ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Grammar Exercise – MCQ Test 13

Advanced English Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/advanced-level-grammar-exercise-mcq-test-13/

1	**B**	2	**D**	3	**C**	4	**B**	5	**C**	6	**E**	7	**D**	8	**E**	9	**C**	10	**B**
11	**D**	12	**A**	13	**B**	14	**C**	15	**E**	16	**D**	17	**A**	18	**E**	19	**D**	20	**A**

Explanations

1. The purpose of this bridge project is _____ to eliminate the cause of such accidents _____ to keep traffic moving at a steady rate.
✔ **B) both / and**
The paired conjunction **both … and** joins two equal parts, here two infinitives: **both to eliminate … and to keep**. Not **only / but also**: that pattern needs **not**, as in **not only … but also**. **Not only** also cannot be paired with plain **and**.

2. The term "man-machine system" fell somewhat into disrepute and was replaced by "person-machine system" _____ the need to avoid sexist language.
✔ **D) in accordance with**
In accordance with means 'following or obeying' a rule, wish or need. The term was changed to follow the need to avoid sexist language. **Contrary to** and **despite** express the opposite idea, and **instead of** makes no sense here.

3. The slavery issue was _____ one reason _____ the northern and southern states fought against each other during the US Civil War.
✔ **C) only / why**
Only one reason means 'just one of several reasons'. After **reason** we use the relative adverb **why**: **the reason why they fought**. **Which** and **that** would need a missing object, and **whereas** and **in that** do not follow **reason** in this way.

4. The United Nations has, on numerous occasions, tried to assert its authority to mediate a dispute between nations, _____ has often been ineffective _____ the nations involved refused to acknowledge the right of the United Nations to intervene.
✔ **B) but / because**
But introduces the contrast: the UN tried to assert its authority, **but** it was often ineffective. **Because** then gives the reason with a full clause: **because the nations involved refused …**. Not **because of**, which must be followed by a noun phrase, not a clause.

5. This is not a new theory; quite a lot of scientists _____ on it for several decades.
✔ **C) have been working**
For several decades together with a situation that is still true now (**this is not a new theory**) calls for the present perfect continuous: **have been working**. Not **had worked**: the past perfect needs a later past point of reference, and there isn't one here.

6. If the equipment _____ us on time, we _____ the bridge by now.
✔ **E) had reached / could have completed**
This is an unreal condition about the past: the equipment did not arrive on time. It takes **if + past perfect** (**had reached**) and **could/would have + past participle** (**could have completed**). **By now** shows that the bridge is still unfinished. Not **reached / had completed**, which reverses the correct tense pattern.

7. Unfortunately there was an electricity cut just as we _____ the new computer.
✔ **D) were installing**
The past continuous (**were installing**) describes an action in progress when a shorter past event (**there was an electricity cut**) interrupted it. **Just as** marks the exact moment of the interruption.

8. It is recommended that you wear a helmet in this part of the plant, but it's up to you; you _____.
✔ **E) don't have to**
It's up to you means the choice is yours, so there is no obligation. **Don't have to** expresses exactly this absence of obligation. **Have got to**, **need to** and **will have to** all express obligation, which contradicts **it's up to you**.

9. _____ a piece of metal is denser than water, it sinks in water.
✔ **C) Since**
Since here means 'because' and introduces a full clause giving the reason: the metal is denser than water, so it sinks. Not **because of**, which must be followed by a noun phrase, not a clause. **Therefore** introduces a result, not a reason.

10. _____ he was aware of the dangers of this kind of research, he still continued with the project.
✔ **B) Even though**
Even though introduces a concession: he knew about the dangers, yet he **still** continued. The word **still** in the main clause is the clue. Not **however**, which cannot join two clauses like a conjunction. **Whereas** compares two different facts rather than expressing a concession.

11. _____ the semester is over, Dr. Baines will supervise the sinking of the shaft as it seems likely that they'll strike oil.
✔ **D) Once**
Once means 'as soon as / after' and introduces a time clause. Dr Baines will supervise the work after the semester ends. Like other time clauses about the future, it uses the present simple (**is over**). **In case** expresses a precaution, and **in order that** expresses a purpose, so neither fits the meaning.

12. It took him several months to set _____ the experiment, but results are beginning to come _____ now.
✓ A) up / in
Set up an experiment means to prepare or arrange it. **Results come in** means they start to arrive or become available. Example: **The first results are coming in now.**

13. Obviously, during the Second World War, many scientists were involved _____ the development of new weapons.
✓ B) in
The fixed collocation is **be involved in** something, meaning to take part in it. Example: **She was involved in the research.**

14. An honorary degree will be conferred upon the physicist _____ contributions to energy studies have proved the most beneficial.
✓ C) whose
Whose is the possessive relative pronoun: the contributions belong to the physicist (**the physicist whose contributions …**). **Who**, **whom** and **that** cannot show possession, so they leave the sentence incomplete.

15. Is that the professor _____ received the Nobel Prize in chemistry?
✓ E) who
The gap is the subject of the relative clause (**… received the Nobel Prize**), and it refers to a person, so we use **who**. Not **whom**, which is used only as an object. Not **which**, which refers to things.

16. Dairy farming has received a lot of coverage in the media lately, _____ on account of the dry season _____ because of the radiation scare.
✓ D) not only / but also
The correlative pair **not only … but also** links two reasons of equal grammatical form: **not only on account of the dry season but also because of the radiation scare**. Not **only / also**: without **not** and **but**, the pair does not work.

17. Thanks to improvements in car design, _____ of the power produced is wasted in friction _____ was formerly the case.
✓ A) far less / than
A comparison with **than** needs a comparative form. **Power** is uncountable, so we use **less**, and **far** makes it stronger: **far less … than was formerly the case**. Not **little / than**: **little** is not comparative, so it cannot be followed by **than**.

18. As regards the decision to modernize the mines in the region, here is a report which contains _____ relevant information.
✓ E) some
Information is uncountable, so it cannot take **a**, **another** or **many**. In a positive statement we use **some**: **some relevant information**. Not **any**, which is normally used in negatives and questions.

19. If I _____ a similar kind of research, I _____ on just two decades.
✓ D) were doing / would concentrate
This is an imaginary present situation, so it is a second conditional: **if + past** (**were doing**) and **would + infinitive** (**would concentrate**). Not **did / will concentrate**: **will** cannot be used in the result clause of an unreal condition.

20. The committee _____ the question for nearly an hour, and still hasn't come to a decision.
✓ A) has been discussing
An activity that started in the past and is still going on now takes the present perfect continuous: **has been discussing**. The clues are **for nearly an hour** and **still hasn't come to a decision**. Not **is discussing**: the present continuous cannot be used with a **for** time phrase like this.

Practise more on englishtestsonline.com
Take this test online, download its questions PDF, and find thousands of free English tests:
englishtestsonline.com · scan the code for this test
englishtestsonline.com