ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Grammar Exercise – MCQ Test 11

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Explanations

1. Whatever else _____ the British Empire for so long, it was not Britain's education system.
✓ **D) sustained**
The sentence talks about a finished period in history (**for so long**, the British Empire), and the main clause uses **was**. So the gap needs the active past simple, **sustained**: whatever **sustained** (supported) the Empire. Not **was sustained**: the passive would mean that something else was keeping 'whatever else' going, so the Empire would have no verb acting on it.

2. Studies of the survivors of the atomic bomb blasts and radiation accidents have _____ demonstrated the leukemogenic effect of radiation.
✓ **D) unmistakably**
Unmistakably means 'so clearly that no one can doubt it'. It collocates naturally with **demonstrated**: the studies proved the cancer-causing (leukemogenic) effect beyond doubt. **Reluctantly**, **sensitively** and **understandably** do not describe how clear scientific evidence is.

3. Malnutrition and undernutrition are not _____ to the Third World; they also occur in affluent societies.
✓ **C) restricted**
Be restricted to means 'happen only in'. The second clause (**they also occur in affluent societies**) shows that malnutrition is not limited to the Third World. **Exposed to** and **disposed to** need a different meaning and do not fit the contrast.

4. In the past 25 years, new knowledge about cancer has led to changes in dietary _____ for the public.
✓ **E) recommendations**
Dietary recommendations is a fixed collocation meaning 'official advice about what people should eat'. New knowledge about cancer changes the advice given **for the public**. **Dietary disorders** are illnesses, and they are not something given to the public.

5. Biotechnology offers opportunities to improve the quality and _____ value of foods.
✓ **A) nutritional**
Nutritional value is the amount of useful nutrients a food contains, for example **Spinach has a high nutritional value.** It pairs naturally with **quality** as a positive feature that biotechnology can improve. The other adjectives do not collocate with **value of foods** in this sense.

6. Our paediatrician said we should always _____ her if the little boy's temperature continued for more than 24 hours.
✓ **B) get in touch with**
Get in touch with someone means 'contact' them, and this is what a doctor asks parents to do if a child's temperature stays high. **Come across** means 'find by chance'. **Look into** means 'investigate'. Neither fits a request to contact the paediatrician.

7. Only after a great deal of pressure had been _____ the registrar did he agree to give up the recovery ward in favour of a second operating theatre.
✓ **C) put on**
Put pressure on someone is the standard collocation for trying hard to make someone do something. In the passive this becomes **pressure had been put on the registrar**. The inversion after **Only after** (**did he agree**) is the formal emphatic structure. Not **weighed up**, which means 'considered carefully' and does not combine with **pressure**.

8. He claims he has _____ a cure for the common cold, but I don't suppose he has.
✓ **E) come up with**
Come up with means 'think of or produce an idea, plan or solution', for example **He came up with a cure.** The speaker doubts the claim (**I don't suppose he has**). Not **taken care of**, which means 'looked after' or 'dealt with' and does not mean inventing something.

9. Overt morphological lesions are relatively late manifestations of nutritional disorder and may be preceded _____ long periods of time _____ functional deficits.
✓ **C) for / by**
For expresses duration: **for long periods of time**. The passive **be preceded by** names what comes earlier: the functional deficits come before the visible (**overt**) lesions. Not **over / for**: **preceded for functional deficits** is not possible, because the agent of a passive takes **by**.

10. If Julie _____ herself like that while we were away, she _____ from anorexia nervosa today.
✓ **C) hadn't starved / wouldn't be suffering**
This is a mixed conditional. A past cause (**while we were away**) leads to a present result (**today**). The if-clause takes the past perfect (**hadn't starved**), and the main clause takes **would** + present continuous (**wouldn't be suffering**). Not **didn't starve / isn't suffering**: the past simple does not show an unreal past, and **isn't** cannot be used for a hypothetical result.

11. Health Watch, which, initially at least, _____ by pharmaceutical companies, _____ an aggressive campaign against natural medicines.
✓ A) was financed / is waging
Initially at least points to the past, so the organisation **was financed** (past simple passive) by the companies. The campaign is happening now, so **is waging** (present continuous) fits. Not **had financed**: it is active, which would mean Health Watch paid the companies.

12. From time to time, many different theories of heredity _____, only some of which _____ valid now.
✓ D) have been advanced / are
From time to time here covers the period up to now, so the present perfect passive **have been advanced** (put forward) is used. **Now** in the second clause requires the present simple **are**. Not **were advanced / would be**, because **would be** does not express a present fact.

13. It would be foolish of them not _____ genetic advice as their first child was born with a genetic disorder.
✓ A) to seek
The pattern is **It would be + adjective + of someone + (not) to-infinitive**, for example **It would be foolish of them not to seek advice**. The advice is still to be sought, so the simple infinitive **to seek** is correct. Not **not to have sought**: the perfect infinitive refers to an action already in the past, and would normally follow **would have been**.

14. The students who _____ a top grade in pharmacology were admitted to postgraduate studies.
✓ B) had received
The main verb **were admitted** is past. Receiving the top grade happened before the admission, so the past perfect **had received** is used. Not **have received**: the present perfect cannot describe an action that came before another past event.

15. Depression could be one of the fastest-growing ailments of the 21st century, _____ young and unmarried people most _____ risk.
✓ E) with / at
With + noun + phrase is used to add a detail to a sentence: **with young and unmarried people most at risk**. **At risk** is a fixed phrase meaning 'in danger'. **On risk** and **in risk** are not used.

16. Unfortunately, adults don't usually offer early adolescents _____ warm indulgence and social protection than they provided a decade earlier.
✓ C) more
Than later in the sentence requires a comparative, so **more warm indulgence ... than they provided a decade earlier** is correct. Not **as much**: it would need **as**, not **than** (**as much ... as**).

17. Many of my colleagues work with radiation, but they don't seem to have been adversely affected by it, and _____.
✓ A) neither do I
To agree with a negative statement, use **neither** + auxiliary + subject, repeating the auxiliary of the original verb. The verb is **don't seem**, so the reply is **neither do I**: I don't seem to have been affected either. Not **neither was I** or **nor did I**: they use the wrong auxiliary and tense.

18. In Africa, the irresponsible sewage discharge of an exclusive hotel gradually put an end to the seafood harvest on _____ a local village depended for its livelihood.
✓ B) which
Depend on keeps its preposition before the relative pronoun: **the harvest on which a local village depended**. After a preposition, only **which** (for things) or **whom** (for people) is possible. Not **that**, which can never follow a preposition. Not **whom**, because the harvest is not a person.

19. The inquiry into the foot and mouth epidemic will bring together veterinary scientists, virologists and epidemiologists _____ the representatives of the farming and consumer groups.
✓ A) as well as
As well as means 'and also'. It adds the farming and consumer representatives to the list of scientists. Not **such as**: it introduces examples of the group just mentioned, and farmers are not examples of scientists.

20. Scientists wondered _____ Dolly, the cloned sheep, would live a normal life span _____ simply live out the remaining years of the sheep from which she had been cloned.
✓ C) whether / or
After **wondered**, an indirect yes/no question with two alternatives uses **whether ... or**. Here the scientists wondered **whether** Dolly would live a normal life span **or** only the remaining years of the original sheep. Not **neither / nor**: it gives a negative meaning and cannot introduce an indirect question.

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