ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Verbal Advantage – Level 08 Word 1 – Word 10 MCQ Test

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

Explanations

1. If someone said, “You have a call from a fellow named Ed at Publishers Clearinghouse,” would you respond with alacrity?
✔ **A) yes**
Alacrity means cheerful eagerness or readiness: you act quickly and willingly. Publishers Clearinghouse is famous for phoning or visiting sweepstakes winners, so most people would rush to take that call. Example: **She accepted the invitation with alacrity.**

2. Can diplomatic negotiations sometimes obviate war?
✔ **A) yes**
To **obviate** something means to prevent it or make it unnecessary by acting in advance. Successful diplomacy can remove the need for war, so it can obviate war. Example: **The new bridge obviates the long detour.**

3. Do volunteers receive emolument for their services?
✔ **B) no**
Emolument is a formal word for payment, salary or fees received for work or for holding an office. Volunteers work without pay, so by definition they receive no emolument.

4. Is it reasonable to expect an intransigent person to capitulate?
✔ **B) no**
An **intransigent** person refuses to compromise or change their position. To **capitulate** means to give in or surrender. Expecting someone who will not budge to give in is not reasonable, so the answer is no.

5. Is a mordant remark a flattering remark?
✔ **B) no**
Mordant means biting, sharply sarcastic or caustic; it comes from the Latin for 'to bite'. A mordant remark stings, so it is the opposite of flattering. Example: **his mordant wit**.

6. Is a sagacious business decision a smart decision?
✔ **A) yes**
Sagacious means wise, shrewd and showing sound judgement. A sagacious business decision is a smart, well-judged one.

7. Would an acerbic person say that life is sweet?
✔ **B) no**
Acerbic means sour or bitter, especially in a sharp, harsh way of speaking. An acerbic person tends to make cutting, cynical comments, so they would be unlikely to say that life is sweet.

8. Could a stock portfolio, the population of a city, and a horse all be described as variegated?
✔ **A) yes**
Variegated means varied in colour or marked with patches of different colours, and by extension diverse or having many different parts. A stock portfolio can be diverse, a city's population can be varied, and a horse can have patches of different colours, so all three can be described as variegated.

9. Can you succor a sick child?
✔ **A) yes**
To **succor** (British **succour**) means to help, comfort or give relief to someone in difficulty or distress. You can certainly care for and comfort a sick child, so yes.

10. When you’re working hard trying to meet a deadline on a project and people keep calling or interrupting you to ask you to do something for them, are they importuning you?
✔ **A) yes**
To **importune** means to pester someone with repeated, annoying requests or demands. People who keep interrupting you to ask for favours while you are rushing to meet a deadline are importuning you.

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