ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Grammar Exercise – MCQ Test 19

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Explanations

1. _____ he wouldn't wait at the door for ages, I put the key under the mat for my new flatmate, who had left home in a hurry, yesterday.
✓ **A) In order that**
In order that introduces a purpose clause: I put the key under the mat so that he wouldn't have to wait. It is a formal equivalent of **so that** and is followed by a full clause, often with **would/could**. Not **In case**: it introduces a precaution against something that might happen (**in case he arrived early**), so it cannot take a negative purpose like **he wouldn't wait**. **In view of** and **on grounds of** need a noun phrase, not a clause.

2. There are 20 species of wild roses in North America, _____ have prickly stems, pinnate leaves, and large flowers that usually smell sweet.
✓ **D) all of which**
This is a non-defining relative clause with a quantifier: **all of which** refers back to the 20 species (things, so **which**, not **whom**). The verb **have** says what every species has in common. Not **both of which**: **both** refers to exactly two things, not twenty. **Much of which** is for uncountable nouns, and **none of whose** does not fit the structure **have prickly stems**.

3. Frost occurs in valleys and on low grounds _____ on adjacent hills.
✓ **A) more frequently than**
The sentence compares how often frost occurs in two places, so a comparative adverb with **than** is needed: **more frequently than**. The adverb form **frequently** is required because it describes the verb **occurs**. Not **as frequent as**: the adjective **frequent** cannot modify a verb, and the sentence clearly states a difference, not equality.

4. Gunpowder, in some ways the most effective of _____ the explosive materials, is a mixture of potassium nitrate, charcoal, and sulphur.
✓ **C) all**
A superlative is usually followed by **of all (the) + plural noun**: **the most effective of all the explosive materials**. **All** can come before **the**. Not **every**: it cannot come before **the** and is used with a singular noun (**every material**). **The whole** goes with singular nouns (**the whole group**).

5. If it receives enough rain at the proper time, hay will grow quickly, _____ grass.
✓ **A) like**
Like is a preposition meaning 'in the same way as' and is followed by a noun: **hay will grow quickly, like grass**. Not **as**: in comparisons **as** is followed by a clause (**as grass does**), not just a noun. **Such as** introduces examples, and **similar** and **alike** are adjectives (**similar to grass**).

6. Although it can be derived _____ oil, coal, and tar, kerosene is usually produced _____ refining it from petroleum.
✓ **A) from / by**
Two fixed patterns are tested. **Derive something from** a source: **derived from oil, coal, and tar**. **By + -ing** shows the method: **produced by refining it**. No other pair gives both correct prepositions.

7. Although no country has _____ folk music _____ that of any other, it is significant that similar songs exist among widely separated people.
✓ **B) the same / as**
The structure **the same + noun + as** expresses identity: **no country has the same folk music as that of any other**. **That** replaces **the folk music**. Not **so … as**: it is used with adjectives or adverbs in negative comparisons (**not so old as**), not with a noun like **folk music**. **Such … that** expresses result, not comparison.

8. Your father should not put so much pressure on you. He must not choose your friends, _____.
✓ **D) either**
To add a second negative statement to a first one, English uses **either** at the end: **He should not… He must not choose your friends, either.** Not **too** or **as well**: they are used in positive sentences (**He chooses your clothes, too**). **Neither** would need inversion at the start of a clause (**Neither must he…**).

9. I don't suppose the election results will reflect the true reaction of the public to the government in power, _____?
✓ **E) will they**
With **I don't suppose / I don't think** + clause, the question tag refers to the subordinate clause, not to **I**. The clause is **the election results will reflect…**, and the negative meaning moves from **don't suppose** to it, so the tag is positive: **will they?** Not **do I?**: tags are not normally formed on **I suppose/think**. Not **won't they?**: the sense of the sentence is already negative, so the tag must be positive.

10. Many countries _____ the world are gearing up to help the people affected _____ the tsunami.
✓ **D) around / by**
Around the world means 'in many places all over the world'. **Affected by** introduces the cause of the effect: **people affected by the tsunami**. **Across the world** is also possible for the first gap, but **affected on** is wrong, so only **around / by** works.

