ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Adjectives and Adverbs Advanced Level MCQs Test With Answers 2

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Explanations

1. She had acted _____ she was dismissed immediately.
✔ **C) so unprofessionally that**
So + adverb + **that** shows a cause and its result: she acted in a very unprofessional way, and the result was that she was dismissed. Not **unprofessionally enough**, because **enough** would need **to** + infinitive (**enough to be dismissed**), not a new clause.

2. _____ we climbed, _____ the air became, which made it difficult for us to proceed.
✔ **A) The higher / the colder**
Two parallel changes are expressed with **the** + comparative, **the** + comparative: **The higher we climbed, the colder the air became.** Superlatives (**the highest / the coldest**) cannot be used in this structure.

3. The Goosander is one of _____ ducks which nest in tree holes. They are highly efficient underwater swimmers, being able to stay submerged for _____ a minute.
✔ **B) the few / longer than**
One of the few ducks means that only a small number of ducks nest in tree holes. **Longer than a minute** compares the time with one minute. Not **the most / the longest**, because **one of the most ducks** is not correct English.

4. Records of Johannes Gutenberg are _____ vague for us to be able to know what he looked like or even his actual date of birth.
✔ **E) too**
Too + adjective + **for somebody to do something** means that something is more than is acceptable, so the action is impossible: the records are so vague that we cannot know what he looked like. **So** would need a **that** clause (**so vague that we cannot know**).

5. I wish my cousin would type his letters to me as his handwriting is _____ legible.
✔ **D) barely**
Barely means 'almost not': his handwriting is **barely legible**, so it can hardly be read, and that is why the writer wants typed letters. **Slightly legible** is not a natural collocation, and **utterly** goes with negative words (**utterly illegible**).

6. I made a bit of a mess of wrapping Matthew's present, but it was _____ shape to wrap.
✔ **D) such an awkward**
Such + **a/an** + adjective + noun is used for emphasis: **such an awkward shape**. Not **too awkward**, because **too** is followed by an adjective with no noun (**too awkward to wrap**), not **too awkward shape**.

7. The Renault Megane uses a little _____ petrol than the Skoda Esprit, but it performs _____ better.
✔ **E) more / much**
The first gap needs a comparative before **than**: **a little more petrol than** means a small extra amount of the uncountable noun **petrol**. In the second gap, **much** makes the comparative **better** stronger: **much better**. Not **the most / a lot**: **a lot better** is fine, but **a little the most petrol than** is wrong, because a superlative cannot be used with **than**.

8. I didn't find the ski runs _____ so exhilarating as the ones in St Moritz.
✔ **C) nearly**
Not nearly as/so ... as means 'much less than': the ski runs were much less exciting than the ones in St Moritz. Here the negative comes from **didn't find**. **Nearly** is the only adverb that works in this fixed pattern.

9. Farmer Parkinson's dog is _____ to scare any intruder.
✔ **A) ferocious enough**
Adjective + **enough** + **to**-infinitive means 'as much as is needed': the dog is **ferocious enough to scare** any intruder. Not **so ferocious that**, because **so ... that** must be followed by a full clause, not **to scare**.

10. The fire could have been caused by a faulty heater or by a cigarette that was left burning. The fire brigade suspects _____.
✔ **B) the latter**
When two things have been mentioned, **the former** refers to the first and **the latter** to the second. Here **the latter** means the cigarette. Not **the latest**, which means 'the most recent'.

11. _____ dangerously a person lives, _____ likely he or she is to die young.
✔ **B) The more / the more**
The more ..., the more ... shows that two things increase together: **The more dangerously a person lives, the more likely he or she is to die young.** Superlatives (**the most**) cannot be used in this structure.

12. To the thief, the bracelet will be _____ as it is only made of pewter, but to me, it was precious because my aunt had given it to me just before she died.
✔ **C) worthless**
Worthless means 'having no money value'. Pewter is a cheap metal, so the bracelet has no value for the thief, although it is precious to the writer. Not **priceless**, which means the opposite: 'extremely valuable'.

