ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Verbal Advantage – Level 07 Word 11 – Word 20 MCQ Test

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

Explanations

1. A person can have catholic interests, and an idea can have catholic appeal.
✔ **A) true**
With a small **c**, **catholic** means universal, broad or wide-ranging. It describes things that include or appeal to many kinds of people or subjects: **He has catholic tastes in music.** So both a person's interests and an idea's appeal can be catholic. Don't confuse it with **Catholic** (capital C), which refers to the Church.

2. When you agree with something, you express your objurgation.
✔ **B) false**
Objurgation is a harsh rebuke or scolding, a strong expression of disapproval: **The coach's objurgation left the team silent.** When you agree with something, you express approval or assent, not objurgation.

3. Effusive speech or writing is restrained and concise.
✔ **B) false**
Effusive means gushing, pouring out feeling in an unrestrained and often excessive way: **effusive praise**, **an effusive thank-you letter**. Restrained and concise speech is the opposite of effusive.

4. When you take umbrage at something, you take offense.
✔ **A) true**
To **take umbrage** means to take offense, or to feel resentful because you think you have been insulted or slighted: **She took umbrage at his remark about her cooking.** So the statement is true.

5. The vicissitudes of life are its problems and challenges.
✔ **B) false**
Vicissitudes are changes or variations, the ups and downs of fortune: **the vicissitudes of life**. The word refers to shifts in circumstances, good as well as bad. It does not mean simply problems and challenges. The word often suggests difficult changes, but its core meaning is change itself.

6. A contentious person enjoys engaging in arguments or debates.
✔ **A) true**
Contentious means quarrelsome, inclined to argue or dispute: **a contentious colleague who challenges every decision**. A contentious person enjoys engaging in arguments, so the statement is true. The word can also describe an issue that causes disagreement: **a contentious topic**.

7. An obeisance is a display of disobedience or disrespect.
✔ **B) false**
An **obeisance** is a gesture of respect, deference or submission, such as a bow or a curtsy: **The courtiers made an obeisance to the queen.** It shows respect, not disobedience or disrespect. The similarity to **obey** is a useful clue to its meaning.

8. An assiduous worker is inclined to be lazy or careless.
✔ **B) false**
Assiduous means diligent, hard-working and persistent, giving careful and constant attention to a task: **an assiduous student who never misses a deadline**. An assiduous worker is the opposite of lazy or careless.

9. Duplicity is a sign of a responsible, loyal person.
✔ **B) false**
Duplicity is deceitfulness or double-dealing: saying one thing while secretly thinking or doing another. It comes from the idea of being 'double'. A duplicitous person is untrustworthy, so duplicity is not a sign of a responsible, loyal person.

10. An insouciant manner is a carefree, unconcerned manner.
✔ **A) true**
Insouciant means carefree, unconcerned or nonchalant, free from worry or anxiety: **He gave an insouciant shrug and walked away.** So an insouciant manner is indeed a carefree, unconcerned manner.