ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Adjectives Test Exercises – Multiple Choice Questions With Answers – Advanced Level 23

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Explanations

1. Look at that giant man. Have you ever seen a _____ one?
✔ **E) taller**
The question compares that man with all other men, so we need the comparative **taller**: **Have you ever seen a taller one?** Not **tallest**: a superlative needs **the**, not **a**.

2. Look at that skyscraper. Have you ever seen a _____ one?
✔ **C) taller**
We describe the height of buildings with **tall**. The comparative **taller** asks whether you have ever seen a building higher than this one. Not **longer**: **long** describes length, not the height of a building.

3. "I am _____ today" means I didn't come on time.
✔ **D) late**
Late means after the expected time, so **I am late** means you didn't arrive on time. **Punctual** and **early** mean the opposite.

4. He is a (an) _____ friend of mine. I am very happy to see him again.
✔ **A) old**
An **old friend** is someone you have been friends with for a long time. It does not mean an elderly person, which is why you are happy to see him again. We say **an old friend** because **old** starts with a vowel sound. Not **ancestor**: it is a noun meaning a family member who lived long ago.

5. He is _____ interested in what we are talking about. He may be a spy for the other team.
✔ **D) very much**
The second sentence (he may be a spy) shows that he is listening closely, so he is **very much interested**. **Very much** can go before **interested** for emphasis. Not **not**: a spy would be interested. **Unentirely** and **ignoringly** are not real words.

6. Firstly, macaroni is put into the _____ water and then fried in a pan.
✔ **E) boiling**
Boiling water is water that is boiling right now, at 100°C, and that is where pasta is cooked. Not **boiled**: **boiled water** has already been boiled and may now be cold.

7. The teacher is _____ for all the students in the class.
✔ **C) responsible**
The adjective **responsible** goes with **for**: **be responsible for someone or something**. Not **responsibility**: it is a noun and cannot follow **is** here without an article.

8. I was very rude to you and still feel very _____ of myself.
✔ **E) ashamed**
Be ashamed of yourself is the fixed pattern for feeling bad about your own behaviour. Not **sorry**: we say **sorry for/about**, and **feel sorry for myself** means self-pity. **Apologetic** does not take **of**.

9. More information becomes _____ through the use of computers.
✔ **A) available**
Available means that something can be found, got or used. Computers make more information **available** to people. Not **possible**: **possible** describes actions or events, not information.

10. That people always fear the things they don't know well is a _____ fact.
✔ **E) well-known**
A well-known fact is something that most people know. The sentence states a general truth that everybody accepts. Not **complete**: we don't say **a complete fact**.

11. We don't know the exact dimensions: how _____ the pool and how _____ the skyscraper is.
✔ **D) deep / tall**
We measure how far down a pool goes (**how deep**) and how high a skyscraper is (**how tall**). Not **deep / long**: **long** describes length, not the height of a building.

12. That watch was very important for me because it was _____.
✔ **A) handmade**
Handmade means made by a person's hands, not by a machine. That makes a watch special and gives a reason for it to be important. **Unvaluable** is not a word (we say **invaluable** or **valueless**), and **stolen** gives no reason for the watch to matter.

13. They gave me a _____, bright, clean room with a sea view.
✓ **E) beautiful**
The list **bright, clean** contains only positive adjectives, so the gap needs another positive one: **beautiful**. **Dark** and **boring** clash with **bright** and with the positive tone. A **sea view** is a view of the sea from your window.

14. _____ of this country are fed by soup kitchens.
✓ **C) The poor**
The + adjective (**the poor, the rich, the young**) refers to a whole group of people and takes a plural verb. Soup kitchens feed people who have no money, so the answer is **the poor**. Not **Poors** or **Poor**: adjectives used this way never take -s and always need **the**.

15. Commercial relationships with Iraq are growing to a _____ position. The petrol pipeline has been opened recently.
✓ **D) better**
After **a** and before the noun **position** we need an adjective. The comparative **better** shows that relations are improving, and the newly opened pipeline is the clue. Not **rapidly**: it is an adverb. **A fast position** makes no sense, and **least** would need **the**.

16. There were _____ deaths last year than there are this year.
✓ **C) many more**
Than needs a comparative. **Deaths** is a countable plural noun, so we use **many more**. Not **much more**: **much** goes with uncountable nouns, e.g. **much more money**. **So few** cannot be followed by **than**.

17. These goods are on sale. Thus, these are _____ than the others.
✓ **D) much cheaper**
Than needs a comparative, and **much** makes a comparative stronger: **much cheaper than**. Not **the cheaper**: a comparative followed by **than** does not take **the**.

18. The price of bread is getting _____ and _____ expensive in Turkey.
✓ **E) more / more**
More and more + adjective shows that something keeps increasing: **getting more and more expensive**. The two words in this pattern must be the same. Not **more / less**: mixing them makes no sense, and **less and less expensive** would mean the opposite.

19. The place is _____ away than we expected it to be.
✓ **E) much further**
With **away** we need the comparative of **far**: **further** (or **farther**) **away**. **Much** makes it stronger: **much further away than we expected**. Not **a lot** or **many more**: we cannot say **a lot away** or **more away**.

20. My room is _____ than anybody else's room.
✓ **C) cleaner**
Than needs a comparative: **cleaner than anybody else's**. Not **the cleanest**: a superlative cannot be used with **than**.

21. Your hair is completely _____ from mine.
✓ **A) different**
Different from is the usual pattern, and **completely** can go before it: **completely different from mine**. Not **more different**: **completely** doesn't go with a comparative, and there is no **than**.

