ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Advanced Level Grammar Exercise – MCQ Test 15

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| 11 | **B** | 12 | **E** | 13 | **C** | 14 | **A** | 15 | **D** | 16 | **B** | 17 | **E** | 18 | **B** | 19 | **A** | 20 | **E** |

## Explanations

**1.** He was advised not to discontinue this medicine _____ this might bring a recurrence of the complaint.
✔ **D) as**
A clause of reason is needed: he should keep taking the medicine **because** stopping might bring back the illness. **As** is a conjunction meaning **because** and can be followed by a full clause. Not **due to** or **despite**, because these are prepositions and must be followed by a noun phrase, not a clause. **So that** would express purpose, which makes no sense here.

**2.** The patient was not satisfied _____ the treatment he received.
✔ **E) with**
The adjective **satisfied** is followed by the preposition **with**: **satisfied with the service / the results**. Not **satisfied of**, which is not used in modern English.

**3.** Be sure _____ take a look _____ the article on infant mortality rates.
✔ **B) to / at**
**Be sure** is followed by a **to**-infinitive (**Be sure to lock the door**), and the expression is **take a look at** something. So the pair **to / at** fits both gaps.

**4.** AIDS is a disease _____ has given rise to much speculation.
✔ **D) which**
A relative pronoun for a thing (**a disease**) acting as the subject of the relative clause is **which** (or **that**). **Who** and **whom** refer to people, **whose** shows possession, and **what** cannot follow a noun as a relative pronoun.

**5.** A lot of people want to become surgeons, but _____ make the grade.
✔ **A) few**
**People** is a plural countable noun, so we use **few** (= not many) to show a small number, which contrasts with **a lot of people** after **but**. **To make the grade** means to reach the required standard. Not **very little** or **not much**, which are used with uncountable nouns.

**6.** A drug of this kind is _____ dangerous to be sold without a prescription.
✔ **C) too**
The structure **too + adjective + to-infinitive** means 'so much that something is not possible': **too dangerous to be sold** = so dangerous that it cannot be sold. Not **so**, because **so dangerous** needs a **that**-clause (**so dangerous that it cannot be sold**); **enough** would come after the adjective and give the opposite meaning.

**7.** Acetic acid is used as a food _____ and flavouring material, and also in the manufacture of white lead.
✔ **A) preservative**
A **preservative** is a substance added to food to stop it from going bad: **Vinegar is a natural food preservative.** The collocation **food preservative** fits with **flavouring material**. Not **decay**, which is the process that preservatives prevent.

**8.** Researchers disagree _____ whether a large ocean ever existed on Mars, but one thing is certain: Martian geology is turning _____ to be strange and complex.
✔ **D) on / out**
We **disagree on** (or **about**) a question or issue, and **turn out to be** means 'prove to be in the end': **The weather turned out to be fine.** Only **on / out** fits both gaps; **about / in** fails because **turn in** means to go to bed or hand something over.

**9.** Species become endangered and even extinct _____ a variety of reasons, many of which are related _____ human activities.
✔ **B) for / to**
We say **for a variety of reasons** (= because of many different causes), and the adjective **related** takes the preposition **to**: **related to human activities**. Only **for / to** fits both gaps.

**10.** Some scientists _____ us that the thermal blanket around the globe _____ the average temperature of the earth to rise.
✔ **C) have warned / may cause**
The present perfect **have warned** describes warnings given up to now that are still relevant. In the second gap, the modal **may** expresses a possibility and must be followed by the bare infinitive: **may cause**. Not **may caused**, because a modal is never followed by a past form.

**11.** A theory _____ only when a hypothesis _____ by consistent results from many observations or experiments.
✔ **B) can be developed / has been supported**
This is a general scientific statement, so the present tense is used: **can be developed** expresses what is possible in general. In the time clause after **only when**, the present perfect passive **has been supported** shows that the support must be completed first. Past forms like **was supported** or **had been supported** do not suit a general truth.

**12.** If transport costs _____ into consideration at the outset, the plant _____ far from its present site.
**✓ E) had been taken / would have been built**
This is a third conditional about an unreal past situation: **If + past perfect, would have + past participle**. Both verbs are passive here: **had been taken into consideration** and **would have been built**. The meaning is that costs were not considered, so the plant was built where it is now.

**13.** The first laser _____ in 1960 by Maiman almost half a century after the publication of Einstein's theory of radiation which _____ the possibility of laser operation.
**✓ C) was demonstrated / showed**
**In 1960** is a finished past time, so the past simple passive **was demonstrated** is needed; the present perfect cannot be used with a specific past date. The theory **showed** the possibility of the laser at the time it was published, so the past simple is also used in the relative clause. Not **had been demonstrated**, because there is no later past event for it to come before.

**14.** The advent of nuclear power _____ the trend to use water-power on a large scale, and hydroelectric installations _____ in all industrial countries with water power potential.
**✓ A) has not halted / are being built**
The present perfect **has not halted** links a past event (the arrival of nuclear power) with its result now: the trend is still continuing. The present continuous passive **are being built** shows an ongoing process at present. Not **did not halt / have built**, because installations do not build anything themselves, so a passive form is needed.

**15.** _____ many diverse animal forms exist _____ exceptions can be found to almost any definition of an animal.
**✓ D) So / that**
The structure **so many + plural noun + that + result clause** shows cause and result: there are **so many** different animal forms **that** exceptions exist to almost any definition. Not **So / as**, because **so** in this pattern must be followed by **that**.

**16.** Products _____ diverse _____ rubber, tobacco, coffee, chocolate and aromatic oils for perfumes come from flowering plants.
**✓ B) as / as**
**As diverse as** introduces a list of examples to show how varied something is: **products as diverse as rubber, tobacco and coffee**. Not **too / than**, because **too** is not used in comparisons with **than**.

**17.** The writers of this article seem to assume the nuclear plants conform with safety requirements _____ the fact that violations are constantly being reported.
**✓ E) despite**
The gap introduces a contrast, and it is followed by a noun phrase (**the fact that …**), so a preposition is needed: **despite the fact that** = although. Not **although**, because it is a conjunction and must be followed directly by a clause (**although violations are reported**), not by **the fact that**.

**18.** Pile foundations are costly and normally economic only _____ commercial structures on valuable sites.
**✓ B) in the case of**
**In the case of** means 'when talking about' or 'for a particular kind of thing': pile foundations are only economic **in the case of** commercial buildings on expensive land. Not **in accordance with**, which means 'following a rule or agreement'.

**19.** The South African government has committed a further sum of money to the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT), _____ enables the construction of this giant telescope to commence next year.
**✓ A) which**
After a comma, **which** can introduce a non-defining relative clause that refers to the whole previous idea (the government committing more money). This clause needs a subject for **enables**, and **which** fills that role. Not **thus**, because it is an adverb and cannot act as the subject of **enables**.

**20.** Heat is transferred from _____ object _____ by conduction, convection and radiation.
**✓ E) one / to another**
The fixed pattern **from one … to another** describes movement between two things: **from one object to another**. The verb **transfer** goes with **from … to**. Not **each / from the rest**, because **transfer from … from** is not possible.

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