ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Verbal Advantage – Level 10 Word 41 – Word 50 MCQ Test

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

Explanations

1. Does something ***protean*** have a powerful influence, assume different shapes or forms, or have indistinct features?
✓ **B) assume different shapes or forms**
Protean means able to change shape or form easily, or very varied and versatile. It comes from Proteus, the Greek sea god who could change his shape at will. Example: **a protean actor who can play any role**.

2. Does ***crepitate*** mean to tremble, to crackle, or to beg?
✓ **B) to crackle**
Crepitate means to make a crackling or rattling sound, like dry leaves underfoot or a fire burning. The noun is **crepitation**. Example: **The logs crepitated in the fireplace.** Not **to tremble**, which is **quiver** or **tremor**.

3. Does a ***noctivagant*** person wander about on foot, wander about in the night, or wander about while asleep?
✓ **B) wander about in the night**
Noctivagant means wandering about at night. It comes from Latin **nox, noctis** (night) and **vagari** (to wander), as in **vagrant**. Not **wander about while asleep**: that is **somnambulant** (sleepwalking).

4. When something is ***fuliginous***, is it wicked, smelly, or sooty?
✓ **C) sooty**
Fuliginous means sooty or smoky, and by extension dark or murky. It comes from Latin **fuligo** (soot). Example: **the fuliginous air of an industrial town**.

5. Is a ***hortatory*** speech encouraging, amusing, or angry?
✓ **A) encouraging**
Hortatory means urging or encouraging people to act, as in giving strong advice. It comes from Latin **hortari** (to urge), which is also the root of **exhort**. Example: **The coach gave a hortatory speech before the final.**

6. Is ***heliolatry*** the worship of false gods, worship of celebrities, or worship of the sun?
✓ **C) worship of the sun**
Heliolatry is the worship of the sun. It combines Greek **helios** (sun) and **-latry** (worship), as in **idolatry**. Not **worship of false gods**, which is closer to **idolatry**.

7. Does ***sciamachy*** mean a mortal combat, shadow-boxing, or talking to oneself?
✓ **B) shadow-boxing**
Sciamachy means shadow-boxing, or fighting an imaginary enemy. It comes from Greek **skia** (shadow) and **mache** (battle). Figuratively, it describes arguing against opponents or problems that don't really exist.

8. Is something ***glabrous*** smooth and bald, rough and bumpy, or soft and lustrous?
✓ **A) smooth and bald**
Glabrous means smooth and hairless, or bald. It comes from Latin **glaber** (smooth, bald). Botanists use it for leaves without hairs. Example: **a glabrous scalp**. Not **soft and lustrous**, which describes something like silk, not a lack of hair.

9. Is a ***pettifogger*** an incompetent doctor; a foolish old person; or a mean, tricky lawyer?
✓ **C) a mean, tricky lawyer**
A **pettifogger** is a petty, quibbling and often dishonest lawyer who handles small cases with tricky methods. By extension, the word describes anyone who argues over trivial details. The verb is **pettifog**.

10. Does ***epicene*** mean having deep wisdom, having characteristics of both sexes, or having a delicate, refined sensibility?
✓ **B) having characteristics of both sexes**
Epicene means having characteristics of both sexes, or of neither. It can also mean effeminate. In grammar, an epicene noun is one with a single form for both males and females. Not **having a delicate, refined sensibility**, which is closer to **aesthetic** or **effete**.

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