ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 04

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Explanations

1. **(Please note: The following questions are part of a cloze test. They are interrelated, meaning that the information provided in each question is connected to the others.)**

I _____ don't believe in ghosts _____ my experience at the Rose Inn.
✓ **D) still**
Still means a situation continues, often when we might expect it to change. The writer had a frightening experience but continues not to believe in ghosts. It goes before the main verb here: **I still don't believe**. Not **no longer**: it already means 'not any more', so it can't be used with **don't**. **Yet** normally comes at the end of a negative sentence, and **already** is not used with negatives like this.

2. I _____ don't believe in ghosts _____ my experience at the Rose Inn.
✓ **B) even after**
The gap is followed by a noun phrase (**my experience**), so we need a preposition: **even after** + noun means 'despite what happened'. Not **even though** or **although**: these are conjunctions and must be followed by a clause (subject + verb). **In spite** is incomplete; it needs **of**.

3. _____, I have never seen one.
✓ **A) At least**
At least adds a limit or correction to what was just said: the writer doesn't believe in ghosts, or at any rate has never seen one. Not **at last**, which means 'finally, after a long wait'. **At first** contrasts with a later change, and **at once** means 'immediately'.

4. But ghost stories have made me _____ uncomfortable since then.
✓ **C) feel**
Make + object is followed by the bare infinitive: **make someone feel**. Not **to feel**: **to** is used only in the passive (**I was made to feel…**). **Feel myself** is not used with an adjective like **uncomfortable**.

5. I _____ the inn late at night and asked _____.
✓ **B) arrived at**
Arrive takes **at** for a building or small place (**arrive at the inn**) and **in** for a city or country. Not **reached to** or **reached at**: **reach** is transitive and takes a direct object with no preposition (**reached the inn**). **Arrive to** is a common learner error.

6. I _____ the inn late at night and asked _____.
✓ **D) the landlord for a room**
To request something, we use **ask someone for something**: **asked the landlord for a room**. Not **asked the landlord a room**: **ask** + two objects is used for questions (**ask him a question**), not for things we want.

7. "There's nothing left," he said, "_____ to sleep in Number 7."
✓ **D) unless you'd like**
Unless means 'except if'. Every room is taken, except Number 7 if the guest wants it: **unless you'd like to sleep in Number 7**. **Would like** is the polite form for an offer. **If you don't like** gives the wrong meaning. **Are liking** is wrong because **like** is a state verb and is not normally used in the continuous.

8. "Why not?" I said. "What's wrong with it?" I was so tired that I would have slept _____.
✓ **A) anywhere**
Anywhere means 'in any place at all, it doesn't matter where'. That fits someone so tired he would have slept in any place. **Somewhere** refers to one particular place, and **nowhere** gives the opposite meaning. **In whatever place** is unnatural here.

9. "Nothing," he said slowly, "but something happened there a few months ago." Every old inn has _____ strange stories, so I thought that _____ he told me about it, the better.
✓ **B) its**
The possessive refers back to **every old inn**, which is singular and a thing, so we use **its**. Not **their**: **every** takes a singular verb (**has**), so a singular possessive matches it best. **His** is for a man, and **the** loses the idea that each inn has its own stories.

10. Every old inn has _____ strange stories, so I thought that _____ he told me about it, the better.
✓ **D) the sooner**
This is the double comparative structure **the + comparative…, the + comparative**: **the sooner he told me, the better**. It means 'it would be better if he told me quickly'. The second half (**the better**) tells you the first half must also use **the** + comparative. **As soon as** does not fit this pattern.

11. I was willing to listen to anything for _____ a bed to sleep in.
✓ **A) the sake of**
For the sake of something means 'in order to get or keep it'. The writer would listen to anything in order to get a bed. **For the lack of** means the opposite (not having it). **The need of** and **the wish of** are not used in this fixed phrase.

12. “A man came here late at night, _____ you,” the landlord said.
✔ **B) like**
Like is a preposition meaning 'similar to' and is followed by a noun or pronoun: **a man like you**. Not **as**: as a preposition, **as** means 'in the role of' (**work as a waiter**), not similarity. **The same that** and **similar with** are incorrect forms; the correct ones are **the same as** and **similar to**.

