ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Adjectives – Adverbs – Comparisons Test B1 Grammar Exercises

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Explanations

1. My arm still hurts, but it's not _____ bad _____ it was before.
✔ **B) as / as**
We compare two equal things with **as + adjective + as**. In a negative sentence, **not as bad as** means it is less bad now than before.

2. My friends don't agree with me, but I find maths _____ the other school subjects.
✔ **A) less difficult than**
A comparative needs **than** before the second thing: **less difficult than** the other subjects. Not **more difficult**, because **than** is missing.

3. She finds even _____ rides in the amusement park so thrilling.
✔ **C) the most horrible**
Even points to the extreme case, so we need the superlative: **the most horrible rides**. She enjoys even the scariest ones.

4. If you do it a little _____, I'm sure you can solve this question.
✔ **D) more carefully**
Do is a verb, so it needs an adverb, and **a little** goes with a comparative: **a little more carefully**. Not **careful**, which is an adjective.

5. This price is by far _____ one you can ever get for this phone.
✔ **B) the best**
By far makes a superlative stronger: **by far the best**. Not **the better**, which we use only when comparing two things.

6. Frank is one of _____ students in my class.
✔ **A) the least enthusiastic**
One of is followed by a superlative and a plural noun: **one of the least enthusiastic students**. An adjective is needed before the noun, not an adverb.

7. Since Simon learnt that I was the boss's son, he has been treating me quite _____.
✔ **B) differently**
The word describes how he treats me, so it must be an adverb: **treating me differently**. Not **different**, which is an adjective.

8. Parrots have _____ the longest life expectancy _____ all pet birds.
✔ **D) by far / of**
By far makes a superlative stronger, and after a superlative we use **of** + a group: **by far the longest ... of all pet birds**. Not **than**, which goes with comparatives like **longer**.

9. The local festival we attended was far _____ interesting _____ I had imagined.
✔ **A) more / than**
Far makes a comparative stronger: **far more interesting than**. A comparative with **more** is followed by **than**.

10. The _____ something is, the _____ its quality is.
✔ **C) cheaper / worse**
The pattern **the + comparative ..., the + comparative ...** shows that two things change together: **The cheaper something is, the worse its quality is.** After **is**, we need adjectives, not adverbs.

11. Sound waves move much _____ in the air than they do in solids and liquids.
✔ **A) more slowly**
Move is a verb, so we need a comparative adverb: **much more slowly than**. Sound really is slower in air than in solids and liquids. Not **more slow**, because **slow** is an adjective.

12. Norman's birthday gift for Janet was a (an) _____ pink _____ scarf.
✔ **A) wonderful / silk**
Adjectives usually go in this order: opinion, size, age, colour, origin, material. So we say **a wonderful pink silk scarf**: opinion before colour, and material after colour. Not **excellent / long**, because size (**long**) must come before colour.

13. Although Alicia sang _____, she got the highest score from the jury.
✔ **A) the worst**
Although shows a surprising contrast: she sang **the worst** (superlative of **badly**) but still got the highest score. The other options are incomplete or don't give this contrast.

14. The centre of the sun is _____ hotter _____ its surface.
✔ **C) far / than**
Far makes a comparative stronger, and a comparative is followed by **than**: **far hotter than** its surface. Not **very / than**, because **very** cannot go before a comparative (we can't say **very hotter**). Not **much / as**: **much** is fine, but **as** cannot follow **hotter**.

15. To get _____ information about the illness and its treatment, you should consult a doctor.
✔ **B) further**
Further can mean **more** or **extra**: **further information**. **Farther** is only about physical distance.

16. The classroom was _____ for forty students to sit _____.
✓ **D) too small / comfortably**
Too + adjective + for someone + to do means it is not possible: the room was **too small** for forty students. **Sit** is a verb, so it takes the adverb **comfortably**.

17. The Danube, which empties into the Black Sea, is the EU's _____ river.
✓ **C) longest**
The possessive **the EU's** already acts like **the**, so we say **the EU's longest river**, not **the EU's the longer river**. We use the superlative because the Danube is compared with all the rivers in the EU.

18. Olga has started working at a _____ respected company _____.
✓ **A) highly / lately**
Highly means **very much**: **a highly respected company**. **Lately** means **recently** and often goes with the present perfect. Not **high** or **late**, which have different meanings (**late** = not on time).

19. This food smells _____ and tastes equally _____.
✓ **C) awful / bad**
Sense verbs like **smell** and **taste** are followed by adjectives, not adverbs: **smells awful**, **tastes bad**. Not **badly**, because **taste** here describes the food, not an action.

20. Yesterday's stand-up comedy wasn't _____ amusing _____ the previous shows, but still everybody laughed at the jokes for minutes.
✓ **D) so / as**
In negative comparisons we can use **not so ... as** (or **not as ... as**): **wasn't so amusing as the previous shows**. Not **so / that**, which shows a result, not a comparison.

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