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Answer Key: Conquer the Lexicon: Sophomores vs. Advanced Etymology

Deconstruct complex Latin and Greek morphemes through philological analysis to expand linguistic precision in academic writing.

1. In the context of sociopolitical movements, a 'demagogue' uses the suffix -agogue (leader/promoter) and the root 'dem' (people). Which of the following best analyzes the transition of the root 'dem' in the word 'pandemic'?

Answer: A) It shifts from referring to a political group to a biological population.

In 'pandemic,' 'pan-' means all and 'dem' means people; the root transitions from the political sphere (democracy/demagogue) to a broader biological/geographic context of a population.

2. The medical term 'anthropomorphism' is constructed from 'anthropo' (human), 'morph' (shape), and '-ism' (practice/belief). If a philosopher discusses 'theomorphic' entities, they are referring to beings shaped like ____.

Answer: C) Gods

The root 'theo-' comes from the Greek 'theos,' meaning god. Thus, 'theomorphic' means having the form or appearance of a deity.

3. True or False: In the word 'anachronism,' the prefix 'ana-' functions to indicate a chronological error of being 'against' or 'backward' in time.

Answer: A) True

'Ana-' means against/back and 'chron' means time. An anachronism is something placed in a time period where it does not belong.

4. Consider the word 'implacable.' How does the prefix 'im-' interact with the root 'plac' to describe a character's temperament in a tragedy?

Answer: B) It indicates the character cannot be appeased or calmed.

The root 'plac' means to please or calm (as in placate), and the prefix 'im-' means not. An implacable person cannot be calmed or satisfied.

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5. A writer uses the word 'loquacious' to describe a protagonist. Based on the root 'loqu' (to speak) and the suffix '-ious' (full of), a person who engages in a 'soliloquy' is speaking ____.

Answer: C) Alone

The root 'soli' means alone (as in solo). A soliloquy is the act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when alone.

6. True or False: The suffix '-tude' in the words 'vicissitude' and 'magnitude' serves to transform an adjective or root into a noun representing a state or quality.

Answer: A) True

The suffix '-tude' is an abstract noun-forming suffix indicating a condition, state, or quality.

7. Evaluate the word 'peripatetic.' If 'peri-' means 'around' and 'patet' relates to walking, which professional scenario best exemplifies this term?

Answer: C) An itinerant teacher traveling between schools.

Peripatetic describes someone who walks or travels about, such as an itinerant worker or teacher.

8. The root 'mors/mort' means death. While 'immortal' means living forever, the word 'moribund' describes a system or person that is ____.

Answer: B) In the state of dying

The suffix '-bund' can indicate 'tending to' or 'doing.' Moribund refers to something at the point of death or in terminal decline.

9. Synthesize the meaning of 'lucidity' in literature. If 'luc' means light/clear and '-ity' denotes a state, a 'translucent' argument is one that:

Answer: B) Allows some light (meaning) through but is not perfectly clear.

'Trans-' means across/through and 'luc' means light. Translucent means allowing light through semi-clearly, unlike 'transparent' (totally clear).

10. True or False: The word 'equivocate' uses the root 'equi' (equal) and 'voc' (voice) to describe the act of speaking clearly and directly to reach a single conclusion.

Answer: B) False

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False. To equivocate is to use ambiguous language to conceal the truth (literally giving 'equal voice' to two different interpretations to be vague).