ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Essential Words for the TOEFL Lesson 26 Vocabulary Test

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Explanations

1. **Choose the synonym.**
gratifying
✓ **C) satisfying**
Gratifying means giving pleasure or a feeling of satisfaction, so its synonym is **satisfying**: **It was gratifying to see the students succeed. Thriving** means growing or doing very well, which is a different idea.

2. disorganized
✓ **B) chaotic**
Disorganized means without order or planning, which is the meaning of **chaotic**: **The office was chaotic after the move.** Not **disrupted**, which means interrupted or stopped from continuing normally, not simply lacking order.

3. **Choose the synonym.**
factor in
✓ **D) consider**
To **factor in** something means to include it when you make a decision or calculation, so its synonym is **consider**: **We need to factor in the cost of travel.** Not **consist**, which means to be made of parts (**consist of**).

4. launch
✓ **A) initiate**
To **launch** a project or campaign means to start it, so its synonym is **initiate**: **The company launched a new program last year. Isolate** means to separate, and **compel** means to force.

5. lethargic
✓ **C) sluggish**
Lethargic means slow, tired and without energy, so its synonym is **sluggish**: **The heat made everyone feel lethargic. Conscientious** means careful and hard-working, which is almost the opposite.

6. symbolize
✓ **B) exemplify**
To **symbolize** something means to represent it or be a typical sign of it, so the synonym is **exemplify**: **The dove symbolizes peace.** Not **synthesize**, which means to combine parts into a whole.

7. legitimate
✓ **B) authentic**
Legitimate means genuine, real or allowed by law, so its synonym is **authentic**: **a legitimate document** is a real, valid one. **Subsequent** means coming after something else.

8. abolish
✓ **A) eliminate**
To **abolish** a law or practice means to end it officially, so its synonym is **eliminate**: **Slavery was abolished in the 19th century. Falter** means to lose strength, and **influx** is a noun meaning a large arrival of people or things.

9. falter
✓ **C) weaken**
To **falter** means to lose strength or confidence and start to fail, so its synonym is **weaken**: **The economy faltered after the crisis.** Not **withdraw**, which means to move back or take something away.

10. radiant
✓ **B) bright**
Radiant means shining or full of light, so its synonym is **bright**: **a radiant smile**, **the radiant sun**. **Potent** means powerful, and **tedious** means boring.

11. In the communications and computer fields, research in optical switching is motivated by the need to transmit data **streams** at constantly higher speeds more efficiently. At the same time, customers demand transmission and switching rates far higher than can be provided by a purely electronic system. Due to developments in semiconductor lasers and in fiber optics, transmission at higher speeds is now possible.

The word **streams** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✓ **A) flows**
A data **stream** is a continuous movement of data, so **streams** here means **flows**. The passage talks about transmitting data at higher speeds, which describes continuous movement. Not **files**, because a file is a stored unit of data, not data in motion.

12. A **striking** example of a successful multiethnic country is Switzerland, where French, German, and Italian speakers from diverse religious groups live and work in harmony and prosperity. Ethnic diversity in Switzerland appears to have stimulated rather than divided the Swiss population. Studies of conditions in Switzerland demonstrate that harmony can coexist with diversity when certain characteristics are shared.

The word **striking** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✓ **D) remarkable**
Striking means very noticeable or unusual in an impressive way, so its closest meaning is **remarkable**. The passage presents Switzerland as an outstanding example of ethnic harmony. Not **characteristic**, which means typical, not outstanding.

13. In one of the most influential books on education ever written, *Émile*, Jean-Jacques Rousseau argued that society should protect children from the corrupt nature of civilization and cautiously nurture their natural, **spontaneous** impulses, which, in Rousseau's mind, were always healthy. He further maintained that it was important to avoid premature intellectualization of emotion so that the child's intellect could develop without distortion.

The word **spontaneous** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **C) instinctive**
Spontaneous impulses happen naturally, without planning or outside control, so the closest meaning is **instinctive**. The clue is the word **natural** just before it. Not **uninterrupted**, which means continuous, not natural.

