ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Verbal Advantage – Level 10 Review Test

Verbal Advantage - Level 01-10 Vocabulary Tests · 34 questions · Online test and questions PDF: https://englishtestsonline.com/verbal-advantage-level-10-review-test/

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Explanations

1. Which word is a synonym of ***paucity***?
✔ **D) exiguity**
Paucity means a scarcity or smallness of number or amount, as in **a paucity of evidence**. **Exiguity** means the same thing: scantiness or meagreness. Not **superfluity**, which is its opposite (an excess).

2. Which word means to burn the midnight oil or to write in a scholarly or pedantic fashion?
✔ **B) lucubrate**
Lucubrate (from Latin **lucubrare**, to work by lamplight) means to study or write late at night. It also means to write in a laboured, scholarly or pedantic way. Not **expatiate**, which means to speak or write at great length on a subject.

3. Which is ***not*** an accepted meaning of ***troglodyte***?
✔ **C) a vain, boastful person**
A **troglodyte** is a prehistoric cave dweller. By extension it is a person who lives in seclusion, or a brutish, backward person. A vain, boastful person is a **braggart** or **fanfaron**, not a troglodyte.

4. Which word is a synonym of ***anchorite*** and ***eremite***?
✔ **B) hermit**
An **anchorite** and an **eremite** are both people who live alone, away from society, usually for religious reasons. In other words, they are a **hermit**. Not **priest**: a hermit may be religious, but the words stress solitude, not a church office.

5. Which word is a synonym of ***miscellaneous*** and ***heterogeneous***?
✔ **C) farraginous**
Farraginous (from **farrago**, a confused mixture) means formed of various materials, so it is a synonym of **miscellaneous** and **heterogeneous**. Not **protean**, which means able to change form readily, not mixed.

6. ***Cynosure*** and ***cynical*** come ultimately from the Greek ***kynos***, which meant _____.
✔ **A) dog**
Greek **kyōn**, genitive **kynos**, means **dog**. **Cynosure** comes from **kynosoura**, 'dog's tail', the Greek name for the constellation containing the North Star. **Cynical** comes from the Cynic philosophers, who were nicknamed 'doglike'. Not **the North Star**: that is what **cynosure** once referred to, not what **kynos** means.

7. Four of the five words below are related in meaning. Which word has a different, unrelated meaning?
✔ **D) rodomontade**
Badinage, **banter**, **raillery** and **persiflage** all mean light, playful teasing talk. **Rodomontade** means boastful, bragging talk, so it is the odd one out.

8. Which word is a synonym of ***demotic***?
✔ **B) vernacular**
Demotic means of or relating to ordinary people, especially their everyday language, so it is a synonym of **vernacular**. Example: **demotic speech**. Not **pedantic**, which describes the opposite: fussy, bookish language.

9. Which word is an antonym of ***saturnine***?
✔ **C) sanguine**
Saturnine means gloomy, sullen and morose. **Sanguine** means cheerful, hopeful and optimistic, so it is the antonym. Not **taciturn** or **phlegmatic**: these describe reserved or unemotional people and are close to saturnine, not opposite.

10. The lion in ***lionize*** signifies a person who is especially
✔ **C) important**
To **lionize** someone is to treat them as a celebrity. The 'lion' is a person of great interest or importance. The usage comes from the lions at the Tower of London, a famous sight shown to visitors. Not **successful**: a lion may be successful, but the word stresses being important and much sought after.

11. Four of the five words below are related in meaning. Which word has a different, unrelated meaning?
✔ **D) fulmination**
Gasconade, **vainglory**, **fanfaronade** and **jactitation** all refer to boasting or bragging. **Fulmination** means a thunderous verbal attack or denunciation, so it is the odd one out.

12. Which word means weekly or pertaining to a week?
✔ **A) hebdomadal**
Hebdomadal (from Greek **hebdomas**, a group of seven) means weekly, or happening every seven days. Not **hebetudinous**, which looks similar but means dull or lethargic.

13. The combining form ***-philia*** comes from the Greek ***philein***, which means _____.
✔ **A) to love**
Greek **philein** means **to love**. It gives the combining form **-philia**, a love of or attraction to something, as in **bibliophilia**, love of books. Not **to fear**, which is the sense of **-phobia**.

14. Which word means the fear of disrobing in front of someone?
✓ **C) dishabillophobia**
Dishabillophobia comes from French **déshabillé**, undressed. It is the fear of undressing in front of someone. Not **philemaphobia**, which is the fear of kissing.

15. Which word by derivation means a drinking party?
✓ **D) symposium**
Symposium comes from Greek **symposion**: **syn-** (together) plus **posis** (drinking). By derivation it means a drinking party, though today it means a meeting for discussion. Not **deipnosophy**, which is the art of dinner-table conversation.

16. What does ***sanguinary*** mean?
✓ **C) bloody**
Sanguinary means bloody, accompanied by bloodshed, or bloodthirsty, as in **a sanguinary battle**. Not **ruddy** or **cheerful**: those are meanings of the similar word **sanguine**.

