ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Verbal Advantage – Level 09 Word 11 – Word 20 MCQ Test

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

Explanations

1. A puissant opponent is weak and inferior.
✔ **B) false**
Puissant means powerful, mighty or influential, so the statement is false. A **puissant opponent** is strong and dangerous, the opposite of weak and inferior. Example: **a puissant nation with a huge army**.

2. If you are caught peculating, you could go to jail.
✔ **A) true**
To **peculate** means to embezzle, that is, to steal money or property that has been put in your care, such as company or public funds. It is a crime, so someone caught peculating could indeed go to jail. The statement is true.

3. Diffident people never hesitate to speak their minds.
✔ **B) false**
Diffident means shy and lacking self-confidence, so diffident people often hesitate to speak their minds. The statement is false. Someone who never hesitates to speak up is **self-assured** or **outspoken**.

4. A venal person can be influenced by money.
✔ **A) true**
Venal means open to bribery, willing to act dishonestly for money. A venal person can therefore be influenced by money, so the statement is true. Example: **a venal official who sold permits to the highest bidder**. Don't confuse it with **venial**, which means minor and easily forgiven.

5. It's hard to persuade a parsimonious boss to give you a raise.
✔ **A) true**
Parsimonious means extremely unwilling to spend money; stingy or tight-fisted. A parsimonious boss would resist giving you a raise, so the statement is true.

6. When the chips are down and you need a friend, you can be sure that a pusillanimous person will support you.
✔ **B) false**
Pusillanimous means cowardly, lacking courage. When **the chips are down** (a difficult moment), a pusillanimous person is likely to back away rather than stand by you. The statement is false.

7. Dinosaurs are no longer extant.
✔ **A) true**
Extant means still in existence, not destroyed or extinct. Dinosaurs died out millions of years ago, so they are no longer extant. The statement is true. Its opposite is **extinct**. Example: **the oldest extant copy of the manuscript**.

8. Something meretricious is praiseworthy or commendable.
✔ **B) false**
Meretricious means attractive on the surface but cheap, showy or insincere underneath. It describes something tawdry or falsely appealing, not something praiseworthy, so the statement is false. It is easily confused with **meritorious**, which does mean deserving praise.

9. ***Xenophobia*** means dislike of one's neighbors.
✔ **B) false**
Xenophobia is fear or hatred of foreigners or strangers, from Greek **xenos** (stranger, foreigner) and **phobos** (fear). It does not mean dislike of one's neighbors, so the statement is false.

10. A quotidian duty is a duty performed every day.
✔ **A) true**
Quotidian means daily, occurring every day; by extension it can also mean ordinary or commonplace. A quotidian duty is one performed every day, so the statement is true. Example: **the quotidian chores of cooking and cleaning**.

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