ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Grammar Exercise – MCQ Test 12

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Explanations

1. Professional tennis, which got its start in 1926 when the French player Suzanne Lenglen _____ 50,000 US dollars for a tour, only _____ full recognition in 1968.
✔ **B) was paid / received**
Both events are finished actions at stated past times (**in 1926**, **in 1968**), so both verbs need the **past simple**: **was paid** (passive, because Lenglen received the money) and **received**. Not **had been paid**: the past perfect needs a later past event as its reference point inside the clause, and the present perfect **has received** cannot be used with a finished past date.

2. Once the director _____ just how much was at stake, he _____ immediate steps to deal with the dispute.
✔ **C) had realized / took**
Once here means 'as soon as / after'. The realisation came first, so it takes the **past perfect** (**had realized**), and the action that followed takes the **past simple** (**took**). This is a past narrative, so the present and future forms (**realizes / will take**) do not fit, and **had taken** in the main clause would put the steps before the realisation.

3. The once-radical notion that birds _____ from dinosaurs _____ stronger and stronger since palaeontologists first started taking it seriously a couple of decades ago.
✔ **D) descended / has grown**
The first gap describes a completed event in the distant past, so it takes the **past simple**: birds **descended** from dinosaurs. The second gap goes with **since palaeontologists first started…**, and **since** + a starting point needs the **present perfect**: the notion **has grown** stronger up to now. Not **grew** or **was growing**, because a past tense cannot link a past starting point to the present.

4. Throughout her years as head coach, Ms Carter _____ by doubts about a transfer deal in which she and her assistant _____ before the season began.
✔ **C) was dogged / had been involved**
Throughout her years as head coach refers to a finished past period, so the main verb is the **past simple passive**: **was dogged** (followed or troubled continually). The deal happened before that period (**before the season began**), so the second verb takes the **past perfect**: **had been involved**. Not **had been dogged / were involved**, because that order puts the doubts before the deal.

5. The essays taken together tell the story of how the US became an economic power _____ a scale unprecedented _____ history.
✔ **E) on / in**
The fixed collocations are **on a scale** (e.g. **on a large scale**, **on a global scale**) and **in history** (e.g. **unprecedented in history**, **for the first time in history**). Neither **at a scale** nor **by history** is standard English.

6. _____ the surprise of the archaeologists, the structures turned out to be the remains _____ two domed tombs, each over a thousand years old.
✔ **D) To / of**
The fixed phrase is **to the surprise of someone** (also **to my surprise**, **to everyone's surprise**). The noun **remains** is followed by **of**: **the remains of two tombs**. Not **At the surprise** or **For the surprise**, which are not used.

7. More than 29 million Africans are now infected with HIV, and the disease is killing _____ Africans _____ all the continent's wars combined.
✔ **C) more / than**
This is a comparison: the disease kills **more** Africans **than** all the wars combined. The word **combined** signals that two quantities are being compared, so you need **more … than**. Not **so many … as**: **so many … as** is only used in negative sentences (**not so many … as**), and the other pairs (**either/or**, **both/and**) link alternatives, not quantities.

8. He did _____ better in the interview _____ any of the other applicants.
✔ **B) rather / than**
A comparative (**better**) must be followed by **than**, so **rather … than** is the only possible pair. **Rather** before a comparative means 'somewhat' (**rather better than**). **Much** and **far** can also strengthen a comparative, but the options pair them with **as** and **from**, which cannot follow **better**.

9. Geographical Information System tools provide specialised functions for spatial data input, processing, analysis and output, _____ Database Management System tools provide more advanced functions for storing and managing large spatial databases.
✔ **C) while**
The sentence contrasts two types of tools and what each one does, so it needs a contrast conjunction: **while** (= whereas). Not **in that**, which introduces an explanation of the previous statement, not a contrast. Not **due to**, which must be followed by a noun phrase, not a clause.

10. Photosynthesis is the process _____ green plants manufacture carbohydrates, using the energy of sunlight.
✔ **D) by which**
Process is followed by **by which** to show the means or method: **the process by which plants make food** (= the process through which they do it). Not **where**: although **where** is sometimes heard informally after **process**, **by which** is the correct formal choice for a method.

