ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Verbal Advantage – Level 06 Review Test

Verbal Advantage - Level 01-10 Vocabulary Tests · 35 questions · Online test and questions PDF: https://englishtestsonline.com/verbal-advantage-level-06-review-test/

1	**C**	2	**C**	3	**B**	4	**D**	5	**A**	6	**B**	7	**C**	8	**A**	9	**D**	10	**C**
11	**B**	12	**A**	13	**B**	14	**D**	15	**C**	16	**A**	17	**C**	18	**D**	19	**B**	20	**B**
21	**D**	22	**A**	23	**C**	24	**C**	25	**A**	26	**D**	27	**D**	28	**B**	29	**C**	30	**A**
31	**D**	32	**B**	33	**B**	34	**A**	35	**C**										

Explanations

1. Which word by derivation means the working of miracles?
✔ **C) thaumaturgy**
Thaumaturgy comes from Greek **thauma** (wonder, marvel) and **-ergos** (working), so by derivation it means **the working of miracles**. A thaumaturge is a miracle worker or magician. Not **legerdemain**, which comes from French **léger de main** (light of hand) and means sleight of hand or trickery.

2. Which word means literally nimbleness with the fingers?
✔ **C) prestidigitation**
Prestidigitation combines French **preste** (quick, nimble) with Latin **digitus** (finger), so it literally means **nimbleness with the fingers**. It now means sleight of hand, as in conjuring tricks. **Legerdemain** means much the same thing, but literally it is 'light of hand', not 'nimble fingers'.

3. Which pair of words contains a word that is ***not*** a synonym of ***puerile***?
✔ **B) genteel, sophomoric**
Puerile means childish, immature or silly. Synonyms include **juvenile, sophomoric, callow, asinine, frivolous, inane** and **fatuous**. **Genteel** means refined, polite or well-bred, which is nothing like puerile.

4. Which pair of words is antonymous (opposite in meaning)?
✔ **D) manifest, enigmatic**
Manifest means clear, obvious and plainly seen. **Enigmatic** means puzzling, mysterious and hard to understand, so the two are opposites. Each of the other pairs is made of synonyms: **perspicuous/lucid** (clear), **cryptic/arcane** and **inscrutable/esoteric** (obscure, mysterious).

5. The ***-cilious*** part of ***supercilious*** comes from a Latin word meaning _____.
✔ **A) eyebrow**
Supercilious comes from Latin **supercilium**, 'eyebrow' (**super**, above, + **cilium**, eyelid). A supercilious person is haughty and disdainful, as if raising an eyebrow at others. **Proud** and **superior** describe the meaning of the word, not the origin of **-cilious**.

6. Which word means spacious or comprehensive?
✔ **B) capacious**
Capacious means roomy, spacious, able to hold a lot, and so also comprehensive: **a capacious handbag**, **a capacious memory**. **Vacuous** means empty-headed, **fatuous** means foolish, and **superfluous** means more than is needed.

7. Who was the goddess of memory in Greek mythology?
✔ **C) Mnemosyne**
Mnemosyne was the Greek goddess of memory and the mother of the nine Muses. Her name is related to **mnemonic** (helping memory). Athena was the goddess of wisdom, Ops was a Roman goddess of plenty, and Laodicea was an ancient city, not a goddess.

8. Which pair of words is ***not*** synonymous?
✔ **A) sonorous, sinuous**
Sonorous means having a deep, full, rich sound. **Sinuous** means winding or curving, so the two words are not synonyms. The other pairs all mean winding, indirect or twisting: **devious/circuitous**, **serpentine/meandering**, **labyrinthine/tortuous**.

9. Which word means to free from blame, remove a burden of guilt?
✔ **D) exonerate**
Exonerate comes from Latin **ex-** (from) and **onus** (burden). It means to free someone from blame or a charge of guilt: **The evidence exonerated him.** **Disparage** means to belittle, **ostracize** means to exclude, and **remunerate** means to pay.

