ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Verbal Advantage – Level 01 Review Test

Verbal Advantage - Level 01-10 Vocabulary Tests · 35 questions · Online test and questions PDF: https://englishtestsonline.com/verbal-advantage-level-01-review-test/

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Explanations

1. Which word means to restate in different words?
✔ **D) paraphrase**
To **paraphrase** is to say or write the same idea in different words, e.g. **Paraphrase the paragraph in your own words.** Not **quote**, which means to repeat someone's exact words, and not **repeat**, which means saying the same words again.

2. Which word is an antonym of ***ostensible***?
✔ **D) demonstrable**
Ostensible means apparent or professed: it seems true on the surface but may not really be true (**his ostensible reason**). **Demonstrable** means able to be clearly proved, so it is the opposite. **Avowed**, **plausible** and **specious** (seemingly true but actually false) are all close in meaning to ostensible.

3. ***Digress***, ***ingress***, and ***egress*** all come from the Latin ***gradi***, which means _____.
✔ **C) to walk**
The Latin **gradi** means to step, walk or go. To **digress** is to walk away from the main subject, **ingress** is a going in (an entrance), and **egress** is a going out (an exit). Not **to enter**: that is the meaning of **ingress** as a whole, not of the root **gradi**.

4. Which word is ***not*** a synonym of ***morose***?
✔ **D) jovial**
Morose means gloomy, sullen and bad-tempered. **Jovial** means cheerful and good-humoured, so it is an antonym, not a synonym. **Dolorous**, **saturnine**, **sullen** and **lugubrious** all describe a gloomy, mournful mood.

5. Select the nearest synonym of ***whimsical***, ***volatile***, and ***mercurial***.
✔ **B) capricious**
Whimsical, **volatile** and **mercurial** all describe someone who changes mood or mind suddenly and unpredictably. That is exactly the meaning of **capricious**. Not **arbitrary**, which means based on random choice or personal whim rather than reason. It describes decisions, not a changeable temperament.

6. Which word is an antonym of ***sporadic***?
✔ **A) incessant**
Sporadic means happening at irregular intervals, now and then. **Incessant** means never stopping, continuous, so it is the opposite. **Occasional** and **intermittent** are synonyms of sporadic.

7. Which is ***not*** an accepted meaning of ***concur***?
✔ **C) arrive together**
Concur (Latin **con-** 'together' + **currere** 'to run') means to agree, to act together, or to happen at the same time (coincide). It does not mean to arrive together.

8. ***Credible*** and ***credulous*** come from the Latin ***credo***, which means _____.
✔ **B) I believe**
The Latin **credo** means **I believe**. Something **credible** can be believed. A **credulous** person believes things too easily and is gullible.

9. Who is associated with the origin of ***tawdry***?
✔ **D) Saint Audrey**
Tawdry (cheap and showy, gaudy) comes from **Saint Audrey**. At her fair in Ely, cheap lace neckties called **St. Audrey's lace** were sold, and the phrase was shortened to **tawdry lace**.

10. Which word is an antonym of ***resolute***?
✔ **A) vacillating**
Resolute means firm, determined and unwavering. **Vacillating** means swaying back and forth in opinion, unable to decide, so it is the opposite. **Peevish** (irritable) and **careless** are unrelated in meaning.

11. Which is ***not*** an accepted meaning of ***arbitrary***?
✔ **C) consistent**
Arbitrary can mean random or determined by chance, illogical or unreasonable, or exercising unrestrained power (despotic). **Consistent** means following the same logic or pattern, which is almost the opposite of arbitrary.

12. Which prefix means “one, single”?
✔ **B) mono-**
Mono- means one or single, as in **monologue** and **monotonous**. **Auto-** means self, **proto-** means first, and **mini-** means small.

13. The phrases ***large in size*** and ***small in size*** are objectionable because _____.
✔ **C) they are redundant**
Large and **small** already refer to size, so **in size** adds nothing. Using unnecessary words that repeat an idea is called being **redundant**. Simply say **large** or **small**.

14. Which word is a synonym of ***supple***?
✓ **B) flexible**
Supple means bending easily without breaking, i.e. **flexible** (**supple leather**, **a supple dancer**). **Rigid** is the opposite. **Flimsy** and **fragile** mean weak or easily broken, not flexible.

15. In ***retort*** and ***rejoinder***, the prefix ***re-*** means _____.
✓ **C) back**
In **retort** (literally 'to twist back') and **rejoinder** (a reply), **re-** means **back**. Both words mean a quick answer given back to someone. Not **twice**: **re-** can mean 'again', but here the idea is answering back.

16. Which pair of words is ***not*** synonymous?
✓ **D) obstinate, circumspect**
Obstinate means stubborn, but **circumspect** means cautious and careful, considering all circumstances. So they are not synonyms. The other pairs all express stubbornness or unwillingness to change.

17. Which word means all-knowing, having universal knowledge?
✓ **A) omniscient**
Omniscient (**omni-** 'all' + Latin **scire** 'to know') means all-knowing. **Omnipotent** means all-powerful, **omnipresent** means present everywhere, and **omnivorous** means eating all kinds of food.