22. I have a friend just like that man. They are _____ the same.
✓ **E) exactly**
Exactly the same means the same in every way. Not **very**: it cannot go before **the same**, and **a little** and **some** don't fit this pattern either.

23. The Turkish national anthem is _____ beautiful poem I have ever read in my life.
✓ **E) the most**
A superlative is often followed by **I have ever** + past participle: **the most beautiful poem I have ever read**. Not **much more** or **far more**: these are comparatives and would need **than**.

24. More use could be made of subjects such as _____ studies, history and geography.
✓ **A) environmental**
Environmental studies is a school subject about nature and the environment, like **history** and **geography**. None of the other words forms a subject name. **Customers** and **heritage** are nouns, and **exciting studies** or **entire studies** are not subjects.

25. _____ of my bicycle's tyres are flat because I haven't pumped _____ air into them for a long time.
✓ **A) Both / any**
A bicycle has two tyres, so we use **both of**. In a negative sentence, **any** goes with uncountable nouns like air: **I haven't pumped any air**. Not **All of**: we normally use **all** for three or more. **Neither** and **None** contradict **are flat**, and **haven't ... no** is a double negative.

26. The things she prepared for the dinner were _____ the meal I prepared for the lunch.
✓ **D) no better than**
No better than means 'not better at all', so her dinner was the same as or worse than my lunch. The comparative **better** needs **than**, and **no** makes it negative. Not **less good**: it has no **than** to connect it to **the meal**.

27. The smile on his face didn't reflect his _____ feelings.
✓ **C) inner**
Inner feelings are the private feelings you keep inside and don't show, and **inner** is the usual adjective for emotions and thoughts. The smile hid what he really felt. Not **internal**: it is used for organs and organisations, e.g. **internal bleeding**, **internal affairs**.

28. The invention of new forms of sport and the conversion of play into sport were two of the _____ marks of the last century; the transformation of tennis and golf into tournament spectacles in our days is an example.
✓ **E) distinctive**
Distinctive means typical of something and making it different from others. The **distinctive marks** of the century are its special, characteristic features. Not **distinguish**: it is a verb, and an adjective is needed before **marks**. **Discriminative** means 'making distinctions' and does not collocate with **marks**.

29. In the latest forms of mass sport, like air races and motor races, the thrill of the spectacle is intensified by the promise of immediate death or _____ injury.
✔ **B) fatal**
Fatal means causing death: a **fatal injury** is one that kills. It matches **immediate death** earlier in the sentence. Not **vital**: it means 'very important' or 'necessary for life', not 'deadly'.

30. Sport, which began perhaps as a _____ reaction against the machine, has become one of the most organized aspects of the machine age.
✔ **A) spontaneous**
Spontaneous means happening naturally, without planning or force. The contrast with **one of the most organized aspects of the machine age** shows that sport began as something unplanned. Not **obligatory** or **professionalized**: they mean the opposite of the starting point the writer describes.

31. The excitement of sport is a temporary and only a _____ release.
✔ **D) superficial**
Superficial means only on the surface, not deep or lasting. **Only a** signals a limitation and matches **temporary**. Not **effective**: it would praise the release, while **only** shows a negative judgement.

32. The croaking of frogs, the singing of birds, the howling of monkeys, and even the language of dolphins certainly play a role in establishing _____ claims and social status.
✔ **C) territorial**
Territorial claims are an animal's claims to an area (its territory) as its own. Sounds like birdsong and croaking warn others to keep out. Not **destructive**: these sounds mark territory and help animals avoid real fighting.

33. Social organization limits the severity of conflicts within the group, and in many cases, it prevents _____ combat except in unusual situations.
✔ **D) destructive**
Destructive combat is fighting that causes serious harm or death. The sentence says social organization limits the **severity** of conflicts, so it prevents the harmful kind of fighting. Not **primitive** or **social**: they say nothing about how severe the fighting is.

34. In this mechanized society, sport is no longer a mere game empty of any reward other than the playing; it is a _____ business: millions are invested in arenas.
✔ **B) profitable**
Profitable means making money. The clue is **millions are invested in arenas**: sport is now a money-making business. Not **benefit**: it is a noun, but an adjective is needed before **business**.

35. Civilized human societies, and probably most _____ human societies as well, tend to regard the individual person as the significant biological unit.
✔ **C) primitive**
Primitive societies are simple, traditional ones, the contrast to **civilized** societies. **As well** shows the writer is adding a second, different type. Not **developed** or **sophisticated**: they mean almost the same as **civilized**, so **as well** would add nothing.

36. It is a very _____ and important fact that "fighting" in animals usually consists of threatening or bluff.
✔ **D) striking**
Striking means very noticeable or surprising. The writer stresses that it is remarkable that animal 'fighting' is mostly threats and bluff. Not **fierce** or **savage**: they describe the fighting itself, not a fact. **Ordinary** goes against the writer's point that this fact is worth noticing.

37. In zoos, especially in old, poorly designed ones, where animals are crowded, they have little opportunity for exploring and for the _____ enterprise they normally exercise in the wild.
✔ **E) individualistic**
Individualistic describes acting independently, on your own. In the wild, animals explore and find food by themselves, and crowded zoos take this away. Not **social**: crowding gives animals too much contact with others, so what they lose is their individual activity.

38. The cry of horror that escapes from the crowd when a motor car overturns is not one of surprise but of _____ expectation.
✔ **E) fulfilled**
A **fulfilled expectation** is something people expected that has actually happened. The sentence says the cry is **not one of surprise**: the crowd was waiting for a crash, and it came. Not **thrilling**: the contrast with **surprise** needs a word saying the expectation came true.

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