ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Verbal Advantage – Level 04 Word 11 – Word 20 MCQ Test

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1	A	2	B	3	B	4	A	5	B	6	B	7	B	8	B	9	A	10	A

Explanations

1. There is no such thing as a panacea for the world's troubles.
✔ **A) true**
A **panacea** is a cure for all problems or illnesses, for example **There is no panacea for poverty.** The world's troubles are too many and too different for one single solution to fix them all, so the statement is true.

2. An ephemeral comment lingers in your mind.
✔ **B) false**
Ephemeral means lasting only a very short time. An ephemeral comment is quickly forgotten, so it does not linger in your mind, and the statement is false.

3. An onerous job is interesting and enjoyable.
✔ **B) false**
Onerous means heavy, tiring and hard to bear, like a burden: **an onerous duty**. An onerous job is the opposite of interesting and enjoyable, so the statement is false.

4. To a doctor, lawyers and engineers are members of the laity.
✔ **A) true**
The **laity** are people who are not members of a particular profession (originally, people who are not clergy). Lawyers and engineers are not doctors, so from a doctor's point of view they are **laypeople**, and the statement is true.

5. Pungent food is mild and bland.
✔ **B) false**
Pungent means having a strong, sharp taste or smell: **the pungent smell of garlic**. Mild and bland food is the opposite, so the statement is false.

6. A prosaic story is original and lively.
✔ **B) false**
Prosaic means dull, ordinary and lacking imagination. A prosaic story is unoriginal and flat, not original and lively, so the statement is false.

7. A charlatan is capable, sincere, and reliable.
✔ **B) false**
A **charlatan** is a fake who pretends to have knowledge or skill that he or she does not have, such as a quack doctor. A charlatan is dishonest and unreliable, so the statement is false.

8. When an employee's work is perfunctory, it's outstanding.
✔ **B) false**
Perfunctory means done quickly and carelessly, only as a routine duty, without real interest: **a perfunctory glance**. Perfunctory work is mediocre, not outstanding, so the statement is false.

9. When you're in a morass, you are swamped, stuck, or confused.
✔ **A) true**
A **morass** is literally a swamp or marsh. Figuratively, it is a confusing or difficult situation that is hard to get out of: **a morass of paperwork**. So being in a morass means being swamped, stuck or confused, and the statement is true.

10. A speaker who is adept at sophistry may be a charlatan.
✔ **A) true**
Sophistry is clever but false or misleading reasoning, used to deceive people. A **charlatan** is a fraud who deceives others, so someone skilled at sophistry may well be one, and the statement is true.

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