ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Grammar Exercise – MCQ Test 14

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

Explanations

1. Towards the end of the 5th century, many political and social changes _____ in Europe which _____ all countries profoundly.
✓ **E) occurred / affected**
The time phrase **Towards the end of the 5th century** sets a finished period in the past. Both actions, the changes happening and their effect, belong to that period, so the **past simple** is used in both gaps: **occurred / affected**. Not **had occurred / will affect**: **will** looks forward from the present, so it cannot describe an effect in the 5th century. The present perfect (**have been occurring**, **have affected**) cannot be used with a finished past time, and **will affect** does not fit a narrative about the 5th century either.

2. Before I read Freud, I _____ dreams were of so much significance.
✓ **C) didn't think**
The clause **Before I read Freud** refers to a finished past time, so the main clause also needs the **past simple**: **I didn't think dreams were of so much significance.** Not **haven't thought**: the present perfect cannot be used with a finished past time like this. **Won't have thought** (future perfect) and **don't think** (present) do not fit either.

3. _____ the critics, the film is almost as good as the novel itself.
✓ **B) According to**
According to introduces the source of an opinion or piece of information: **According to the critics, the film is almost as good as the novel.** This means the critics hold that view. Not **With regard to** or **Concerning**: these mean 'on the subject of', so they would make the critics the topic of the sentence. **Owing to** means 'because of'.

4. It is thought to be basically a Hittite settlement _____ there are some traces of earlier civilisations.
✓ **D) even though**
A conjunction is needed before a full clause (**there are some traces…**). **Even though** expresses contrast: it was mainly a Hittite settlement, despite the traces of earlier civilisations. Not **in spite of**: it is a preposition and must be followed by a noun or **-ing** form (**in spite of the traces**). **Even so** is an adverb and cannot join two clauses.

5. The next meeting will be held _____ February, probably _____ the second Tuesday of the month.
✓ **A) in / on**
Use **in** with months (**in February**). Use **on** with days and dates, including phrases like **on the second Tuesday of the month**. **At** is used with clock times (**at 3 p.m.**), not with months or days.

6. Venice is joined to the mainland _____ road and railway viaducts.
✓ **C) by**
By shows the means by which something is done or connected: **joined to the mainland by road and railway viaducts** (the viaducts make the connection). Not **over**: although viaducts go over water, **joined … over viaducts** is not the natural collocation. **Joined by** is the standard phrase.

7. The conference was a great disappointment; in fact, it was quite _____ I have ever attended.
✓ **A) the worst**
The clause **I have ever attended** is a typical clue for a **superlative**: **the worst (conference) I have ever attended**. **Quite** here means 'absolutely' and is used for emphasis before **the + superlative**. Not **the worse**: **the + comparative** is only used when comparing two things (**the worse of the two**).

8. The Sumerian King Ur-Nammu was a great ruler _____ dominions extended from the Gulf to the Mediterranean.
✓ **D) whose**
Whose is the possessive relative pronoun: **a great ruler whose dominions extended…** means 'a ruler + his dominions'. The gap is followed directly by a noun (**dominions**), which needs a possessive word. Not **who** or **that**: they would need a verb, not a noun, after them (**a ruler who ruled…**).

9. In advertising it is important to decide _____ you are aiming to attract.
✓ **C) who**
Who introduces an indirect question about people: **decide who you are aiming to attract** (you attract them). In formal English **whom** is possible as the object, but **who** is normal and correct. Not **by whom**: the verb **attract** does not take **by** here. **Which** would be used for things, and **whoever** means 'any person who'.

10. I told him that the ultimate responsibility for solving the problem was not _____ but _____.
✓ **E) mine / his**
After **was not … but …** there is no noun, so **possessive pronouns** are needed: **the responsibility was not mine but his** (= not my responsibility but his responsibility). Not **us**, **me** or **him**: these are object pronouns and do not show possession. Each wrong option contains at least one such form.

11. He said he would apply for the job immediately after he returned, _____?
✓ B) didn't he
In reported speech the question tag goes with the main clause, **He said**, not with the reported clause. A positive past simple verb (**said**) takes a negative tag with **did**: **He said…, didn't he?** Not **wouldn't he**: **would** belongs to the reported clause (**he would apply**), not to the main verb.

12. The last exhibition I went to was _____ crowded that I could hardly see anything.
✓ D) so
The pattern **so + adjective + that + result clause** shows a cause and its result: **so crowded that I could hardly see anything**. Not **too**: **too** is followed by **to** + infinitive (**too crowded to see anything**), not by **that**. **Very** cannot introduce a **that** clause either.

13. Before Alexander Fleming _____ penicillin, a great many people _____ of meningitis.
✓ B) discovered / died
Both actions are finished past facts, so the **past simple** is used: **Before Fleming discovered penicillin, a great many people died of meningitis. Before** already makes the order clear, so no past perfect is needed. Not **was discovering / were dying**: a discovery is a single completed event, not a process in progress.

14. When the new hospital _____ in March, you _____ one of the first patients to be admitted.
✓ E) opens / will be
In time clauses with **when** about the future, English uses the **present simple**, not **will**: **When the hospital opens…**. The main clause uses **will**: **you will be one of the first patients**. Not **will open / will be**: **will** is not used after **when** in a time clause about the future.

15. Don't take him into the operating room until the anaesthetist _____ you to.
✓ A) tells
After **until** in a future time clause we use the **present simple**, not **will**: **until the anaesthetist tells you to**. The subject is third person singular, so the verb needs **-s**. Not **will tell**: **will** is not used in time clauses like this. **Tell** lacks the **-s**, and **told** is past.

16. Of all the medicines we have tested, this is obviously _____ effective.
✓ E) the most
Of all the medicines compares one item with a whole group, so a **superlative** is needed: **this is obviously the most effective**. Not **more** or **less**: comparatives compare two things or are followed by **than**.

17. The nurse claimed that it wasn't _____ responsibility but the doctor's.
✓ D) her
A **possessive adjective** is needed before the noun **responsibility**: **it wasn't her responsibility but the doctor's**. Not **hers**: **hers** is a possessive pronoun and is used without a noun (**it wasn't hers**). **Herself** is reflexive and cannot go before a noun.

18. If you had followed the doctor's advice, you _____ a complete recovery by this time.
✓ B) would have made
This is a **third conditional** about an unreal past: **If you had followed…, you would have made…**. **By this time** fits the perfect form **would have made**, because the recovery would already be complete by now. Not **would make**: it does not match a past condition that ends at the present moment (**by this time**).

19. _____ she gave up smoking, she has enjoyed the best of health.
✓ C) Since
Since + a past point or event is used with the **present perfect** to show a situation continuing up to now: **Since she gave up smoking, she has enjoyed…**. Not **For**: **for** is followed by a period of time (**for five years**), not a clause. **When** would need the past simple in the main clause (**When she gave up…, she felt…**).

20. Millions of children in these developing countries will suffer and die _____ these infectious diseases remain uncontrolled.
✓ A) if
This is a **first conditional**: **if** + present simple (**remain**) and **will** in the main clause. The meaning is that the children will suffer on the condition that the diseases stay uncontrolled. Not **unless**: it means 'if not', so **unless these diseases remain uncontrolled** would reverse the meaning. **As soon as** refers to time, not to a condition.

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