14. The water available to fulfill a **particular** need is known as the water supply. When the need is domestic, industrial, or agricultural, the water must fulfill both quality and quantity requirements. Water supplies can be acquired by several types of water resources projects, such as dams, reservoirs, or wells.

The word **particular** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **D) specific**
Particular here means one individual, clearly identified thing, so its closest meaning is **specific**. The passage then lists specific needs: domestic, industrial or agricultural. Not **critical**, which means extremely important.

15. Joseph Haydn was undoubtedly the most prolific of all symphony writers; his works **spanned** what has been called the Classical Era. He is most celebrated for taking the established forms of the symphony and shaping them into the forceful media for musical expression through invention and experimentation. These were recognized as innovations by composers who followed.

The word **spanned** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **B) covered**
To **span** a period means to extend across all of it, so **spanned** means **covered**. Haydn's works covered the whole Classical Era. Not **exemplified**: his works may represent the era, but **spanned** is about time from beginning to end.

16. Egyptomania, a term for the renewed interest in Egyptian culture that took place in Europe in the early 1800s, was inspired by Napoleon's Egyptian Campaign. During this era, a special interest arose for mummies. In fact, mummy unwrapping parties were a popular pastime among affluent people. Until they were later **abolished**, these parties, in which the mummies were unwrapped for entertainment, led to the destruction of an incalculable number of ancient Egyptian mummies.

The word **abolished** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **B) eliminated**
Abolished means officially ended, so its closest meaning is **eliminated**. The passage says the mummy-unwrapping parties went on until they were stopped. Not **lessened** or **weakened**, because these mean only reduced, not ended.

17. An intaglio is an engraved gem that, when pressed into softened wax, produces an image in relief. This wax seal was once used as a means to identify **legitimate** letters and documents. The first engraving of hard stones existed as early as about 4000 B.C. in Mesopotamia, but the style of typical intaglios, which were usually mounted on rings, was developed by the ancient Greeks.

The word **legitimate** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **B) authentic**
Legitimate means genuine and valid, so its closest meaning is **authentic**. The wax seal was used to show that letters and documents were real and came from the right person. Not **secure**, which means safe or protected.

18. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, the trucking industry was quite **chaotic**. It was dominated by large numbers of itinerant owner-operators. The industry was considered to be unstable and in need of regulation. The National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 brought together two organized groups of trucking officials to develop standards of fair competition. This action led to the formation of the American Trucking Associations.

The word **chaotic** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **A) disorganized**
Chaotic means in a state of complete confusion and disorder, so its closest meaning is **disorganized**. The passage supports this by saying the industry was **unstable and in need of regulation**. **Inordinate** means excessive, and **formidable** means impressive or frightening.

19. Singapore is the only nation outside of mainland China and Taiwan where the majority of the population is ethnic Chinese. Its culture **exemplifies** this Chinese heritage, coupled with various diverse cultural influences. Its British colonial architecture and Chinese, Hindu, and Muslim shrines reflect the cultural diversity found in this international setting.

The word **exemplifies** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **A) symbolizes**
To **exemplify** something means to be a typical example of it, so **exemplifies** is closest to **symbolizes**. Singapore's culture represents its Chinese heritage. Not **cultivates**, which means to develop or grow something.

20. The field of opera once belonged exclusively to the Europeans. Successful American opera seemed to be confined to Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and other obscure operatic works. More recently the opera world has witnessed growth in successful operatic works by Americans. In addition, new opera companies and small opera groups have been established. These developments are particularly **gratifying** to those who favor bringing a more American flavor to the opera stage.

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

✓ **D) satisfying**

Gratifying means pleasing and giving satisfaction, so its closest meaning is **satisfying**. The growth of American opera pleases people who want a more American flavor on the opera stage. Not **remarkable**, which means surprising or impressive, not pleasing.

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