ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Verbal Advantage – Level 05 Review Test

Verbal Advantage - Level 01-10 Vocabulary Tests · 34 questions · Online test and questions PDF: https://englishtestsonline.com/verbal-advantage-level-05-review-test/

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Explanations

1. Which word means refined by study and training, marked by skill and taste?
✔ **B) cultivated**
Cultivated means refined and educated through study and training, showing skill and good taste: **a cultivated mind**. **Judicious** means showing good judgment, **facile** means easy or superficial, and **eccentric** means odd or unconventional.

2. What is the correct pronunciation of ***mischievous***?
✔ **A) MIS-chi-vus**
Mischievous has three syllables, with the stress on the first: **MIS-chi-vus**. Not **mis-CHEE-vee-us**: there is no extra 'ee' syllable in the word, so this four-syllable form is a common mispronunciation.

3. On which syllable does the stress properly fall in ***superfluous***?
✔ **B) per-**
Superfluous (more than is needed, unnecessary) is stressed on the second syllable: **soo-PUR-floo-us**. Putting the stress on **su-** or **flu-** is a common mistake.

4. Which group of three words contains two antonyms and one synonym of ***voluble***?
✔ **C) glib, laconic, reticent**
Voluble means talking fluently and at length. **Glib** (fluent, smooth-talking) is a synonym, while **laconic** (using few words) and **reticent** (reserved, reluctant to speak) are antonyms. The other groups each contain two synonyms (**verbose**, **garrulous**, **loquacious**, **effusive**) and only one antonym (**taciturn** or **terse**).

5. Which word is ***not*** a synonym of ***transitory***?
✔ **C) itinerant**
Transitory means lasting only a short time. **Transient**, **ephemeral** and **evanescent** all share this meaning. **Itinerant** means travelling from place to place (**an itinerant preacher**). It is about moving around, not about being short-lived.

6. The ***phil-*** in ***philanthropy*** and ***philharmonic*** comes from the Greek ***philein***, which means _____.
✔ **A) to love**
Greek **philein** means **to love**. **Philanthropy** is love of humankind (**anthropos**, human being), and **philharmonic** literally means loving harmony. Not **to give**: philanthropy often involves giving, but the root itself means love.

7. Which pair contains a word that is not a synonym of ***lethargy***?
✔ **C) apathy, acquiescence**
Lethargy is a state of sluggishness, drowsiness or indifference. **Apathy** fits this meaning, but **acquiescence** means quiet acceptance or agreement without protest, so it is not a synonym. **Torpor**, **stupefaction**, **lassitude**, **languor**, **somnolence** and **sluggishness** all describe a dull, inactive state.

8. ***Pugnacious*** comes from a Latin word that means _____.
✔ **D) to fight with the fists**
Pugnacious (eager to fight, combative) comes from Latin **pugnare**, **to fight**, which is related to **pugnus**, **fist**. So the original idea is fighting with the fists. Compare **pugilist**, a boxer.

9. What is a ***quidnunc***?
✔ **D) an officious person**
A **quidnunc** (Latin 'what now?') is a busybody or gossip who always wants to know the latest news. **Officious** means meddlesome, pushing into other people's business, so a quidnunc is **an officious person**. Not **incorrigible**, which means impossible to reform.

10. Which word comes from the ritual of conferring knighthood?
✔ **B) accolade**
Accolade comes from the ceremony of making someone a knight, in which the king embraced the man around the neck (Latin **collum**, neck) or touched his shoulder with a sword. Today it means an award or expression of praise: **The film won every accolade**.

11. Which statement is ***never*** true of vernacular language?
✔ **C) It is scholarly.**
Vernacular language is the everyday, familiar speech of ordinary people. It is common and familiar and can be perfectly grammatical, but it is never **scholarly**, because scholarly language is formal and learned.

12. The Roman god Jupiter is the source of which word?
✔ **B) jovial**
Jovial (cheerful, good-humoured) comes from **Jove**, another name for Jupiter. People born under the planet Jupiter were believed to be happy. **Judgment**, **justice** and **juxtapose** have different Latin roots.

13. What is the proper plural of ***medium*** when it means a means of mass communication, such as newspapers or television?
✔ **C) media**
Medium comes from Latin, and its Latin plural is **media**: **The media are reporting the story.** **Medias** is always wrong. **Mediums** is used only for psychics who contact spirits, or sometimes for artists' materials.

14. What is the pronunciation of ***ebullient***?
✔ **A) i-BUHL-yint**
Ebullient (bubbling over with enthusiasm) is usually pronounced **i-BUHL-yint**, with the stress on the second syllable. The **-lient** part is said as one syllable, **yint**. Forms stressed on the first syllable, such as **EB-yuh-lint**, are incorrect.

15. Which word is an antonym of ***impervious***?
✔ **A) diaphanous**
Impervious means not allowing anything, such as light or water, to pass through: impenetrable. **Diaphanous** means so thin that light passes through it, transparent (**a diaphanous veil**), so it is the antonym. **Opaque** is close to a synonym. **Obfuscated** means made unclear.

16. ***Imaginary***, ***fantastic***, and ***preposterous*** are synonyms of _____.
✔ **B) chimerical**
Chimerical means imaginary, wildly fanciful or absurd. It comes from the Chimera, a monster of Greek myth. **Droll** means amusing in an odd way, **auspicious** means favourable, and **prodigious** means enormous or amazing.