10. What is petalism?
✔ **C) a form of banishment**
Petalism was a form of banishment used in ancient Syracuse. Citizens wrote the name of a person to be exiled on olive leaves (Greek **petalon**, leaf). It was similar to Athenian ostracism, in which names were written on pottery shards.

11. Which word is ***not*** a synonym of ***plethoric***?
✔ **B) opulent**
Plethoric means overabundant or excessive, and especially inflated or overblown in style. In that sense it is a synonym of **turgid, bombastic** and **grandiloquent**. **Opulent** means wealthy, luxurious or lavish, and it does not describe an inflated style of language.

12. Who was the robber of Attica who tortured people on his infamous bed?
✓ **A) Procrustes**
Procrustes was the legendary robber of Attica. He stretched or cut off the limbs of his victims to make them fit his bed, until Theseus killed him. From this we get **Procrustean**: forcing things to fit an arbitrary standard. Not **Theseus**, who was the hero who defeated him.

13. Which word means skepticism, universal doubt?
✓ **B) Pyrrhonism**
Pyrrhonism means extreme skepticism, doubt about everything. The word comes from Pyrrho of Elis, a Greek philosopher who taught that certain knowledge is impossible. **Epicureanism** and **hedonism** concern pleasure, and a **solecism** is an error or impropriety.

14. Which word is not a synonym of ***Arcadian***?
✓ **D) Boeotian**
Arcadian means rural, simple and peaceful, like the idealized countryside of Arcadia in Greece. **Pastoral, bucolic, idyllic** and **agrarian** all relate to the countryside. **Boeotian** means dull, stupid or uncultured, after the ancient Greek region whose people the Athenians mocked.

15. Which word denotes a social impropriety or a grammatical error?
✓ **C) solecism**
A **solecism** is a grammatical mistake (**'between you and I'**) or a breach of good manners. The word is said to come from Soloi, a Greek colony whose people spoke corrupt Greek. Not **Pyrrhonism**, which means universal doubt or skepticism.

16. Which word is closest in meaning to ***incessant***?
✓ **A) unceasing**
Incessant means never stopping, going on without any break: **incessant rain**. **Unceasing** has exactly this meaning. Not **continual**, which strictly means happening again and again, with breaks in between.

17. What is a ***toady***?
✓ **C) a fawning follower**
A **toady** is a fawning follower: someone who flatters and serves a powerful person to win favour, a sycophant. The word comes from **toadeater**, the assistant of a fake doctor who pretended to eat poisonous toads. **An informer** is a different kind of person.

18. ***Tenacious*** and ***tenable*** come from the Latin ***tenere***, which means _____.
✓ **D) to hold**
Latin **tenere** means **to hold**. **Tenacious** means holding firmly or persistently, and **tenable** means able to be held or defended, as in **a tenable argument**. The same root appears in **tenant** and **retain**.

19. Something easily perceived or felt is _____.
✓ **B) palpable**
Palpable (from Latin **palpare**, to touch) means able to be touched or felt, and so easily perceived or obvious: **a palpable tension in the room**. **Imperceptible** means the opposite, and **tangential** means only slightly connected.

20. Which set of words contains a word that is ***not*** a synonym of ***odious***?
✓ **B) repugnant, loathsome, refractory**
Odious means hateful, disgusting or deserving hatred. **Repugnant** and **loathsome** are synonyms, but **refractory** means stubborn and hard to control, so that set contains the odd word. All the words in the other sets mean hateful, offensive or shameful.

21. ***Ruminate*** comes from a Latin word meaning _____.
✓ **D) to chew the cud**
Ruminate comes from Latin **ruminari**, 'to chew the cud', as cows do. The modern meaning, to think over slowly and repeatedly, comes from this image. Not **to contemplate**, which is the present meaning, not the Latin origin.

22. Which word means lying down in a comfortable position?
✓ **A) recumbent**
Recumbent means lying down or reclining, especially in a comfortable, restful position. Not **prostrate**, which means lying flat face down, often from exhaustion or in submission, not for comfort.

