ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

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

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

Explanations

1. Can a person's writing be jejune?
✔ **A) yes**
Jejune means dull, uninteresting and lacking substance, or naive and immature. It is often used about writing, ideas or arguments: **a jejune essay full of clichés**. So yes, a person's writing can be jejune.

2. If there is a paucity of evidence against a defendant, does that suggest the prosecuting attorney's case may be weak?
✔ **A) yes**
A **paucity** is a scarcity or shortage of something: **a paucity of evidence** means very little evidence. If there is little evidence against a defendant, the prosecution's case is likely to be weak, so the answer is yes.

3. Would you like to receive a minatory letter from a lawyer?
✔ **B) no**
Minatory means threatening or menacing (from Latin **minari**, 'to threaten'). A **minatory letter** from a lawyer would contain warnings or threats, such as legal action, so most people would not like to receive one.

4. Are a company's putative financial assets the assets it is commonly thought to have?
✔ **A) yes**
Putative means commonly believed, supposed or reputed to be, even though this may not be proven: **the putative father**, **its putative assets**. So a company's putative assets are the assets it is generally thought to have.

5. Does lucubration mean the act of making investments that turn a profit?
✔ **B) no**
Lucubration means laborious, intensive study, especially late at night (originally by lamplight). It can also mean the product of such study, often a heavy, overly learned piece of writing. It has nothing to do with making profitable investments, so the answer is no. Do not confuse it with **lucrative** (profitable).

6. Would you like your daughter to marry a troglodyte?
✔ **B) no**
A **troglodyte** is literally a cave dweller. Figuratively, it describes a crude, brutish or extremely old-fashioned, reactionary person. Few parents would want their daughter to marry such a person, so the expected answer is no.

7. Is the success of an aleatory enterprise guaranteed?
✔ **B) no**
Aleatory means depending on chance, luck or an uncertain outcome (from Latin **alea**, 'dice'). An **aleatory enterprise** is a risky venture whose result is uncertain, so its success is not guaranteed.

8. Can someone have a farrago of thoughts or feelings?
✔ **A) yes**
A **farrago** is a confused mixture or jumble of things, a hodgepodge: **a farrago of lies and half-truths**. It can describe abstract things too, so a person can certainly have a farrago of thoughts or feelings.

9. Is a cynosure something trivial that's likely to be ignored?
✔ **B) no**
A **cynosure** is the centre of attention or admiration, something that draws everyone's eyes: **She was the cynosure of the party**. This is the opposite of something trivial and likely to be ignored, so the answer is no.

10. Do good friends ever engage in badinage?
✔ **A) yes**
Badinage is light, playful, good-humoured teasing or banter. It is typical of relaxed conversation between people who know each other well, so good friends often engage in badinage.

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