ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Verbal Advantage – Level 07 Word 41 – Word 50 MCQ Test

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

Explanations

1. Is ***nepotism*** a fascination with violent crime, a devious plot, or favoritism shown to relatives?
✔ **C) favoritism shown to relatives**
Nepotism is unfair favoritism shown to relatives (or close friends), especially by giving them jobs or advantages because of family ties rather than merit. Example: **The mayor was accused of nepotism after hiring his nephew.** The word comes from Latin **nepos**, 'nephew' or 'grandson'.

2. Is a ***ribald*** remark foolish, indecent, or straightforward?
✔ **B) indecent**
Ribald means coarsely or vulgarly funny, especially about sex: indecent, bawdy, off-color. Example: **The sailors sang ribald songs.** Not **foolish**: a ribald remark may be silly, but the key idea is that it is indecent or crude.

3. If someone has an ***avuncular*** manner, is it like a parent, like an uncle, or like a teacher?
✔ **B) like an uncle**
Avuncular means like an uncle: kind, friendly, patient and a little protective toward younger people. It comes from Latin **avunculus**, 'maternal uncle'. Example: **The professor's avuncular manner put the nervous students at ease.**

4. Does a ***supplicating*** person make excuses, make a humble plea, or make a contribution?
✔ **B) make a humble plea**
To **supplicate** is to ask humbly and earnestly, to beg or plead, often on one's knees. A **supplicating** person makes a humble plea. Example: **She raised her hands in a supplicating gesture.** Related noun: **supplication**.

5. Is an ***irascible*** person hard to please, easily angered, or quick to take action?
✔ **B) easily angered**
Irascible means easily angered, quick-tempered, prone to outbursts. It comes from Latin **ira**, 'anger'. Example: **The irascible old man shouted at anyone who stepped on his lawn.** Not **hard to please**: that describes a fussy person, while irascible is specifically about a quick temper.

6. Is an ***inexorable*** force relentless, powerful, or unpredictable?
✔ **A) relentless**
Inexorable means relentless: impossible to stop, change or persuade. Example: **the inexorable march of time.** Not **powerful**: an inexorable force may be powerful, but the core meaning is that nothing can halt or alter it.

7. Is a ***parvenu*** a beginner, an expert, or an upstart?
✔ **C) an upstart**
A **parvenu** is an upstart: someone who has suddenly gained wealth or high position but is seen as lacking the manners or acceptance of that class. The word is French for 'arrived'. Example: **The old families looked down on the parvenu and his flashy mansion.** Not **a beginner**: a parvenu is a newcomer to wealth or status, not simply a novice at a skill.

8. Is a ***salubrious*** environment wholesome, unsanitary, or crowded?
✔ **A) wholesome**
Salubrious means wholesome, healthful: favorable to health or well-being. Example: **the salubrious mountain air.** The opposite idea is **unsanitary**, which means dirty and likely to cause disease.

9. Does ***hyperbole*** mean anxiety, exaggeration, or deception?
✔ **B) exaggeration**
Hyperbole (pronounced hy-PUR-buh-lee) is deliberate exaggeration used for effect, not meant to be taken literally. Example: **I've told you a million times** is hyperbole. Not **deception**: hyperbole is an obvious overstatement, not an attempt to fool someone.

10. Is a ***sanctimonious*** person self-righteous, impatient, or inconsiderate?
✔ **A) self-righteous**
Sanctimonious means self-righteous: making a show of being morally better or more pious than others. Example: **He gave a sanctimonious lecture on honesty, though he often lied himself.** The word comes from Latin **sanctimonia**, 'holiness', and is always disapproving.