ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Grammar Exercise – MCQ Test 4

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Explanations

1. This poem is generally supposed _____ in the fifteenth century, but some people date it even earlier.
✔ **C) to have been composed**
After passive reporting verbs (**is supposed / is said / is believed**), use a perfect infinitive when the action happened before the time of speaking. The poem was written in the past, and the poem did not write itself, so we need the perfect passive infinitive: **is supposed to have been composed**. Not **to have composed**, which is active and would mean the poem composed something.

2. The failure so far to produce evidence of life on any planet but _____ has given continued strength to the belief in the uniqueness of Earth.
✔ **C) ours**
The gap replaces **our planet**, so we need a possessive pronoun that stands alone: **ours**. **any planet but ours** = any planet except our planet. Not **our**, because a possessive determiner must be followed by a noun.

3. He _____ that the forests _____ to their natural inhabitants, that is, to all varieties of living things.
✔ **A) suggests / be returned**
Verbs like **suggest, recommend, insist** followed by a **that**-clause take the subjunctive: the base form of the verb, here passive **be returned**. Example: **He suggests that the forests be returned to their natural inhabitants.** Not **suggested / to be returned**, because **suggest** is not followed by an object + to-infinitive.

4. With the help of satellite images, the Indonesian government _____ that it is the timber companies which _____ the mass destruction of their rain forests.
✔ **E) has shown / are causing**
The present perfect **has shown** presents a past finding whose result matters now, and the main clause is in the present (**it is the timber companies**). The cleft sentence describes a situation going on now, so the present continuous **are causing** fits. The past and conditional forms in the other options do not agree with **it is**.

5. By the late 1980s, a surge of prosperity _____ across southeast Asia, but in some countries of the region the economic structure _____ sufficiently to benefit from this trend.
✔ **C) was sweeping / had not developed**
By the late 1980s refers to a past moment. The past continuous **was sweeping** shows a process in progress at that time. The past perfect **had not developed** shows that, up to that point, the economy was not ready. Present perfect forms (**has swept, has not developed**) cannot be used with a finished past time like **the late 1980s**.

6. The ridicule that _____ upon him by leading scientists of the day _____ to the novelty of his thinking.
✔ **E) was heaped / testifies**
The ridicule was heaped on him by scientists in the past (**of the day**), so we need the past simple passive: **was heaped**. The main verb states a fact that is still true now: the ridicule **testifies to** (shows) how new his thinking was, so the present simple **testifies** fits. Not **was heaping**, because it is active and the ridicule did not do the heaping.

7. When I _____ as a fully licensed geneticist in '96, I thought I knew everything there was _____ about genetics.
✔ **B) graduated / to know**
A finished past time (**in '96**) needs the past simple: **I graduated**. In modern English **graduate** is used actively, so **was graduated** is not used. **everything there was to know** is a fixed pattern: **there is/was + something + to-infinitive**. Not **have graduated**, because the present perfect cannot be used with a past date.

8. Perhaps these people are _____ ignorant to realize _____ serious a threat these fertilizers are to their health.
✔ **D) too / just how**
too + adjective + to-infinitive means 'so much that they cannot': **too ignorant to realize**. **just how serious a threat** is an emphatic indirect question (**how + adjective + a + noun**). Not **so / why**, because **so ignorant** would need **that**, and **why** cannot come before an adjective.

9. I would have thought that only _____ naive worker could be deceived by _____ assurances.
✔ **C) the most / such**
only the most naive worker uses the superlative: only someone extremely naive. **such assurances** means 'assurances of this kind', referring back to promises already mentioned. Not **a most / each**, because **each** needs a singular noun and **assurances** is plural.

10. The motive was _____ aesthetic and social _____ they sought to bring the good design within the reach of the ordinary man.
✔ **B) both / because**
both ... and joins the two adjectives: **both aesthetic and social**. The second clause gives the reason, so **because** is needed. Not **as much / as**, because **as much aesthetic as social** would need **as** between the adjectives, not before a clause.

11. He said I was submitting my application form rather late, but now I find _____ have still not submitted _____.
✔ **D) others / theirs**
others means 'other people', in contrast to me. **theirs** is a possessive pronoun replacing **their application forms**. Not **many / it**, because **it** is singular and each person has their own form; **theirs** is needed.

12. In order to understand the implications of research _____ brain development one has to make a systematic study _____ what children know.
✔ **A) on / into**
Research on a subject is the standard collocation (**research on/into brain development**). A **study into** something means a careful investigation of it, like **an inquiry into**. The other prepositions do not collocate with these nouns.

13. The arrival of Europeans in America dislocated traditional ways of life and altered the world _____ recognition.
✔ **B) beyond**
beyond recognition is a fixed phrase meaning 'so much that it can no longer be recognised'. Example: **The town has changed beyond recognition.** The other prepositions do not form this phrase.

14. I sent an e-mail to everyone in the department, asking for articles for this special issue but _____ there has been no response.
✔ **E) so far**
so far means 'up to now' and goes with the present perfect: **so far there has been no response**. Not **until then**, which refers to a point in the past or future, not to now.

15. The crisis is particularly serious _____ a whole series of related issues ranging from unemployment to health benefits are involved.
✔ **E) since**
The second clause explains why the crisis is serious, so we need a conjunction of reason: **since** (= because). Not **as well as** or **as for**, which are not followed by a full clause giving a reason.

16. He felt that soil drainage should be kept to a minimum _____ much of the rainfall could be retained _____ soil moisture.
✔ **A) so that / as**
so that introduces a purpose: drainage was kept low **so that** rain could stay in the soil (**could** is typical after **so that**). **as** means 'in the form of': the rain is retained **as soil moisture**. Not **such as**, which introduces examples.

17. If we are to prevent the flow of toxic materials into the water reservoirs of the country, there is no other possible scheme available, _____?
✔ **C) is there**
The question tag matches the main clause **there is no other possible scheme**. **No** makes the clause negative, so the tag is positive and repeats **there**: **is there?** Not **isn't there**, because a negative statement takes a positive tag.

18. It looks _____ the hiring committee isn't impressed by his qualifications, and I don't think the manager of the company is, _____.
✔ **B) as if / either**
It looks as if + clause means 'it seems that'. To add a negative idea we use **either** at the end: **I don't think the manager is, either.** Not **too** or **as well**, which are used only after positive statements.

19. If he _____ the conditions of the insurance policy carefully, he _____ that it did not cover such eventualities.
✔ **E) had read / would have realised**
This is a third conditional about an unreal past: **If + past perfect, would have + past participle**. **If he had read the policy carefully, he would have realised...** (but he didn't read it). Not **were reading / had realised**, which mixes the forms wrongly.

20. Ever since the advent of industrialisation, social scientists _____ the term "the masses" to "the people".
✔ **A) have preferred**
Ever since + a past starting point needs the present perfect for a situation that continues up to now: **have preferred**. **prefer A to B** is the standard pattern. Not **had preferred**, because the past perfect needs a later past reference point, and here the time runs up to the present.

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