23. A ***bromide*** is a statement or idea that is _____.
✓ **C) hackneyed and insipid**
A **bromide** is a trite, unoriginal remark or idea: **hackneyed** (overused) and **insipid** (dull). The word comes from bromide compounds once used as sedatives. A boring remark is like a sedative that puts you to sleep.

24. The ***-dox*** in ***heterodox*** and ***orthodox*** comes from a Greek word meaning _____.
✓ **C) opinion**
-dox comes from Greek **doxa**, 'opinion'. **Orthodox** means 'right opinion', following accepted beliefs. **Heterodox** means 'other opinion', departing from accepted beliefs. Not **religion**: the words are often used about religion, but the root itself means opinion.

25. Which word comes from a Latin verb meaning “to speak”?
✓ **A) grandiloquent**
Grandiloquent comes from Latin **grandis** (great) and **loqui** (to speak). It means speaking in a pompous, lofty style. **Cacophony**, **cacoethes** and **orthoepy** all come from Greek, not Latin.

26. Which set of three words contains a word that is not a synonym of the others?
✓ **D) dismal, impecunious, lugubrious**
Impecunious means poor, having little money. It does not mean sad or gloomy, as **dismal** and **lugubrious** do. All the words in the other sets mean sorrowful, mournful or gloomy.

27. An infinitesimal amount of something is _____.
✓ **D) an immeasurably small amount**
Infinitesimal means so small that it can hardly be measured: **an infinitesimal amount of poison**. Not **a very small but measurable amount**, because the key idea is that it is immeasurably small.

28. What do malingerers do?
✓ **B) they pretend to be sick**
To **malinger** is to pretend to be sick or injured in order to avoid work or duty. A **malingerer** is someone who does this. Not **they loiter**: loitering means hanging around idly, which is a different thing.

29. Which word means to declare in a solemn, earnest manner?
✓ **C) asseverate**
Asseverate means to state or declare something solemnly and earnestly: **He asseverated his innocence. Vindicate** means to clear of blame, **ruminate** means to think over, and **indemnify** means to compensate for loss.

30. Which statement is ***false***?
✓ **A) Something eminent is about to happen.**
Eminent means distinguished, prominent or remarkable: **an eminent scientist**. Something about to happen is **imminent**, not eminent, so that statement is false. The two words are often confused because they sound alike.

31. By derivation, what does the ***phon-*** in ***cacophony*** and ***phonetic*** mean?
✓ **D) sound**
Phon- comes from Greek **phone**, 'sound' or 'voice'. **Cacophony** means a harsh, unpleasant **sound** (**kakos**, bad), and **phonetic** relates to speech sounds. Not **speech**: the root refers to sound in general, as in **telephone** and **symphony**.

32. Which word means a bad habit, insatiable urge?
✓ **B) cacoethes**
Cacoethes (from Greek **kakos**, bad, + **ethos**, habit) means a bad habit or an irresistible urge, as in **a cacoethes for gossip**. **Recalcitrance** means stubborn resistance, **equanimity** means calmness, and **animadversion** means criticism.

33. Which pair of words is ***not*** antonymous?
✓ **B) refractory, intractable**
Refractory and **intractable** both mean stubborn and hard to manage, so they are synonyms, not antonyms. Each of the other pairs sets a yielding word (**malleable, acquiescent, deferential, submissive**) against a stubborn one (**obstinate, perverse, recalcitrant, intransigent**).

34. Which word is an antonym of ***enervated***?
✓ **A) animated**
Enervated means drained of energy, weakened or exhausted. It does not mean 'energized', although many people think so. Its opposite is **animated**: lively and full of energy. Not **tired**, which is a synonym of enervated.

35. Which word means coolness of mind, composure?
✓ **C) sang-froid**
Sang-froid (French for 'cold blood') means calmness and composure, especially under pressure or in danger: **She showed remarkable sang-froid during the crisis. Levity** means lack of seriousness, **stricture** means severe criticism, and **acclamation** means loud approval.

Practise more on englishtestsonline.com
Take this test online, download its questions PDF, and find thousands of free English tests:
englishtestsonline.com · scan the code for this test
englishtestsonline.com