ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Grammar Exercise – MCQ Test 7

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Explanations

1. _____ just simply transmitting voice, the Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS), as the Pentagon refers to it, will also be able to carry video and data transmissions simultaneously.
✔ **A) Rather than**
Rather than + -ing means 'instead of only doing X'. Here it pairs with **also** in the main clause: the radio will do more than **just** transmit voice. **In contrast to** introduces an opposite, but carrying video and data is an addition to voice transmission, not its opposite. **In spite of** would wrongly suggest a concession.

2. Repair and maintenance are perhaps the most important ones of the numerous tasks _____ engineers are responsible for in time of a disaster.
✔ **D) that**
The relative clause keeps its preposition at the end (**responsible for**), so the gap needs a plain relative pronoun for things: **that** (or **which**). **For which** would only work without the final 'for': **tasks for which engineers are responsible**. Using both would repeat the preposition.

3. Meanwhile, unemployment _____ a vast scale hit basic industries, and a series of strikes emphasised the contrast _____ labour ideals and post-war effects.
✔ **E) on / between**
Both gaps test fixed collocations. Something happens **on a vast/large scale**, and we speak of **the contrast between** two things (**labour ideals and post-war effects**). 'Among' is used for more than two items, and 'over' does not combine with 'scale' in this sense.

4. The Janissaries were mainly recruited _____ conquered Christian lands and gained great power _____ Süleyman the Magnificent in the 16th century.
✔ **B) from / under**
Soldiers are **recruited from** a place, meaning they are taken from there. **Under** + a ruler means 'during the reign of': **under Süleyman the Magnificent**. 'Over Süleyman' would mean they had power over the sultan himself, which is not the intended meaning.

5. The union of Great Britain and Ireland finally came _____ force _____ January 1, 1801, through ambitious efforts of wise politicians.
✔ **C) into / on**
A law or agreement **comes into force**, meaning it starts to apply. Before a specific date we use **on**: **on January 1, 1801**. 'In' is used for months and years, not exact dates.

6. In the States, a person travelling 10 miles to work every day by train instead of by car saves _____ 34 gallons of petrol per year.
✔ **A) as much as**
As much as + a number stresses that the amount is surprisingly large: **saves as much as 34 gallons**. 'The most', 'so much more' and 'even more' need a comparison that is not in the sentence. 'Equal to' does not fit directly after 'saves'.

7. The new organisation _____ advises private enterprises on their staff problems, _____ gives vocational advice to school leavers.
✔ **E) not only / but also**
The correlative pair **not only … but also** links two actions of the same subject: the organisation **not only advises** enterprises **but also gives** vocational advice. 'Both' must be followed by **and**, not 'but'.

8. _____ business plans were failing to materialise, while _____ were progressing at a very high speed.
✔ **D) Some / others**
Some … others contrasts two parts of a group: **some** business plans were failing, while **others** (other plans) were progressing quickly. 'Each' and 'another' are singular, so they do not agree with the plural verbs **were**.

9. _____ fighting the bitterly cold temperatures, any explorer attempting to do research in the Arctic has _____ to battle with the strong tidal pull on the ice.
✔ **A) Besides / also**
Besides + -ing means 'in addition to doing', and it naturally pairs with **also** in the main clause: **Besides fighting the cold, explorers also have to battle…**. 'As well as' fits the first gap, but 'even so' signals contrast, which does not fit the second gap.

10. Although every philosopher since Plato _____ the relationship between humour and laughter, Freud _____ the first person to put forward a conclusive theory.
✔ **A) has considered / was**
Since Plato covers a period up to now, so the first clause takes the present perfect: **has considered**. Freud's theory belongs to a finished past time, so the second clause takes the past simple: **was the first person**.

11. When I accidentally broke Mr Parker's antique bowl, he made me feel as if I _____ a criminal.
✔ **D) were**
After **as if** we use the past subjunctive **were** for an unreal situation that happens at the same time as the main verb. I was not a criminal, but he made me feel like one at that moment: **as if I were a criminal**. Not **am**, because the comparison is unreal.

12. Without doubt the position of the smaller enterprises _____ only slightly even if all these changes _____.
✓ B) would improve / were introduced
This is a second conditional for an imagined present or future situation. The **even if** clause takes the past simple (**were introduced**), and the main clause takes **would** + infinitive (**would improve**). Mixing tenses, as in 'will improve / would be introduced', breaks the pattern.

13. The authorities in Malaysia _____ that the country's highly qualified young researchers _____ by foreign companies as cheap labour.
✓ C) are worried / are being used
Be worried that describes a present state of concern: **are worried**. The present continuous passive **are being used** shows something happening now, over the current period. 'Are worrying' would mean 'causing worry', not 'feeling worried'.

14. William Shakespeare is considered to have been the most important literary person in Britain although, as we _____, there _____ many other English poets and playwrights before him.
✓ A) know / were
As we know refers to general knowledge that is true now, so it takes the present simple: **know**. The other poets and playwrights lived in a finished past time before Shakespeare, so we need the past simple: **there were**. Not **had been**, because the sentence has no later past point to go back from.

15. Despite the fact that several people made similar suggestions, _____ of Mr Parker were met with _____ approval.
✓ B) those / everyone's
Those replaces a plural noun already mentioned: **those of Mr Parker** = Mr Parker's suggestions. **Met with everyone's approval** means that all people approved of them. This contrasts with the other similar suggestions mentioned in the **despite** clause.

16. It is almost impossible to find another couple _____ opinions on every matter are the same.
✓ D) whose
Whose is the possessive relative pronoun: **a couple whose opinions are the same** means 'a couple and their opinions are the same'. **Who** or **that** cannot show possession before a noun.

17. Scientists estimate that the wildlife will be _____ danger of extinction within forty years as long as numbers diminish _____ this rate.
✓ A) in / at
Both gaps are fixed phrases. **In danger of** something means at risk of it: **in danger of extinction**. **At this rate** means 'at this speed' or 'if things continue like this'. Not **under danger** or **at danger**, and not **on this rate** or **from this rate**; these are not used in English.

18. All cells, whether they come from animals, plants or bacteria, contain _____ elements in very nearly _____ proportions.
✓ D) the same / the same
The sentence states that all cells are similar: they contain **the same** elements in **very nearly the same** proportions. 'More … than' would need a second item to compare with. 'The most' does not fit with 'proportions' here.

19. Recommendations to reduce several diseases' risks cover _____ screening _____ intervention.
✓ E) both / and
The correlative pair **both … and** joins two equal items: **both screening and intervention**. 'Either' must go with **or**, and 'more … than' would make a comparison that the sentence does not make.

20. Under suitable circumstances, unsaturated fats, such as those found in olive oil, are usually liquid, _____ saturated fats, such as those found in butter, are solid.
✓ A) whereas
Whereas links two clauses that show a direct contrast: unsaturated fats are **liquid**, **whereas** saturated fats are **solid**. 'Besides' adds information rather than contrasting it. 'Unless' introduces a condition.

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