13. Her economic situation has got _____ worse since she gave up her job because of her illness.
✔ **D) even**
Even + comparative stresses that something already bad has become worse still: **even worse**. **So**, **too** and **more** cannot come before **worse** in this way.

14. Of all the problems she has faced, this one is by far _____.
✔ **E) the worst**
Of all the problems compares one problem with the whole group, so a superlative is needed: **the worst**. **By far** strengthens a superlative. Not **worse**, because a comparative compares only two things and would need **than**.

15. I was _____ at the time to help him with his project at all, so it is completely his own work.
✔ **A) too busy**
Too + adjective + **to**-infinitive means the situation made the action impossible: **too busy to help him**. This is why the project is completely his own work. Not **so busy**, which would need a **that** clause.

16. I've had _____ trouble starting the car lately _____ I think I'll have to take it to the garage.
✔ **A) so much / that**
So much + uncountable noun + **that** gives a cause and its result: **so much trouble that I think I'll have to take it to the garage**. **Trouble** is uncountable, so **too many** is wrong. **Such a lot of** would also need **that**, not **as**.

17. In today's busy world traditional crafts, _____ knitting and embroidery, are declining in popularity.
✔ **D) such as**
Such as introduces examples: knitting and embroidery are examples of traditional crafts. **Such** alone cannot introduce a list of examples in this way.

18. The decision to promote him was based _____ on his sales record, and neither his management skills nor his organizational ability was taken into account.
✔ **E) solely**
Solely means 'only'. The second half of the sentence says that nothing else was considered, so the decision was based **solely** on his sales record. Not **barely**, which means 'almost not' and contradicts the sentence.

19. The holiday we spent in Canada turned out to be _____ expensive than we'd expected.
✔ **C) less**
Than shows that a comparative is needed: **less expensive than** means 'cheaper than'. **Much** and **a little** can only strengthen a comparative (**much more expensive**). They cannot form one on their own.

20. Don't be too critical of Mark as this is the first time he's played in _____ an important match.
✔ **B) such**
Such + **a/an** + adjective + noun gives emphasis: **such an important match**. Not **so**, because **so** goes before an adjective without a noun (**so important**). Otherwise the word order must change to **so important a match**.

21. I don't know why _____ people find skiing great. I can't think of anything _____ being cold and frightened at the same time.
✔ **D) so many / worse than**
So many + plural countable noun expresses surprise at the large number: **so many people**. **Anything worse than** compares skiing with all other experiences. Not **too many**, because **too** means 'more than is acceptable', which does not fit the speaker's surprise.

22. The Queen Mother, who turned 100 in 2000, was _____ member of the British royal family at that time.
✔ **D) the eldest**
Eldest is the superlative of **old** that is used for people in the same family, so **the eldest member** of the royal family is natural. Not **much older**, because a comparative needs **than** and something to compare with.

23. As their conversation continued, she became _____ of the strange-looking gentleman.
✔ **B) more and more suspicious**
More and more + adjective shows a gradual increase: **she became more and more suspicious**. After the linking verb **become**, we use an adjective, not an adverb, so **suspiciously** is wrong.

24. _____ the trial progressed, _____ apparent it became that he was guilty.
✔ **C) The further / the more**
The + comparative, **the** + comparative links two changes: **The further the trial progressed, the more apparent it became. Further** is used here for progress in time or degree. Superlatives (**the farthest**, **the furthest**) cannot be used in this pattern.

25. If he spent _____ money on his family _____ he does on beer, his children wouldn't be running around without shoes on.
✔ **A) as much / as**
As much + uncountable noun + **as** compares two equal amounts: **as much money on his family as he does on beer**. **Money** is uncountable, so **much** is correct. **A little** cannot be followed by **than**.

26. I know we didn't stop overnight when we drove to Scotland last year, but the Isle of Skye is much _____ Edinburgh.
✔ **B) farther than**
Much + comparative + **than** shows a big difference in distance: **much farther than Edinburgh**. **Much** cannot be used with **as far as** or with the superlative **the farthest**.