17. Which word means easily crumbled or crushed?
✓ **D) friable**
Friable means easily crumbled or crushed into powder, as in **friable soil**. Not **fugacious**, which means fleeting or short-lived.

18. Which word is a synonym of ***vituperate*** and ***excoriate***?
✓ **B) scarify**
Vituperate and **excoriate** mean to criticize harshly and abusively. **Scarify** literally means to make scratches or cuts in the skin, and figuratively it means to wound with severe criticism, so it is the synonym. Not **triturate**, which means to grind into powder, or **expatiate**, which means to speak at length.

19. Which word describes an illness or condition caused by a doctor or by medical treatment?
✓ **B) iatrogenic**
Iatrogenic comes from Greek **iatros** (physician) plus **-genic** (produced by). It describes a disorder caused by a doctor's words, diagnosis or treatment, as in **an iatrogenic infection**. Not **hieratic**, which means priestly, or **apodictic**, which means incontestably true.

20. Which word means the abandonment of a cause, a party, or a religion?
✓ **A) tergiversation**
Tergiversation means turning one's back on a cause, party or religion, i.e. desertion or apostasy. It can also mean evasive, equivocal talk. Not **defenestration**, which is throwing someone out of a window.

21. Which two words are ***not*** synonyms?
✓ **B) otiose, dilatory**
Otiose means idle or lazy, or useless and serving no purpose. **Dilatory** means tending to delay, slow or tardy. They are not synonyms. In the other pairs, **torpid**/**hebetudinous** (dull, sluggish), **somnolent**/**lethargic** (drowsy, sluggish) and **faineant**/**indolent** (lazy, idle) are close in meaning.

22. Which word means rough and bristly?
✓ **D) hispid**
Hispid means covered with stiff hairs or bristles; it is rough and bristly. Not **glabrous**, which is its opposite: smooth and hairless.

23. ***Sciolist*** and ***sciolism*** come from the Latin verb scire, which means _____.
✓ **D) to know**
Latin **scire** means **to know** (compare **science**). A **sciolist** is someone with only superficial knowledge who pretends to be learned, and **sciolism** is such shallow knowledge. Not **to pretend**: pretence is part of the word's meaning, but not of the Latin root.

24. Which word suggests a soft sound?
✓ **C) susurrus**
A **susurrus** is a soft whispering or rustling sound, as in **the susurrus of the leaves**. Not **cachinnation**, which is loud, convulsive laughter, or **cacophony**, which is harsh noise.

25. What does ***chryselephantine*** mean?
✓ **A) made of gold and ivory**
Chryselephantine comes from Greek **chrysos** (gold) plus **elephas** (ivory). It describes something, especially an ancient statue, made of or overlaid with gold and ivory.

26. Which Latin phrase means “words a foot and a half long”?
✓ **B) sesquipedalia verba**
Sesquipedalia verba (Horace) means 'words a foot and a half long', i.e. very long words. It is the source of **sesquipedalian**. Not **verbum sat sapienti**, which means 'a word to the wise is enough'.

27. ***Divagate*** and ***noctivagant*** come from the Latin verb vagari, which means _____.
✓ **C) to wander**
Latin **vagari** means **to wander** (compare **vagrant**, **vague**). To **divagate** is to wander or stray, especially from the subject. **Noctivagant** means wandering at night.

28. Which word denotes speech that urges or advises earnestly?
✓ **B) exhortation**
An **exhortation** is a speech or appeal that urges, encourages or advises someone earnestly. Not **fulmination**, which is a vehement denunciation, or **rodomontade**, which is boastful talk.

29. Which word refers to the tendency of plants to bend or move toward a source of light?
✓ **D) heliotropism**
Heliotropism comes from Greek **helios** (sun) plus **tropos** (turning). It is the tendency of plants to turn or grow toward the sun or another light source. Not **noctivagation**, which means wandering at night.

30. What is ***logomachy***?
✓ **D) a battle of words**
Logomachy comes from Greek **logos** (word) plus **machē** (battle). It means a dispute about words, or a battle of words. Not **the act of reasoning or deducing**: that is **ratiocination**.

31. Which word suggests unscrupulousness or chicanery?
✓ **B) pettifog**
To **pettifog** is to quibble over trifles and use petty, unscrupulous tricks, especially in law; it suggests chicanery. Not **meretricious**, which means showy, tawdry or superficially attractive, not underhand trickery.

32. Which word means having characteristics or qualities of both sexes?
✓ **C) epicene**
Epicene means having characteristics of both sexes, or of neither sex. It can also mean effeminate. Not **frangible**, which means easily broken, or **protean**, which means changeable in form.

33. Which word denotes a vehement denunciation?
✓ **C) execration**
Execration is a vehement denunciation or curse, the act of declaring something utterly detestable. Not **expiation**, which means making amends for a wrong, or **exoneration**, which means freeing someone from blame.

34. Something putative is _____.
✓ **A) thought to be so but not proved**
Putative means generally supposed or reputed to be so, though not proved, as in **the putative father**. Not **apparently true but actually false or deceptive**: that is **specious**. Putative carries no suggestion of deception.

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