ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Verbal Advantage – Level 10 Word 11 – Word 20 MCQ Test

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

Explanations

1. Hieratic writings are priestly, sacred writings.
✔ **A) true**
Hieratic means 'relating to priests or to sacred matters'. It also names an ancient Egyptian cursive script used by priests. So **hieratic writings** are indeed priestly, sacred writings, and the statement is true.

2. A saturnine person is cheerful and optimistic.
✔ **B) false**
Saturnine means gloomy, sullen, gravely serious or bitter in temperament, for example **a saturnine expression**. It is the opposite of cheerful and optimistic, so the statement is false. Don't confuse it with **jovial** (cheerful), which comes from Jupiter.

3. When you execrate someone, you forgive a fault or offense.
✔ **B) false**
To **execrate** someone is to curse or denounce them, or to detest them utterly: **He execrated the traitors.** Forgiving a fault or offense is **condoning** or **pardoning**, almost the opposite, so the statement is false.

4. Smog can vitiate the air, and smoking can vitiate your body.
✔ **A) true**
To **vitiate** means to spoil, corrupt or weaken the quality of something. Smog pollutes and spoils the air, and smoking damages the body, so both uses fit and the statement is true. The word can also mean to make legally invalid: **Fraud vitiates a contract.**

5. A venial indiscretion is an inexcusable indiscretion.
✔ **B) false**
Venial means pardonable, easily excused or forgiven, as in **a venial sin** (a minor one). An inexcusable fault would be **unpardonable**, so the statement is false. Don't confuse **venial** with **venal**, which means 'open to bribery'.

6. A risible statement is an unbelievable statement.
✔ **B) false**
Risible means laughable, causing laughter, often because something is ridiculous: **a risible excuse**. A risible statement may also be hard to believe, but the word itself means 'laughable', not 'unbelievable'. The statement is therefore false.

7. Movie stars and pop musicians are often lionized in the media.
✔ **A) true**
To **lionize** someone is to treat them as a celebrity, giving them great public attention and admiration. The media often do this to film stars and pop musicians, so the statement is true.

8. A contretemps is a favorable or fortunate outcome.
✔ **B) false**
A **contretemps** is an unfortunate or embarrassing mishap, or a minor disagreement: **a diplomatic contretemps**. It is the opposite of a favorable or fortunate outcome, so the statement is false.

9. It’s pleasant to listen to rodomontade.
✔ **B) false**
Rodomontade is boastful, bragging talk, pretentious bluster. Most people find it tiresome, not pleasant, to listen to, so the statement is false.

10. Hebetude is the sign of a sharp mind.
✔ **B) false**
Hebetude means mental dullness, lethargy or stupor, a sluggish state of mind. It is a sign of a dull mind, not a sharp one, so the statement is false.

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