27. The holiday firm was accused of _____ misleading holidaymakers about the location of their hotel.
✔ **B) deliberately**
Deliberately means 'on purpose'. People are **accused of** doing something wrong intentionally, so **deliberately misleading** fits. Not **accidentally**, because you would not normally be accused of an innocent mistake.

28. We took a tour of the most amazing chateau during our holiday, which we discovered _____ by accident.
✔ **A) purely**
Purely by accident is a common collocation meaning 'only by chance'. Not **deliberately**, because 'on purpose' contradicts **by accident**.

29. The ruddy duck is _____ seen in the wild on British lakes or rivers.
✓ **D) rarely**
The gap describes the verb **seen**, so an adverb is needed: **rarely seen** means 'not often seen'. **Rare**, **too rare** and **the rarest** are adjective forms and cannot describe a verb.

30. You should have _____ material for a skirt if you are careful about how you lay the pattern out.
✓ **B) enough**
Enough + noun means 'as much as you need': **enough material for a skirt**. Not **much**, which is rare in positive sentences and does not give the meaning 'the right amount'.

31. _____, the tourists didn't want to go to the town where the riots had taken place just a few weeks before.
✓ **E) Understandably**
Understandably is a comment adverb meaning 'as anyone would expect'. It is natural that the tourists avoided a town where there had recently been riots. Not **Reluctantly**, because you do something reluctantly; it does not fit with **didn't want to**.

32. Considering he is the top salesman, he is really _____ and never boasts at all.
✓ **C) modest**
Modest means 'not talking proudly about your own success'. The clue is **never boasts**. Not **confident**, which does not explain why he never boasts.

33. I believe no one could have investigated the matter _____ we did.
✓ **B) as thoroughly as**
As + adverb + **as** compares two actions as equal: **no one could have investigated as thoroughly as we did**. An adverb is needed because it describes the verb **investigated**, so **more thorough than** is wrong.

34. When I moved into the house, the grease on the oven was _____ it took me a whole morning to remove it.
✓ **A) so thick that**
So + adjective + **that** + clause shows a result: the grease was **so thick that** it took a whole morning to remove. Not **too thick**, which would need **to**-infinitive (**too thick to remove easily**), not a clause.

35. The director thought our proposal was _____ a good idea that he suggested we start implementing it immediately.
✓ **C) such**
Such + **a** + adjective + noun + **that** gives emphasis and a result: **such a good idea that he suggested we start immediately**. Not **so**, because **so** is used before an adjective alone (**so good that**).

36. I don't know why the purchasing assistant is complaining as, of all the staff, she's _____ affected by the changes.
✓ **E) the least**
Of all the staff compares her with the whole group, so a superlative is needed: **the least affected** means 'affected less than anyone else'. Not **the lesser**, which is used to compare only two things.

37. A: Well, you've been _____ today, haven't you?

B: Yes, not only have I put up these new shelves, but I have also mended the leaky tap in the bathroom.
✓ **A) industrious**
Industrious means 'hard-working and busy'. B has put up shelves and mended a tap, so he has done a lot of work today. Not **careful**, because the jobs show how much he did, not how carefully he did them.

38. The county of Kent is _____ it's known as the Garden of England.
✓ **B) so fertile that**
So + adjective + **that** + clause shows a result: Kent is **so fertile that** it has the nickname 'the Garden of England'. The other options cannot be followed by a full clause like **it's known as ...**.

39. Simon and John are twins, but they are not identical ones; in fact, they are quite _____ from each other.
✓ **C) different**
Different from is the correct pattern, and **in fact** introduces a stronger statement: the twins are not only non-identical but **quite different**. Not **similar**, which goes with **to**, not **from**, and contradicts the sentence.

40. The dry-cleaner's couldn't get the stain out completely, but you can _____ see it now.
✓ **C) barely**
Barely means 'almost not': **you can barely see it** means the stain is now very hard to see. Not **virtually**, **practically** or **nearly**, because **you can virtually see it** would mean you can almost see it, which is not what the speaker wants to say.

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