11. Physical geographers study soil because of its fundamental position _____ the ecosystem and its impact _____ human activities.
✓ B) in / on
Two collocations are tested: **a position in** a system (**its fundamental position in the ecosystem**) and **an impact on** something (**its impact on human activities**). **Impact upon** is also possible, but **position above the ecosystem** makes no sense, so only **in / on** is correct.

12. There were some beach huts here only a few days ago, but they were _____ by the flood.
✓ D) swept away
Sweep away means to carry something off completely with great force, typically used of water, wind or floods: **The huts were swept away by the flood.** The clue is **only a few days ago**: the huts are no longer there. **Carried out** means 'performed' (**carry out a test**), and **poured down** is used for heavy rain, not for what water does to buildings.

13. Climate shifts could disrupt farming and _____ thousands of species of animals and plants.
✓ C) wipe out
Wipe out means to destroy completely or make extinct: **climate shifts could wipe out thousands of species**. Not **eat away**: it means to damage something slowly and gradually (**rust ate away the metal**) and is not used for causing species to die out. **Make up** (form/invent) and **wear off** (fade gradually) do not fit.

14. The Lakota nation of Native Americans still disputes the USA's ownership of the Black Hills, referring to it as an occupied _____.
✓ A) territory
Occupied territory is a fixed collocation for land controlled by a power that others say has no right to it. The Black Hills are an area of land, so **territory** (an area under someone's control) fits. **Regime** refers to a government, not land, and **vacancy** is an unfilled job or room.

15. On the Aleutian Islands, the land rises abruptly from level coasts to _____ mountains.
✓ C) steep
Steep describes a slope that rises sharply, which matches **the land rises abruptly**: **steep mountains**. It also contrasts with **level coasts**. **Plain** means 'simple' or 'flat land' and contradicts the sense, while **keen**, **lengthy** and **flexible** do not collocate with **mountains**.

16. Visitors are kindly asked to _____ from touching the paintings in the gallery.
✓ A) refrain
Refrain from + -ing means to stop yourself from doing something, and it is common in formal requests and notices: **Please refrain from smoking.** Not **remain** or **persist**: neither is followed by **from + -ing** in this sense (**persist in doing**). **Retain** means 'keep', and **belong** needs **to**.

17. The senator _____ denied allegations that anything improper had taken place.
✓ E) strongly
Strongly deny is a fixed collocation meaning to deny something firmly and forcefully. Other common patterns are **flatly/categorically deny**. Not **highly**: it collocates with adjectives (**highly unlikely**) or verbs like **recommend** and **praise**, not with **deny**. **Admittedly** means 'it must be admitted' and makes no sense with **denied**.

18. Cat allergen is one of the main causes of childhood allergies, asthma and _____ respiratory diseases as bronchitis.
✓ C) such other
The formal pattern **such + (other) + noun + as + example** introduces examples: **such other respiratory diseases as bronchitis** means 'other respiratory diseases, for example bronchitis'. The **as** later in the sentence is the clue that **such** is needed. Not **the like**: it is used at the end of a list (**asthma and the like**) and cannot be followed by a noun and **as**.

19. Children have difficulty _____ numbers _____ two until the age of three or four.
✓ C) grasping / greater than
Have difficulty (in) + -ing is the correct pattern, so **grasping** fits, and **difficulty to grasp** is wrong. For the second gap, **numbers greater than two** means numbers above two, which makes sense here. Not **in grasping / as many as**: **difficulty in grasping** is acceptable, but **numbers as many as two** is not correct English. **Fewer** and **less than** give the wrong meaning, because children can manage small numbers.

20. The safest approach _____ your entire corporation against security threats from roaming users is _____ a quarantine-oriented technology.
✓ B) to protect / to include
After **approach**, a **to**-infinitive can show purpose (**the safest approach to protect…**; **approach to protecting** is also common). After **is**, the complement explaining what the approach consists of is a **to**-infinitive: **is to include a quarantine-oriented technology**. Not **protecting / including**: **approach protecting** lacks a linking preposition. In the other options, **having included**, **included** and **being included** give the wrong meaning.

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