ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Verbal Advantage – Level 10 Word 21 – Word 30 MCQ Test

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

Explanations

1. ***Saturnine*** and ***sanguine*** are _____.
✓ **B) antonyms**
Saturnine means gloomy, sullen and dark in mood (**a saturnine expression**). **Sanguine** means cheerful, hopeful and confident (**sanguine about the future**). Because one describes a gloomy temperament and the other an optimistic one, they are opposites.

2. ***Conversationalist*** and ***deipnosophist*** are _____.
✓ **A) synonyms**
A **deipnosophist** is a person who is skilled at table talk, someone who makes witty, learned conversation at meals. That is a **conversationalist**, so the two words have nearly the same meaning.

3. ***Indestructible*** and ***frangible*** are _____.
✓ **B) antonyms**
Frangible means breakable or fragile (from Latin **frangere**, to break, as in **fracture**). **Indestructible** means impossible to break or destroy, so the words are opposites.

4. ***Doubtful*** and ***apodictic*** are _____.
✓ **B) antonyms**
Apodictic means absolutely certain, clearly proven and beyond dispute (**an apodictic statement**). **Doubtful** means uncertain or open to question, so the two words are opposites.

5. To ***whisper*** and to ***fulminate*** are _____.
✓ **B) antonyms**
To **fulminate** means to thunder or explode in loud, angry protest (**fulminate against corruption**). To **whisper** means to speak very softly and quietly, so the verbs are opposites.

6. To ***lacerate*** and to ***scarify*** are _____.
✓ **A) synonyms**
To **scarify** means to make scratches or small cuts in the skin. Figuratively, it means to wound someone with harsh criticism. To **lacerate** means to tear or cut flesh, or to hurt someone's feelings deeply. Both verbs mean to cut or wound, literally or figuratively, so they are synonyms. Don't confuse **scarify** with **scare**.

7. ***Quotidian*** and ***hebdomadal*** are _____.
✓ **B) antonyms**
Quotidian means daily, happening every day (it can also mean ordinary or commonplace). **Hebdomadal** means weekly, happening every seven days (from Greek **hebdomas**, a group of seven). The words name different, contrasting time periods, so they are not synonyms. In this either/or test they count as antonyms.

8. To ***digress*** and to ***divagate*** are _____.
✓ **A) synonyms**
To **divagate** means to wander or stray, especially from the main subject in speech or writing. To **digress** means the same: to turn aside from the main topic. They are synonyms (**He tended to divagate / digress during lectures**).

9. ***Iatrogenic*** and ***pathological*** are _____.
✓ **B) antonyms**
Iatrogenic (from Greek **iatros**, physician) describes an illness caused by a doctor or by medical treatment. **Pathological** here describes a condition that comes from disease itself. The words contrast the cause of a medical problem (treatment vs. disease), so they are not synonyms. In this either/or test they count as antonyms.

10. ***Loyalty*** and ***tergiversation*** are _____.
✓ **B) antonyms**
Tergiversation means deserting a cause, party or belief, or evading the issue by changing sides. It is a kind of betrayal or turning one's back (from Latin, to turn the back). **Loyalty** means faithful support, so the two words are opposites.

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