations for heroes, peace and teachers' pensions. Not **financial**: the foundations involve money, but the word describes their aim of helping people.

14. The world of magic comprises a wide range of **phenomena**, from the intricate ritual beliefs and practices of religious systems, to acts of conjuring and sleight of hand for entertainment. Magic is a social and cultural phenomenon found in all places and in all periods of history, with varying degrees of importance.

The word **phenomena** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **D) occurrences**
Phenomena (plural of **phenomenon**) are events or facts that can be observed, which are **occurrences**. The passage gives examples, from religious rituals to conjuring tricks. Not **patterns**, which are regular repeated arrangements.

15. A person's need for food is determined by age and by average heights and weights. Individual activity levels are also used to determine the level of ideal calorie consumption. For example, a **decrease** in recommended daily calorie consumption with increasing age is consistent with the known reduction in metabolism that occurs with aging and with a normal decrease in physical activity.

The word **decrease** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **A) decline**
A **decrease** is a fall in amount or number, which is a **decline**. The passage says recommended calories go down as people get older. Not **balance**, which means an equal state.

16. Liquids vary in the amount of acid they contain. For example, water contains relatively little acid, while vinegar contains a large quantity. Acidic content is determined by dipping litmus paper into a liquid. This paper is saturated with a colorant obtained from plants called lichens. The colorant **reacts to** the presence of acid by turning different shades of red—the brightness of the shade can be measured on a scale called a pH scale.

In stating that the colorant **reacts to** the presence of acid in the liquid, the author means that it _____.
✔ **A) combines chemically with the acid.**
To **react to** something in chemistry means to change chemically when it is present. The passage says the colorant reacts by **turning different shades of red**, so it combines chemically with the acid. Not **causes the liquid to lose its redness**: the passage says the paper turns red, not that the liquid loses colour.

17. Gars are long, slender, predatory fish, with a long, tooth-studded jaw and a tough, armored skin. They are a primitive fish that inhabit **placid** fresh waters of the Western Hemisphere. Because of the highly vascular and cellular nature of the gar's swim bladder, it functions as a lung. This makes the gar able to survive in large numbers in the Everglades of the southern United States.

The word **placid** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **C) calm**
Placid means quiet and still, without strong movement, which is **calm**: **placid fresh waters** are calm, slow-moving waters. Not **sheltered** or **protected**, which mean kept safe from danger.

18. In the human body, different toxins produce different **reactions**. Irritation of the upper respiratory tract by inhaled formaldehyde gas is rapidly reversible because as soon as inhalation ends, the irritation subsides. In contrast, the response produced by silica dust is irreversible, because once the silicotic nodules are formed, they remain in the lung.

The word **reactions** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **A) responses**
Reactions here are the body's **responses** to toxins. The passage itself uses the synonym later: **the response produced by silica dust**. Not **influences**, which are effects one thing has on another, not the body's answer to it.

19. Much of the world's unique heritage is endangered by pollution, the advance of human settlements, conflicts over the use of land and resources, and other problems. Thus, many countries are setting aside **scenic** natural areas as rapidly as possible. The tendency of many governments has been to establish as many parks as possible before natural environments are altered by human activities.

The word **scenic** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **D) picturesque**
Scenic describes places with beautiful natural views, which is **picturesque**. The passage is about saving beautiful natural areas as parks. Not **delightful**: it means very pleasant in general, not specifically beautiful to look at.

20. A "must carry" rule is designed to ensure that local TV stations do not **vanish** from cable TV offerings. It requires cable systems to carry all local broadcast channels within a certain area of their transmitters. The law was struck down in 1985, although many aspects of that case are still being argued.

The word **vanish** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **C) disappear**
To **vanish** means to **disappear**. The rule makes sure local stations do not disappear from the channels that cable TV offers. Not **elude**, which means to escape from or avoid someone or something.