ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Verbal Advantage – Level 09 Word 41 – Word 50 MCQ Test

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

Explanations

1. Does ***lassitude*** mean weariness, restraint, or freedom?
✓ **A) weariness**
Lassitude means weariness: a tired, listless state of body or mind with no energy or interest. Example: **The heat filled the whole office with lassitude.** It comes from Latin **lassus**, 'weary'. It has nothing to do with restraint, and it should not be confused with **latitude** (freedom of action), which is why 'freedom' is a trap.

2. Does ***traduce*** mean to compel by force, to make false and malicious statements, or to infer from evidence?
✓ **B) to make false and malicious statements**
To **traduce** someone is to slander or defame them: to make false and malicious statements that damage their reputation. Example: **The senator claimed his rivals had traduced him in the press.** To compel by force is **coerce**, and to infer from evidence is **deduce**. The similar ending of **deduce** is the likely trap.

3. Is a person in ***dishabille*** dirty, partly clothed, or at a loss for what to say or do?
✓ **B) partly clothed**
Dishabille (from French **déshabillé**, 'undressed') is the state of being partly or carelessly dressed. Example: **He answered the door in dishabille, still in his bathrobe.** Being untidy is not the same as being dirty, and being at a loss for what to say or do is **nonplussed**.

4. Is a ***saturnalia*** a feast, a diversion, or an orgy?
✓ **C) an orgy**
With a small **s**, a **saturnalia** is an orgy: a period of wild, unrestrained revelry and excess. Example: **The victory party turned into a saturnalia.** Not 'a feast': the capitalized **Saturnalia** was an ancient Roman festival of Saturn, but the general word stresses unrestrained, often licentious celebration, not simply a large meal or festive occasion.

5. Does ***extirpate*** mean to pull up by the roots, make an educated guess, or keep away from?
✓ **A) pull up by the roots**
To **extirpate** (Latin **ex-**, 'out', plus **stirps**, 'root') is literally to pull up by the roots. Figuratively, it means to destroy completely or root out. Example: **The new government vowed to extirpate corruption.** Making an educated guess is **conjecture**, and keeping away from is **avoid** or **eschew**.

6. Is something ***flagitious*** very insulting, totally unnecessary, or extremely wicked?
✓ **C) extremely wicked**
Flagitious means extremely wicked, shamefully criminal or villainous. Example: **a flagitious abuse of power**. It is much stronger than merely insulting. Do not confuse it with **flagrant** (glaringly obvious), although the two are often used for the same kinds of offences.

7. Does ***peripatetic*** mean taking one's time, walking about, or asking questions?
✓ **B) walking about**
Peripatetic means walking about, or travelling from place to place. Example: **a peripatetic salesman**. The word comes from Aristotle, who taught while walking in the Lyceum, so his followers were called the Peripatetics. Taking one's time would be **dilatory** or **leisurely**.

8. Does ***cachinnate*** mean to object, to ridicule, or to laugh loudly?
✓ **C) to laugh loudly**
To **cachinnate** is to laugh loudly or immoderately, to guffaw. Example: **The audience cachinnated at every joke.** The word is imitative of the sound of loud laughter. Not 'to ridicule': you can laugh loudly without mocking anyone, and ridicule is **deride**.

9. Does ***manumit*** mean to excuse, to liberate, or to allow?
✓ **B) to liberate**
To **manumit** is to liberate, especially to free someone from slavery or servitude. It comes from Latin **manu mittere**, 'to send from one's hand'. Example: **He manumitted his slaves in his will.** The noun is **manumission**. To excuse or to allow suggests permission, not formal release from bondage.

10. Is ***expiation*** acceptance, rejection, or atonement?
✓ **C) atonement**
Expiation is atonement: making amends for a wrong or sin, often through penance or reparation. Example: **He did years of charity work in expiation of his crime.** The verb is **expiate**. Do not confuse it with **expiration** (coming to an end), and do not confuse atonement with mere acceptance.

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