ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Grammar Exercise – MCQ Test 20

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Explanations

1. Tourism _____ when large numbers of middle-class people _____ to join the more wealthy aristocratic travellers.
✔ **D) originated / began**
Both actions are finished past events that happened at the same time, so both verbs take the past simple: **originated** and **began**. Not **had originated / began**: the past perfect would put the start of tourism before the middle classes began travelling, but the sentence says it happened **when** they began.

2. The wounded hunter _____ on the ground for almost an hour when, coincidentally, he _____ by another hunter, who must have keen eyes.
✔ **D) had been lying / was spotted**
For almost an hour shows an action that continued up to a point in the past, so the first gap needs the **past perfect continuous**: **had been lying**. The second action interrupts it and the hunter receives the action, so it needs the **past simple passive**: **was spotted**. Not **was lying / spotted**: **spotted** is active, but the hunter did not spot anyone; he was spotted.

3. As the tree was too high to climb, the mischievous boys _____ their ball down only by throwing sticks at it.
✔ **B) were able to knock**
The sentence describes one specific success in the past. For a single past achievement we use **was/were able to** (or **managed to**), not **could**. Not **could have knocked**: this means it was possible but did not happen, which does not fit an event that really took place.

4. Certain serious diseases can be successfully treated _____ detected in an initial stage.
✔ **B) if**
If (they are) detected is a reduced conditional clause: the diseases can be treated successfully on condition that they are found early. Not **unless**: it means 'if not', which reverses the meaning.

5. _____ you have made minimal progress, it is by no means the kind of progress that you need to make.
✔ **E) While**
While can mean 'although' and introduces a contrast between two clauses: some progress has been made, but it is not enough. Not **Despite**: it is a preposition and must be followed by a noun or **-ing** form (**Despite making minimal progress…**), not by a full clause.

6. Soils are the result of _____ interacting processes _____ bring different materials together.
✔ **C) some / that**
Some is used with plural countable nouns (**some interacting processes**), and the relative pronoun **that** is the subject of **bring**: processes **that** bring materials together. Not **by which**: it cannot be the subject of the verb **bring**.

7. I'm ready to do _____ I can do to help you _____ your hardship.
✔ **A) anything / overcome**
Anything (that) I can do means 'everything possible', with the relative pronoun left out. After **help someone** we use the bare infinitive (or **to**-infinitive): **help you overcome**. Not **whatever / overcoming**: **help you overcoming** is not correct.

8. Despite my insistence, Adam didn't tell me _____ he didn't like me and my family.
✔ **A) why**
The gap introduces an indirect question about the cause, so we need **why**: **Adam didn't tell me why he didn't like me.** Not **the reason of**: we say **the reason (why/that) he…** or **the reason for something**, never **the reason of** + clause.

9. She keeps saying that she has got _____ patience with kids, but forgets that she didn't have _____ before she gave birth to her own kids.
✔ **A) enough / as much**
Patience is uncountable, so it takes **enough** or **much**, not **many**. In the second gap, **as much** means 'the same amount (of patience)': she didn't have **as much** before she had her own children. Not **too many / any**: **many** cannot be used with an uncountable noun.

10. If I _____ the choice of making either an oral or a written report, I _____ the second alternative.
✔ **E) were given / would pick**
This is a second conditional about an imaginary present or future situation: **If** + past simple (here passive, **were given**), **would** + base verb (**would pick**). Not **had been given / might pick**: a past perfect **if**-clause needs **would/might have** + past participle in the main clause.

11. A combination of imagination and determination _____ Peter _____ entirely new lines of research concerned with the way animals survive extreme environmental conditions.
✔ **D) allowed / to develop**
The pattern is **allow someone to do something**, so we need **allowed Peter to develop**. The past simple fits a completed achievement. Not **allow / developing**: **allow** is not followed by an object + **-ing** form here, and the singular subject **a combination** would need **allows** anyway.

12. The scientist who _____ Dolly the sheep, the world's first cloned mammal, _____ a licence on Tuesday to clone human embryos for medical research.
✓ C) created / was granted
Both events are finished past actions, and **on Tuesday** is a specific past time, so we use the **past simple**: **created** and the passive **was granted** (the scientist received the licence). Not **has created / has been granted**: the present perfect cannot be used with a finished time expression like **on Tuesday**.

13. My mother is making a steady recovery from the flu and _____ the hospital by next week.
✓ D) will have left
By next week means 'at some time before next week', which calls for the **future perfect**: **will have left**. Not **is leaving**: the present continuous describes a fixed arrangement at a time (**on Monday**), but it does not combine naturally with **by** + a future time.

14. _____ a celebrity arrives in Istanbul, the first question reporters ask them is _____ they like Istanbul.
✓ B) Every time / how
Every time is a conjunction meaning 'whenever', and it introduces a clause about a repeated situation. The question reporters ask is **How do you like Istanbul?**, reported as **how they like Istanbul**. Not **During / whether**: **during** is a preposition and cannot be followed by a clause.

15. The results of last weekend's poll have _____ to be announced and officials say it could be _____ week before they are.
✓ E) yet / another
Have yet to + verb means 'have not done something so far': **the results have yet to be announced** = they haven't been announced. **Another week** means 'one more week'. Not **still**: **have still to** is possible, but **each week** does not make sense in the second gap.

16. She failed to get anyone to repair the taps for her at the weekend, _____ could she do it on her own.
✓ B) nor
Nor adds a second negative idea after a negative one (**failed to get anyone**) and is followed by inversion: **nor could she do it**. Not **so**: **so could she** adds a positive idea, which does not match the negative first clause.

17. The neutral mutation rate is known _____ widely along human chromosomes, _____ to mutational hot and cold regions.
✓ E) to vary / leading
Be known + **to**-infinitive reports a generally accepted fact: **is known to vary**. The second gap is a participle clause showing the result of the first: **…, leading to hot and cold regions**. Not **to be varying / to lead**: the continuous infinitive is unnecessary for a general fact, and a **to**-infinitive cannot express a result in this position.

18. You would not expect anyone _____ intelligent to make _____ stupid mistake, but he did so.
✓ A) so / that
Anyone so intelligent means 'anyone as intelligent as that', and **that stupid mistake** refers to the specific mistake he made. Not **too / such**: **too intelligent to** would need a different structure, and **such** needs an article before a singular noun (**such a stupid mistake**).

19. I don't suppose you are telling us the true version of the story, _____?
✓ B) are you
With **I don't suppose / I don't think** + clause, the tag follows the verb in the second clause, not **I suppose**. Because the negative of **suppose** really belongs to that clause (= you aren't telling us…), the tag is positive: **are you?** Not **do I**: tags are not formed with **I suppose / I think**.

20. Some people argue that certain oriental relaxation techniques _____ yoga and meditation are extremely effective in the treatment of high blood pressure.
✓ C) such as
Such as introduces examples: **relaxation techniques such as yoga and meditation**. Not **just as**: it is used for comparison (**just as effective as**), not for giving examples.

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