ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

SYNONYMOUS WORDS MCQ Test With Answers – Advanced Level Vocabulary Exercise 1

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

Explanations

1. To ***abolish*** slavery on its own is meaningless; freedom from want is the real thing.
✔ **D) put an end to**
To **abolish** means to officially **put an end to** a law, system or practice, e.g. **Slavery was abolished in the 19th century.** Not **neglect**: neglecting something means failing to take care of it, not ending it formally.

2. You need some knowledge of nuclear physics to understand the ***intricate*** mechanisms involved in this project.
✔ **A) complex and complicated**
Intricate means having many small parts connected in a detailed way, so it is **complex and complicated**, e.g. **an intricate pattern**. The sentence supports this: you need specialist knowledge to understand the mechanisms. Not **incisive**, which describes sharp, clear thinking, not detailed structures.

3. That model, I'm afraid, is now considered ***obsolete***.
✔ **E) outdated, superseded, disused, discontinued**
Obsolete means no longer used or produced because something newer has replaced it: **outdated, superseded**. It is often said of models, machines and technology, e.g. **Typewriters are now obsolete.** Don't confuse it with similar-looking words such as **immoral** or **immortal**.

4. Poor health prevented him from ***accomplishing*** the great task he had started.
✔ **D) finishing with success**
To **accomplish** a task means to **finish it successfully**, e.g. **She accomplished everything she set out to do.** Poor health stopped him from completing the task, so the meaning is the opposite of **leaving undone**.

5. I'm afraid you have completely missed the ***significance*** of his last remarks.
✔ **A) meaning and importance**
Significance covers both the **meaning** of something and its **importance**. To **miss the significance** of a remark is to fail to see what it really meant and why it mattered. Not **relevance**: that only means how closely something is connected to the topic, so it covers just part of the meaning.

6. I don't quite follow what you're getting at. Will you further ***clarify*** your position on this issue?
✔ **C) make (crystal) clear**
To **clarify** means to **make something clear** or easier to understand, e.g. **Could you clarify what you mean?** The speaker doesn't 'follow', so they ask for a clearer explanation. Not **classify**, which looks similar but means to put things into groups.

7. Holding the door open for a moment for the person coming right behind you is the **conventional** thing to do.
✔ **A) customary**
Conventional means following accepted social customs, so it is **customary**: what people usually and politely do. Holding a door open is a normal social habit. Not **compulsory**, because nobody is forced to do it; it is simply expected.

8. One may well ask if it is fair to attempt to **inhibit** a person's natural impulses. But such is our cultural milieu.
✔ **C) curb and restrain**
To **inhibit** means to hold back or prevent something from happening freely, so it is **curb and restrain**, e.g. **Fear can inhibit learning.** Here it means holding back a person's natural impulses. Not **condition, mold and modify**: those mean shaping or changing impulses, not holding them back.

9. It's high time we all went ***aboard*** the ship.
✔ **D) on**
Aboard means **on** or onto a ship, plane, train or bus, e.g. **All passengers are now aboard.** To **go aboard the ship** is to get on it. Not **alongside**, which means next to the ship, not on it.

10. It is a beautiful picture, but I must say the concept of beauty in itself is related to a rather **abstract** feeling one has.
✔ **A) intangible**
Abstract describes an idea or feeling that exists in the mind and cannot be touched or seen, so it is **intangible**, e.g. **Love and beauty are abstract concepts.** Not **indescribable**: an abstract idea can still be described; it just has no physical form.