18. Which word is ***not*** a synonym of ***renaissance***?
✓ **B) reproduction**
Renaissance means a rebirth, a revival of interest or activity, e.g. **a renaissance in folk music**. **Revival**, **renewal** and **resurgence** share this meaning. **Reproduction** means producing offspring or making a copy, not a rebirth.

19. Which word does ***not*** describe a cantankerous person?
✓ **B) affable**
A **cantankerous** person is ill-tempered, quarrelsome and difficult to deal with. **Affable** means friendly, pleasant and easy to talk to, so it does not describe such a person. **Irascible** (quick to anger), **contentious** (argumentative) and **malicious** (spiteful) all fit.

20. Which word means inappropriately lighthearted or disrespectful?
✓ **C) flippant**
Flippant means treating a serious matter with inappropriate lightness or disrespect, e.g. **a flippant remark at a funeral**. Not **wry**, which means dryly humorous or mocking, and not **urbane**, which means smoothly polite and sophisticated.

21. Which word means old-fashioned, belonging to an earlier time?
✓ **D) archaic**
Archaic means old-fashioned, belonging to an earlier period, e.g. **'thou' is an archaic pronoun**. The most tempting wrong option is **obsolete**. It stresses that something is no longer used at all or has been replaced. Archaic stresses that it belongs to an earlier time.

22. Which word means hatred of humankind?
✓ **C) misanthropy**
Misanthropy (Greek **misein** 'to hate' + **anthropos** 'human being') is hatred or distrust of humankind. **Moroseness** is gloominess, and **cantankerousness** is bad temper. Neither means hatred of all people.

23. Which word is a synonym of ***aloof***?
✓ **A) indifferent**
Aloof means distant, reserved and uninvolved, showing no interest in others. So **indifferent** is the nearest synonym. Not **sullen**: a sullen person is gloomy and resentful, not simply detached.

24. What is a ***peeve***?
✓ **D) something that irritates or annoys**
A **peeve** is something that irritates or annoys you, as in **a pet peeve**: **Loud phone calls on the bus are my pet peeve.**

25. Which is the proper pronunciation of ***Realtor***?
✓ **B) REE-ul-tur**
Realtor is built from **real** + **-tor**, so it is pronounced **REE-ul-tur**: the first part sounds exactly like the word **real**. The common mistake **REE-luh-tur** ("real-a-tor") moves the **l** forward and puts an extra **uh** sound between **l** and **t**, as if the word were spelled "realator". Careful speakers avoid this.

26. Which phrase is redundant?
✓ **B) in close proximity**
Proximity already means closeness, so **close proximity** means 'close closeness'. Verbal Advantage therefore treats **in close proximity** as redundant. **In proximity** or simply **near** is enough.

27. Which word means having great variety or diversity?
✓ **A) multifarious**
Multifarious means having great variety or diversity, e.g. **multifarious interests**. **Multitudinous** means very numerous. **Multifaceted** means having many sides or aspects.

28. What is a ***digression***?
✓ **C) a straying from the point**
A **digression** is a straying from the main point of a speech or piece of writing. It comes from **digress**, literally 'to step aside'. Example: **After a long digression about his childhood, the speaker returned to his topic.**

29. What does the prefix ***omni-*** mean?
✓ **A) all**
Omni- means **all**, as in **omniscient** (all-knowing) and **omnipotent** (all-powerful). Not **everywhere**: that is the meaning of the whole word **omnipresent**, not of the prefix.

30. Which word is ***not*** a synonym of ***subjugate***?
✓ **B) battle**
To **subjugate** is to conquer and bring under complete control, so **enslave**, **conquer** and **defeat** are close in meaning. To **battle** is only to fight. It does not mean you win or take control.

31. Which word does ***not*** describe jargon?
✓ **D) candid**
Jargon is the specialized, technical language of a profession or group. It is often pretentious and hard for outsiders to understand. **Candid** means frank, open and honest, which is not a quality of jargon.

32. ***Laborious*** and ***toilsome*** are synonyms of which word?
✓ **C) arduous**
Arduous means requiring great effort, difficult and tiring, e.g. **an arduous climb**. **Laborious** and **toilsome** mean the same. Not **monotonous**, which means dull and unchanging rather than hard.

33. Which word means trivial, insignificant?
✓ **D) negligible**
Negligible means so small or unimportant that it can be ignored, e.g. **a negligible difference**. Not **unwarranted**, which means unjustified, and not **inviolable**, which means that must not be broken or violated.

34. What is a ***scruple***?
✓ **B) something that causes hesitation or doubt**
A **scruple** is a moral doubt or feeling that makes you hesitate to do something, e.g. **He had no scruples about lying.** The adjective is **scrupulous**, meaning very careful to do what is right.

35. Which word does ***not*** properly describe a renaissance?
✓ **A) refinement**
A **renaissance** is a rebirth or revival, so **renewal**, **resurgence** and **revival** describe it well.
Refinement means improvement or polishing, not a coming back to life.

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