ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Vocabulary Exercise – MCQ Test 1

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Explanations

1. Sponsorship is being increasingly allowed in schools provided it is regarded as being _____ with educational curricula.
✔ **D) compatible**
Compatible with means 'able to exist or work together without problems'. Sponsorship is allowed only if it fits with what schools teach, so **compatible with educational curricula** is the natural collocation. **Considerate** (kind to others) describes people, not how things fit together.

2. As the new field worker will be working in close _____ with several others, make sure you select someone with an agreeable personality.
✔ **C) collaboration**
Work in close collaboration with someone means to work together with them very closely. The clue is **with several others** and the need for a pleasant personality. **Close** does not collocate with **uniformity**, **discretion** or **productivity** in this sense.

3. The discovery of a _____ cancer-causing chemical in foods like crisps, chips and cereals caused shockwaves around the world when it hit the headlines earlier this year.
✔ **B) potentially**
Potentially means 'possibly, but not yet proven'. A **potentially cancer-causing chemical** is one that may cause cancer, which explains the worldwide shock. **Completely** or **radically** do not combine naturally with **cancer-causing**, and the science was still uncertain.

4. The study of the situation covers a great deal of relevant material but does not tackle the real issues _____ enough.
✔ **D) adequately**
Adequately means 'well enough, to a satisfactory degree'. The contrast with **covers a great deal of relevant material** shows the study does not deal with the real issues **adequately enough**, i.e. in sufficient depth. **Vaguely** would not work with **not … enough**.

5. The recent recovery in palm oil production in Southeast Asia has led to a/an _____ decline in all vegetable oil prices.
✔ **E) dramatic**
Dramatic means 'sudden and very large'. A strong recovery in production increases supply and can cause a **dramatic decline** in prices, a common collocation. **Tentative** means 'hesitant, not certain' and does not describe the size of a fall.

6. At present, the rate of economic growth is very satisfactory, but _____ when foreign competition makes itself felt, this will not be the case.
✔ **B) eventually**
Eventually means 'in the end, after some time'. The contrast between **at present** and a future time **when foreign competition makes itself felt** calls for a time adverb. **Effectively** and **considerably** do not express time.

7. The dispute between the two companies ended in an out-of-court _____, so the case never went to trial.
✔ **B) settlement**
A **settlement** is an official agreement that ends a dispute. An **out-of-court settlement** is reached between the parties without a judge's decision, which is why **the case never went to trial**. A **treaty** is a formal agreement between countries, not companies.

8. In view of the severe economic recession, his appointment to this office was regarded as highly _____.
✔ **D) appropriate**
Appropriate means 'suitable for the situation'. Given the severe recession, his appointment was seen as **highly appropriate**, i.e. the right choice at the right time. **Considerable** means 'large in amount' and cannot describe an appointment in this way.

9. In a child, curiosity normally suggests intelligence and is welcomed; but an _____ adult is best avoided.
✔ **E) inquisitive**
Inquisitive means 'too interested in other people's affairs, always asking questions'. The sentence contrasts healthy curiosity in a child with an **inquisitive adult**, who is annoying and **best avoided**. **Indulgent** (allowing too much pleasure) is unrelated to curiosity.

10. I am not _____ that the proposal actually will lead to an improvement in the situation.
✔ **C) convinced**
Be convinced that means 'feel sure that something is true'. **I am not convinced that…** expresses doubt about the proposal. **Impressed** is followed by **by/with**, not a **that**-clause, and **refrained** is not used in the passive like this.

11. It is a society that is _____ to waging war on all forms of environmental pollution.
✔ **D) committed**
Be committed to + -ing means 'be fully dedicated to doing something'. Here **to** is a preposition, hence **committed to waging war on pollution**. **Referred to** means 'mentioned' and does not make sense here.

12. Many of the pictures sent from outer space are presently on _____ in the public library.
✓ **B) display**
On display means 'shown publicly so people can see it', e.g. **The paintings are on display in the gallery**. Pictures in a public library are therefore **on display**. **On duty** refers to people working.

13. Organizations are often said to be theatres in which people _____ roles in dramas, psychic prisons, or political arenas.
✓ **A) perform**
Perform a role is the standard collocation for acting a part, which fits the metaphor of organizations as **theatres** with **dramas**. **Presume** (suppose) and **allege** (claim without proof) do not collocate with **roles**.

14. The objective of this project is to increase the depth of awareness and understanding in the world about the causes and consequences of the HIV epidemic through _____ policies and programmes.
✓ **A) innovative**
Innovative means 'new and original'. Raising awareness **through innovative policies and programmes** is a positive, natural collocation. The other options are negative or unsuitable: **meagre** (too small), **ambiguous** (unclear), **decadent** (morally declining).

15. Launched as the new regulatory authority for the country's banking and financial sector, the National Financial Services Management will extend its activities so as _____ to cover more than 40% of the national economy.
✓ **B) ultimately**
Ultimately means 'in the end, as the final result'. The authority will gradually **extend its activities** and **ultimately** cover more than 40% of the economy. **Apparently** (it seems) does not express this final stage.

16. To the _____ of those who believed that the new policy would help the company to get over the long-lasting recession, it proved to be far worse than the previous one.
✓ **E) despair**
To the despair of someone means 'making someone lose all hope'. The people who expected the policy to help were disappointed because it **proved to be far worse**. **Optimism** would contradict the negative result.

17. In what is viewed as a major diplomatic _____ for the government, its neighbour agreed to reopen the border and drop all trade restrictions.
✓ **D) victory**
A **diplomatic victory** is a success achieved through negotiation. The neighbour agreeing to the government's wishes is clearly a success for the government. **Failure** is the opposite of what happened.

18. Governments throughout the world _____ that the welfare of their people depends on the economic strength and wealth of the community.
✓ **C) assume**
Assume that means 'accept something as true without needing proof'. Governments **assume that** their people's welfare depends on economic strength. **Enlighten** needs a person as object, and **commence** (begin) cannot take a **that**-clause.

19. Many early peoples who had not yet learned to catch fish, hunt game, or till the soil _____ lived chiefly on roots, berries and nuts.
✓ **A) undoubtedly**
Undoubtedly means 'certainly, without doubt'. People who could not yet fish, hunt or farm must **undoubtedly** have lived on wild plants. **Randomly** and **inconsistently** do not fit this logical conclusion.

20. He devised an _____ scheme whereby the rate of unemployment in the country could be brought down sharply.
✓ **C) ingenious**
Ingenious means 'very clever and original'. An **ingenious scheme** is a clever plan that could bring unemployment down sharply. **Irrelevant** and **unstable** are negative and would not achieve such a result.

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