17. ***Posit*** and ***juxtapose*** come from the Latin ***ponere***, which means _____.
✔ **C) to put, place**
Latin **ponere** means **to put, place**. To **posit** is to put forward an idea as true. To **juxtapose** is to place things side by side (**juxta**, beside). Compare **position** and **deposit**.

18. Which sentence is grammatically ***incorrect***?
✔ **D) This is for Mary and I.**
After a preposition such as **between** or **for**, use object pronouns: **me**, **him**, **her**. So **for Mary and me** is correct and **for Mary and I** is wrong. To check, drop the other person: you would say **This is for me**, never **This is for I**.

19. ***Auspicious*** is related to ***auspex***, a soothsayer of ancient Rome who made predictions _____.
✔ **D) by observing the flight of birds**
An **auspex** (from **avis**, bird, and **specere**, to look) foretold the future by watching the flight of birds. So **auspicious** came to mean showing favourable signs: **an auspicious start**.

20. Which word is a synonym of ***promulgate***?
✔ **C) bruit**
To **promulgate** is to make something known publicly or spread it widely. To **bruit** (usually **bruit about**) means to spread a report or rumour, so it is a synonym. **Expostulate** means to protest or argue against, and **adjudicate** means to judge officially.

21. What does the ***nomen-*** in ***nomenclature*** mean?
✔ **C) name**
Latin **nomen** means **name**. **Nomenclature** is a system of names used in a particular field, such as the nomenclature of botany. Compare **nominate** and **nominal**.

22. The noun ***satiety*** denotes _____.
✔ **B) excessive gratification**
Satiety is the state of being filled or gratified beyond the point of desire, so it means **excessive gratification**. It comes from Latin **satis**, enough (compare **satiate**, **satisfy**). Not **unquenchable desire**, which is the opposite idea.

23. Which set of words contains a word that is ***not*** a synonym of ***beguile***?
✔ **A) ensnare, obfuscate, swindle**
Beguile means to deceive or trick, and also to charm or enchant. All the words in the other sets fit one of these senses (**dupe**, **cozen**, **enthrall**, **enchant**...). **Obfuscate** means to make unclear or confusing, so it is not a synonym.

24. The Latin adjective ***plenus***, the source of ***replete*** and ***plenary***, means _____.
✔ **C) full**
Latin **plenus** means **full**. **Replete** means filled or well supplied (**a book replete with examples**). A **plenary** session is one attended by all members, a full meeting. Compare **plenty**.

25. Which word is an antonym of ***preclude***?
✔ **A) engender**
To **preclude** is to prevent something from happening or make it impossible. To **engender** is to produce or cause something, so it is the antonym. **Obviate** (to make unnecessary) and **forestall** (to prevent in advance) are close to synonyms, and **cull** means to select or pick out.

26. ***Chastise*** and ***castigate*** were both formerly used of _____.
✔ **B) corporal punishment**
Both words now mean to criticize or scold severely, but in earlier times they were used of **corporal punishment**, that is, beating someone. Not **religious purification**: their Latin root **castus** means pure, but the words themselves referred to punishment.

27. Which word means a vernacular expression?
✔ **D) colloquialism**
A **colloquialism** is an informal expression from everyday speech, such as **gonna** or **hang out**, so it is a vernacular expression. An **idiosyncrasy** is a personal peculiarity, and **obfuscation** is the act of making something unclear.

28. ***Facile***, ***facility***, and ***facilitate*** all come from the Latin verb ***facere***, which means _____.
✔ **D) to make or do**
Latin **facere** means **to make or do**. **Facile** originally meant easy to do, and **facilitate** means to make easier. Compare **factory** and **manufacture**. Not **to simplify**, which is only a later meaning of words such as facilitate.

29. Which words are synonyms?
✔ **B) genial, convivial**
Genial and **convivial** both mean friendly, cheerful and sociable. Each of the other pairs contains opposites: **aloof**/**affable**, **gregarious**/**solitary**, **reserved**/**jovial**.

30. What is the traditional, proper pronunciation of ***eschew***?
✓ **A) es-CHOO**
Eschew (to avoid deliberately) is traditionally pronounced **es-CHOO**, like **chew**. **es-SHOO** and **e-SKYOO** are common but nonstandard variants.

31. Which word comes from a character in a satirical romance by François Rabelais?
✓ **C) gargantuan**
Gargantuan (enormous) comes from Gargantua, the giant with a huge appetite in Rabelais's satirical romance **Gargantua and Pantagruel**. Not **Brobdingnagian**: that word also means gigantic, but it comes from Swift's **Gulliver's Travels**.

32. Which word comes from Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels?
✓ **B) Brobdingnagian**
In **Gulliver's Travels**, Brobdingnag is the land of giants, so **Brobdingnagian** means gigantic. Not **gargantuan**, which comes from Rabelais. **Herculean** comes from the Greek hero Hercules.

33. Which word is ***not*** a synonym of ***idiosyncratic***?
✓ **A) habitual**
Idiosyncratic means peculiar to one person, distinctive or quirky. **Quirky**, **distinctive** and **peculiar** are synonyms. **Habitual** only means done regularly by habit, and a habit need not be unusual or personal.

34. Which word is a synonym of ***approbation***?
✓ **C) acclamation**
Approbation means approval or praise. **Acclamation** (loud, enthusiastic approval) is the synonym. **Repudiation**, **disavowal** and **abjuration** all mean rejecting or renouncing something, which is closer to the opposite.

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