ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Grammar Exercise – MCQ Test 16

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Explanations

1. The recent rise in drug addiction _____ young people has been given publicity in the media _____ all proportion to the size of the problem.
✓ **D) among / out of**
Among is used for a group of more than two people (**among young people**). The fixed phrase **out of all proportion to** means much bigger or more serious than is reasonable: **The publicity was out of all proportion to the size of the problem.** Not **between**, which normally refers to two separate people or things.

2. People with learning disabilities have difficulty in coping _____ tasks that are well _____ the capabilities of the average person.
✓ **C) with / within**
The verb **cope** takes the preposition **with**: **cope with a task**. **Well within the capabilities of** means easily possible for someone. Not **beyond**: **well beyond someone's capabilities** means far too difficult, which is the opposite of the intended meaning.

3. By the end of the week, he _____ the first stage of the treatment, and we'll know then if he _____ well to it.
✓ **C) will have completed / is responding**
By the end of the week needs the future perfect, because the action will be finished before that time: **will have completed**. In the second clause, **we'll know then if he is responding** refers to how he is reacting at that point, so the present continuous fits. Not **will complete / will respond**: **by** + a future time calls for the future perfect, not the simple future.

4. The successful education of children with speech defects involves _____ all means of approach.
✓ **B) exploring**
The verb **involve** is followed by a gerund (-ing form): **involves exploring**. Not **to explore**, because **involve** is never followed by an infinitive. The perfect forms (**having explored**) are also wrong, since the exploring is not earlier than the involving.

5. If they _____ the child to the hospital a little earlier, these complications _____.
✓ **E) had brought / would not have developed**
This is a third conditional about an unreal past situation. The child was not brought early, and complications did develop. The pattern is **if** + past perfect, **would have** + past participle: **If they had brought… these complications would not have developed.** Not **would have brought** in the if-clause, because **would** is not used there.

6. Pure carbolic acid on a suspected rabies wound _____ the incubation period but probably won't kill all the viruses; so its use _____ into general disfavour among doctors.
✓ **A) may prolong / has fallen**
May prolong expresses a present general possibility: carbolic acid can lengthen the incubation period. **Has fallen into disfavour** uses the present perfect for a past change whose result is true now, since doctors no longer use it. Not **had fallen**: the past perfect needs a later past reference point, and there isn't one here.

7. The healthy individual possesses means of arresting minor haemorrhages; if this _____ so, trivial cuts _____ to a fatal loss of blood.
✓ **B) were not / would lead**
This is a second conditional about an imaginary present situation, because healthy people do have this ability. The pattern is **if** + past simple (formal **were** for all persons), **would** + infinitive: **if this were not so, trivial cuts would lead to…** Not **was not / have led**: the main clause needs **would**.

8. In recent years, the trend in the study of child development has been an increased emphasis on the processes underlying the changes _____ simple descriptions of age changes.
✓ **C) rather than**
Rather than means 'instead of'. It contrasts the new emphasis (the processes behind the changes) with the old one (simple descriptions of age changes). Not **such as**, which introduces examples, not a contrast.

9. Poisoning _____ drug overdose is a frequent and still increasing cause of admission to hospital.
✓ **B) due to**
Due to means 'caused by': **poisoning due to drug overdose** is poisoning caused by taking too much of a drug. Not **in excess of**, which means 'more than' and makes no sense with **drug overdose**.

10. Dizziness is a distressing symptom in advanced old age, and alarms relatives _____ the patient.
✓ **A) no less than**
No less than here means 'just as much as': dizziness frightens the relatives as much as it frightens the patient. Not **as little as**, which suggests a small amount and does not fit the meaning **alarms**.

11. Bacteria are _____ small that they can _____ be seen under a microscope.
✓ **D) so / only**
The pattern **so** + adjective + **that** shows a result: **so small that…** The result is that bacteria **can only be seen under a microscope**, i.e. not with the naked eye. Not **too / hardly**: **too** is followed by **to** + infinitive, not by a **that**-clause.

12. The brain is a part of the body _____ very little is known and even less is understood.
✓ E) about which
We say **know about something** and **understand about something**, so the relative clause needs a preposition + **which**: **a part of the body about which very little is known**. Not **which** alone, because the preposition is missing. Not **of whose**, because **whose** must be followed by a noun.

13. The remedies they use in the East are very different from those we use in the West; _____ rely more on the natural properties of herbs and plants while _____ are more chemically orientated.
✓ D) theirs / ours
The gaps replace **their remedies** and **our remedies**, so possessive pronouns are needed: **theirs rely more on herbs… while ours are more chemically orientated**. Not **their / we**, because **their** must be followed by a noun, and **we** refers to people, not remedies.

14. In hay fever, the symptoms vary from one patient _____, and treatment will also vary.
✓ D) to another
The fixed phrase is **from one … to another**: **vary from one patient to another**. Not **to the other**, which would only be correct if there were just two patients.

15. Naturally, I will come to you for advice whenever I feel in need of _____.
✓ C) some
Advice is uncountable, so the pronoun that replaces it is **some**: **in need of some (advice)**. Not **one**, **them** or **a few**, which are used with countable nouns.

16. We've had some pretty good directors over the years, but Dr. Radcliff is _____ the most capable of them.
✓ A) by far
By far makes a superlative stronger: **by far the most capable** means much more capable than all the others. Not **too much** or **as much**, which cannot come before a superlative.

17. The committee showed their wholehearted approval of the designs he submitted, and _____.
✓ B) so did I
To agree with an affirmative statement, we use **so** + auxiliary + subject. The auxiliary must match the first verb: **showed** is past simple, so **so did I**. Not **so have I**, because the first clause is not in the present perfect. **Me, too** is informal and cannot follow **and** in this sentence.

18. The other climbers were all for giving up the attempt, but it was _____ impossible to convince him of the need to do so.
✓ C) quite
With absolute adjectives such as **impossible**, **quite** means 'completely': **quite impossible** = totally impossible. Not **too**, because **too impossible** is not possible. Not **much**, which cannot come before an adjective in this way.

19. Could this possibly be the firm's new buyer _____ reputation, if we are able to believe the newspapers, is not quite what it should be?
✓ E) whose
Whose is the possessive relative pronoun: the reputation belongs to the buyer, so **the firm's new buyer whose reputation…**. Not **whom**, which cannot be followed directly by a noun to show possession.

20. _____ takes on the task of investigating these particular allegations is going to run into a lot of difficulties.
✓ D) Whoever
Whoever means 'any person who' and can act as the subject of both clauses: **Whoever takes on the task… is going to run into difficulties.** Not **Anyone**, which would need **who** after it (**Anyone who takes on…**).

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