ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Adjectives and Adverbs Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 1

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Explanations

1. He is _____ better at golf _____ at swimming because he doesn't even know how to hit the ball.
✔ **E) no / than**
no + comparative + **than** means 'not at all better'. Here it shows that he is equally bad at both sports: **He is no better at golf than at swimming.** A comparison with **better** always needs **than**, so pairs such as **any / so** or **more / to** are wrong. **Much better than** is grammatical, but it contradicts the clue that he cannot even hit the ball.

2. Do you know that ice-cream has about _____ calories as three glasses of milk?
✔ **B) as many**
Equal comparisons use **as … as**. **Calories** is a countable plural noun, so we need **as many**: **as many calories as three glasses of milk**. Not **as much**, which goes with uncountable nouns such as **as much sugar**.

3. I have no doubt that in 2007 the French and the Germans will continue to be _____ receptive to foreign entrepreneurs _____ the British.
✔ **D) less / than**
A comparative of inferiority is made with **less** + adjective + **than**: **less receptive than the British**. **more / as** mixes two patterns; it would have to be **more … than** or **as … as**. **such / that** and **so / that** express result, not comparison.

4. Few inventions have _____ powerfully influenced the political and economic development of our world _____ the internet.
✔ **D) so / as**
After a negative or limiting word such as **few**, we can compare with **so** + adverb + **as**: **Few inventions have so powerfully influenced … as the internet** (= the internet influenced it more than almost anything else). **much / than** is wrong because **than** needs a comparative form such as **more powerfully**.

5. Did you know that learning to ski is _____ than learning to skate?
✔ **B) much easier**
Easier is already a comparative, and it can be strengthened with **much**, **far** or **a lot**: **much easier than**. Not **far more easier**, which is a double comparative. **as easy** would need **as**, not **than**, and **the easiest** is a superlative.

6. Antique sales in the United States are _____ profitable _____ they used to be.
✔ **A) more / than**
The comparative pattern is **more** + adjective + **than**: **more profitable than they used to be**. **so … as** is only used in negative sentences (**not so profitable as**), and **as … than** mixes two patterns.

7. He hasn't done _____ well in life _____ his sister because he's been given fewer chances.
✔ **A) so / as**
In negative sentences, **not so … as** is an alternative to **not as … as**: **He hasn't done so well in life as his sister.** Not **more / than**, because the comparative of **well** is **better**, never **more well**. **so / that** would introduce a result, not a comparison.

8. You should be concentrating on your project _____ listening to music all night long.
✔ **C) rather than**
Rather than means 'instead of'. It contrasts the preferred action with the one being rejected: **concentrating on your project rather than listening to music**. **so that** introduces a purpose and **even if** a concession, so neither fits.

9. It's _____ a box for me to lift by myself so I think I need some help with this.
✔ **B) too heavy**
The pattern **too** + adjective + **a** + noun + **for somebody to do** shows that something is beyond a limit: **too heavy a box for me to lift**. **Such heavy** is wrong because it would have to be **such a heavy box**, and **very heavy** cannot be followed by **a box … to lift**.

10. I have _____ little free time _____ I probably won't be able to attend the meeting.
✔ **C) so / that**
We use **so** + **much/many/little/few** + noun + **that** to show a result: **so little free time that I probably won't be able to attend**. **such a** is only used with a singular countable noun (**such a short break**), not with **little free time**.

11. His attitude towards the verdict was _____ everyone supposed he was guilty.
✔ **C) such that**
be such that means 'be of such a kind or degree that'. It introduces a result: **His attitude was such that everyone supposed he was guilty** (his attitude made everyone think he was guilty). **as** cannot introduce this result clause, and **so much** would need **that** after it.

12. This pullover is _____ thicker than that black one but it seems it is of _____ worse quality.
✔ **C) slightly / much**
Comparatives can be modified by words of degree such as **slightly** (a little) and **much** (a lot): **slightly thicker**, **of much worse quality**. **very** and **quite** cannot normally go before a comparative (**very thicker** is wrong). **more worse** is a double comparative.