11. _____ economic development projects in developing countries are carefully thought out and implemented, they can actually contribute to environmental deterioration.
✔ B) Unless
Unless means 'if ... not': if the projects are **not** carefully planned, they can damage the environment. The word **actually** shows a negative, unexpected result. Not **Provided that** or **So long as**, because these would mean that careful planning causes the damage, which makes no sense.

12. Until the time of World War II, it _____ that human beings _____ to the requirements of technological systems with great ease.
✔ D) had been assumed / could adapt
Until the time of World War II describes a belief that lasted up to a point in the past, so the main verb takes the **past perfect passive**: **it had been assumed**. The assumption was about ability, so the second gap needs **could adapt** (= were able to adapt). Not **was assumed**, because the past simple does not express a state continuing up to a past point, and **are adapting** breaks the past sequence of tenses.

13. In his acknowledgement, the writer thanked his wife for the support she _____ him while he _____ the book.
✔ A) had given / was writing
His wife's support came before the moment he thanked her, so the first gap takes the **past perfect**: **had given**. The writing was an activity in progress during that support, so the second gap takes the **past continuous**: **was writing**. Not **was giving / had written**, because that would place the writing before the support.

14. Since Swedish industrial relations _____ so many fundamental changes, it is hardly surprising that the existence of a "Swedish model" _____.
✔ E) have undergone / is being questioned
The main clause is in the present (**it is hardly surprising**), so the changes are seen as having a present result: **have undergone** (**present perfect**). The questioning is going on now, so it needs the **present continuous passive**: **is being questioned**. Not **had undergone / had been questioned**, because the past perfect does not fit a present-tense main clause.

15. If it _____ for the severe air pollution of 1952, which was responsible for 4,000 deaths, the UK Clean Air Act of 1956 _____.
✔ C) hadn't been / wouldn't have been passed
This is a **third conditional** about an imaginary past: **If it hadn't been for** (= without) the 1952 pollution, the Act **wouldn't have been passed**. The passive is needed because the Act was passed by Parliament. Not **weren't / hadn't been passed**: **weren't** belongs to the second conditional, and the result clause needs **would have**, not the past perfect.

16. _____ corporations grow in size and diversity, the difficulty of managing employee relations increases.
✔ E) As
As here means 'while / at the same time as' and shows two changes happening together: as companies grow, the difficulty increases. Not **In case** or **Lest**, which express precaution, and not **So that**, which expresses purpose.

17. _____ had so many people complained so loudly with so little cause.
✔ A) Only once
The word order **had so many people complained** is inverted: the auxiliary comes before the subject. Inversion follows restrictive or negative adverbials at the start of a sentence, such as **only once**, **never** and **rarely**: **Only once had so many people complained...**. Not **For the first time** or **Up to this time**, because these phrases do not trigger inversion and would need normal word order: **so many people had complained**. **With so little cause** means 'with so little reason'.

18. Multinational companies account for _____ 60 per cent of trade in manufactured goods in the developed world.
✔ B) no less than
No less than before a number emphasises that the amount is surprisingly large (= as much as): **no less than 60 per cent**. Not **by no means**, which negates a statement (**by no means certain**), and not **so much**, which cannot come before a number.

19. The period _____ which Margaret Mee painted the Amazon flora coincided _____ the time when the Amazon rain forest was being destroyed.
✔ D) during / with
A period of time is followed by **during which** (or **in which**): **the period during which she painted**. The verb **coincide** always takes **with**: **A coincided with B** (= happened at the same time as B). Not **in / at**, because **coincide at** is not correct.

20. Some delicate fruits and vegetables need to ripen gradually as they make their way _____ producer nations to consumer markets _____ the globe.
✔ A) from / around
Movement from a starting point to an end point is expressed with **from ... to**: **from producer nations to consumer markets**. The phrase **around the globe** means 'all over the world'. Not **through / through**, because **through** does not mark a starting point, and **through the globe** is not idiomatic.