ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Verbal Advantage – Level 04 Word 31 – Word 40 MCQ Test

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

Explanations

1. To ***acquiesce*** does NOT mean to _____.
✓ **B) make do**
To **acquiesce** means to accept or **agree** to something quietly, often without wanting to, so it also means to **give in**: **She acquiesced to their demands. Make do** means to manage with what you have, which is a different idea.

2. To ***pontificate*** does NOT mean to _____.
✓ **B) speak powerfully**
To **pontificate** means to speak or write in a self-important, know-it-all way, so it means to **speak pompously** or **pretentiously**: **He pontificated about art all evening. Speak powerfully** is positive and suggests real force or skill. **Pontificate** is always critical, so this option does not fit.

3. ***Deleterious*** does NOT mean _____.
✓ **A) unnecessary**
Deleterious means causing harm or damage, the same as **injurious** and **detrimental**: **the deleterious effects of smoking**. **Unnecessary** only means 'not needed'. Something can be unnecessary without being harmful.

4. ***Ambivalent*** does NOT mean _____.
✓ **C) inconsistent**
Ambivalent describes having mixed or opposing feelings about something, so you are **uncertain** or **indecisive**: **She felt ambivalent about moving abroad. Inconsistent** means not staying the same or not matching, so it does not fit. It describes behaviour or facts rather than divided feelings.

5. ***Pensive*** does NOT mean _____.
✓ **A) concerned**
Pensive means deeply or dreamily **thoughtful**, quietly **reflective**: **He sat by the window in a pensive mood. Concerned** means worried, which is not the core meaning. A pensive person is lost in thought, not necessarily anxious.

6. ***Impromptu*** does NOT mean _____.
✓ **C) unpredictable**
Impromptu means done without preparation, so it is **improvised** and **spontaneous**: **an impromptu speech**. **Unpredictable** means impossible to foresee, which is a different idea. An impromptu event is unplanned, but it is not described as unpredictable.

7. To ***conjecture*** does NOT mean to _____.
✓ **C) plan**
To **conjecture** means to form an opinion without full evidence, that is, to guess, **suppose** or **presume**: **We can only conjecture about his motives.** To **plan** means to decide in advance what to do, which is unrelated.

8. ***Surreptitious*** does NOT mean _____.
✓ **B) wicked**
Surreptitious means done secretly because it would not be approved of, the same as **furtive** and **stealthy**: **a surreptitious glance at the clock**. **Wicked** means morally bad. A surreptitious action is secret, but it need not be evil.

9. ***Exemplary*** does NOT mean _____.
✓ **A) salient**
Exemplary means so good that it serves as an example to others, so it is **commendable** and **meritorious**: **exemplary behaviour**. **Salient** means most noticeable or important, as in **the salient points**. It says nothing about being good, so it does not fit.

10. ***Impeccable*** does NOT mean _____.
✓ **B) fantastic**
Impeccable means without any fault, that is, **perfect** and **flawless**: **impeccable manners**. **Fantastic** is a general word of praise meaning 'wonderful'. It does not carry the specific idea of having no mistakes.

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