13. “I thought there was something odd _____ him because he kept looking _____ his shoulder while he was signing his name in the book.
✔ **C) about**
The fixed expression is **something odd/strange/wrong about someone**, meaning there is a quality in that person that seems strange. Not **with**: **something wrong with** is used for faults or problems, not for a person's odd character or behaviour.

14. “I thought there was something odd _____ him because he kept looking _____ his shoulder while he was signing his name in the book.
✔ **C) over**
Look over your shoulder means to turn your head to look behind you, often nervously because you fear someone is following you. This fits the frightened man. **Look back** takes no object like **his shoulder**, and **look after** means 'take care of'.

15. He asked me _____ have and I offered _____.
✔ **D) which room he could**
This is a reported question, so it uses statement word order (subject before verb): **which room he could have**, not **could he have**. **Which** fits because he is choosing from a limited set of rooms. Not **he may**: after the past verb **asked**, the past form **could** is needed.

16. He asked me _____ have and I offered _____.
✔ **C) him number 7**
Offer can take two objects with no preposition: **offer someone something** (**offered him number 7**). With **to**, the order changes: **offered number 7 to him**. Room numbers used as names take no article, so **the number 7** is wrong.

17. ‘_____ a man who has said he’ll kill me,’ he said suddenly.
✔ **B) There’s**
There's introduces someone or something new: **There's a man who…**. Not **It's**: **It's a man** identifies something already mentioned, but this man is being mentioned for the first time.

18. ‘With a knife.’ He looked _____ that I thought I had better _____ him to his room.
✔ **B) so frightened**
The pattern **so + adjective + that** shows cause and result: **He looked so frightened that I thought…**. **Such** is used before a noun phrase (**such a frightened man**), not before an adjective alone, so **such frightened** is wrong. After **look** we use an adjective directly, not **to be**.

19. He looked _____ that I thought I had better _____ him to his room.
✔ **D) take**
Had better is followed by the bare infinitive (no **to**): **had better take**. **Take** is used for going with someone to another place. Not **to take** or **to bring**, because of the **to**. **Let him to his room** makes no sense.

20. I locked the door and left him _____.
✔ **A) by himself**
By himself means 'alone'. The correct reflexive form is **himself**, so **his self** is wrong. The idiom with **own** is **on his own**, not **in his own**. **Only himself** does not mean 'alone' here.

21. The next day, we _____ him dead, with a knife beside him.
✔ **C) found**
Find + object + adjective describes the state in which you discover someone: **we found him dead**. Not **uncovered**: it means removing a cover or revealing a secret, not discovering a person in a state. **Met** and **knew** don't fit this pattern.

22. He had _____,” the landlord said, “or someone else had done it.
✔ **D) cut his throat**
The man did the action to himself, so we use the past perfect with a possessive: **He had cut his throat**. Not **had his throat cut**: that is the causative **have something done**, meaning someone else did it to him. That doesn't fit the contrast **or someone else had done it**. **Cut himself the throat** is not English word order.

23. Do you mind sleeping there now you know the story?” “Well,” I said. “_____ is following me.
✔ **B) No one**
No one (= nobody) is a negative pronoun used with a positive verb: **No one is following me**. The writer means he is not in danger like the other man. Not **None**: it usually refers back to a group already mentioned (**none of them**). **Anyone** cannot be the subject of a positive verb with a negative meaning.

24. But I wish you _____ the story in the morning. _____, I’ll sleep here on the bar if you’ve got a couple of blankets.”
✔ **B) had told me**
Wish + past perfect expresses regret about something that has already happened: **I wish you had told me**. The landlord has already told the story at night. The writer would have preferred to hear it the next morning, after his night's sleep, but it is too late now. Not **told me**: **wish + past simple** is about a present situation (**I wish you told me more often**). **Would tell me** is for a wish about the future, and the story has already been told.

25. _____, I’ll sleep here on the bar if you’ve got a couple of blankets.”
✔ **A) As it is**
As it is means 'in the real situation, since things are as they are'. It contrasts with the situation the speaker wished for: he wishes he had heard the story in the morning, but since he heard it now, he'll sleep on the bar. **Like it is**, **being like that** and **being as that** are not used with this meaning.