13. When the weather warms up again, it will also be the time when butterflies become _____ and lay many eggs which will soon turn into nice, chubby, juicy caterpillars, the favourite food of wasps and their larvae.
✔ **E) more active**
Become is a linking verb, so it is followed by an adjective, not an adverb: **become more active**. No second item is mentioned, so no **than** or **as** is needed. The comparison is with the colder period. **more actively than** is wrong because **actively** is an adverb.

14. Those who had been attacked gradually left, leaving Birmingham a _____ conservative city _____ it had been throughout the eighteenth century.
✔ **B) more / than**
The comparative **more** + adjective + **than** compares Birmingham after the events with Birmingham earlier: **a more conservative city than it had been**. **much / as** mixes patterns, and **so / that** or **such / that** would express a result.

15. Our teacher was so indecisive that she was _____ persuaded to change her mind again.
✔ **A) readily**
Readily means 'easily and quickly, without resistance'. An indecisive person is **readily persuaded** to change her mind. **hardly** would mean almost not persuaded, which contradicts **so indecisive**.

16. Prevention of future needs will often avert far _____ hardship _____ a response after the fact.
✔ **D) more / than**
Far intensifies a comparative, and **more … than** compares two amounts of the uncountable noun **hardship**: **far more hardship than a response after the fact**. **as / as** cannot follow **far** in this way, and **so / that** expresses result.

17. Although no two language courses are organized in _____ the same way, nearly all of them use the same type of system, materials and curriculum.
✔ **D) exactly**
Exactly the same means 'identical in every detail'. The sentence says that no two courses are fully identical, although they are very similar. **roughly** and **approximately** would make the sentence illogical: courses organized 'roughly the same way' would not contrast with **nearly all … use the same system**.

18. Our manager always says that he has met _____ different businessmen in his career _____ he now knows all kinds of them very well.
✔ **D) so many / that**
so many + plural noun + **that** introduces a result: **so many different businessmen that he now knows all kinds of them**. Not **too much**, because **businessmen** is countable and **too** suggests a negative excess. **more / than** compares rather than shows a result.

19. John's parents received a letter from his teacher that said he was a good student, but that he talked to his friends _____ during the lesson.
✔ **E) incessantly**
Incessantly means 'without stopping', which fits a student who keeps talking during the lesson: **He talked incessantly. incoherently** (unclearly, without logic) is tempting, but the teacher's complaint is about how much he talks, not how clearly.

20. "Did you enjoy your vacation?"

"Well, I didn't like Egypt _____ Turkey."
✔ **B) half as much as**
Multiples and fractions go before **as … as**: **half as much as**, **twice as much as**. **I didn't like Egypt half as much as Turkey** means 'I liked Turkey much more'. **half the much** is wrong; **half the** is used with nouns, as in **half the price**.

21. It was _____ a boring book _____ I didn't want to read it once more.
✔ **E) such / that**
such a + adjective + singular noun + **that** shows a result: **such a boring book that I didn't want to read it again**. Not **so / that**, because **so** goes directly before an adjective without a noun: **The book was so boring that …**

22. Actually, I didn't grow up here. I _____ moved here from another town.
✔ **A) recently**
Recently means 'not long ago' and works with the past simple: **I recently moved here.** It explains why the speaker didn't grow up in this place. **nearly** and **almost** would mean the move did not actually happen.

23. The party was not a success because _____ anyone came.
✔ **D) hardly**
Hardly anyone means 'almost nobody', which explains why the party was not a success. Not **almost**, because we say **almost nobody** or **almost everyone**, not **almost anyone** in this meaning.

24. If the operation hadn't been _____ successful, her nose would have been very _____ worse by now.
✔ **D) so / much**
so intensifies an adjective (**so successful**). **very much** intensifies a comparative (**very much worse**). **such** needs a noun after it (**such a success**). **very a lot** and **very far** are not possible.

25. Glaciers erode material as they move, and deposit that material _____ along their paths, forming a number of easily recognizable features that are characteristic of areas that were once glaciated.
✔ **C) farther**
Farther is the comparative of **far** and refers to physical distance: glaciers deposit material **farther along their paths**, at a later point than where they picked it up. No comparison follows, so **farther than** is wrong, and **as far as** would need a point of reference.