232. As for livestock, Eurasian sheep made it possible to extend food production to **arid** areas of Australia unsuitable for agriculture.
A. deserted B. damp C. dry D. barren

233. The ship went down although **strenuous** efforts were made to save it.
A. energetic B. forceful C. half-hearted D. exhausting

234. The decrease in sales in the last quarter was easily **explicable**.
A. understandable B. simple
C. incomprehensible D. wasteful

235. Most people would say I trade in the black market, the **illicit** underground exchange of goods.
A. irregular B. legal C. big D. secret

236. It is a resort that clearly caters for the **well-off**.
A. wealthy B. kind C. excellent D. needy

237. It's **obligatory** for all urban dwellers to stay indoors to help rein in the spread of the virus.
A. forced B. effective C. required D. optional

238. Gains in oil prices are unlikely to **abate** within the next few months.
A. free B. increase C. provoke D. produce

239. They spent an **inordinate** amount of time and money on the production.
A. excessive B. restricted C. required D. abundant

240. We shall take action against city employees who are **insubordinate**, or who are discourteous to the public.
A. fresh B. misunderstanding
C. obedient D. respectful

241. The recent drop in magazine subscriptions is causing some **concern**.
A. ease B. speculation
C. consideration D. attraction

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