ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Vocabulary Exercise – MCQ Test 10

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Explanations

1. The first great theorist of dramatic art was Aristotle, whose _____ of tragedy in “The Poetics” has dominated critical thought ever since.
✔ **C) discussion**
A **discussion** of a topic is a detailed treatment or examination of it in writing or speech. Aristotle analysed tragedy at length in **The Poetics**, so 'his discussion of tragedy' fits. Not **reference** or **allusion**, which mean only a brief mention, not a full treatment that could dominate critical thought.

2. Their state assets were _____ to foreign capital at bargain prices.
✔ **A) available**
Available to someone means able to be bought, used or obtained by them. The state assets could be bought by foreign investors cheaply ('at bargain prices'). The other adjectives (**unreliable, recurrent, constant, ultimate**) do not collocate with 'to foreign capital' or make sense here.

3. The whole of society may suffer if its government is attacked; _____ the entire body is harmed if the brain is damaged.
✔ **B) similarly**
The sentence draws an analogy: society and its government are compared to the body and its brain. **Similarly** introduces a parallel or comparable idea. Not **on the other hand**, **nevertheless** or **however**, which signal contrast, and not **otherwise**, which signals an alternative or consequence.

4. Osteoclasts are cells that _____ bone in the normal course of bone replenishment.
✔ **C) break down**
To **break down** a substance means to decompose it or reduce it to smaller parts. Osteoclasts dissolve old bone tissue so that new bone can replace it. Not **cut off**, which means to separate or stop a supply, not to decompose.

5. The findings indicate that there is a lower _____ of cancer among vegetarians.
✔ **A) incidence**
Incidence means the rate or frequency with which something, especially a disease, occurs: **a lower incidence of cancer**. Not **decline**, which needs a different structure (**a decline in cancer**) and describes a fall over time rather than a rate in a group.

6. Scientists are _____ biotechnology to develop highly effective drugs in the fight against currently incurable diseases.
✔ **E) utilizing**
To **utilize** (also spelled **utilise**) means to make practical and effective use of something: scientists use biotechnology as a tool to develop drugs. Not **exerting**, which collocates with force, pressure or influence, not with a technology.

7. _____ its focus on how language is used to achieve goals, discourse analysis may also be useful in exploring areas of persuasion, ideology, and conflict.
✔ **D) In addition to**
In addition to means 'as well as' and adds a further point. The word **also** in the main clause is the clue: besides its main focus, discourse analysis can additionally be used in other areas. Not **by dint of** or **on account of**, which express means or cause and clash with **also**.

8. The relationship between smoking and lung cancer has been heatedly discussed for many years, but until recently the evidence about it has been both _____ and conflicting.
✔ **D) fragmentary**
Fragmentary means incomplete and consisting of small, disconnected parts. Evidence that was patchy and **conflicting** explains why the debate went on for years. Not **compatible**, which would contradict **conflicting**.

9. Medical science is advancing at such a pace that it is virtually impossible to _____ all the latest developments even within one's own specialist field.
✔ **B) keep up with**
To **keep up with** something means to stay informed about the latest changes or to move at the same speed. Because medicine advances so fast, doctors cannot stay up to date with every development. Not **take up**, which means to start a hobby or accept an offer.

10. Patients seeking to _____ scars have several options, depending on the depth of the scar.
✔ **A) get rid of**
To **get rid of** something means to remove it or free yourself from it: patients want their scars removed. Not **sort out**, which means to organise or solve a problem and does not collocate with physical marks such as scars.

11. Atoms are _____ of electrons and a nucleus containing protons and neutrons.
✔ **C) composed**
Be composed of means 'consist of' or 'be made up of': **Water is composed of hydrogen and oxygen.** Only **composed** takes **of** in this meaning; **joined**, **linked** and **kept** take other prepositions (**joined to/with**, **linked to**).

12. Visibility depends _____ upon the concentration of water or dust particles in the air.
✔ **E) chiefly**
Chiefly means 'mainly' or 'mostly': visibility depends mostly on the amount of water or dust in the air. The other adverbs describe speed (**rapidly, instantly**) or manner (**obstinately, suitably**) and cannot describe the verb **depend**.

13. This magazine is designed to help satellite equipment buyers make more _____ purchasing decisions and keep ahead of new developments.
✔ **D) informed**
An **informed** decision is one based on good knowledge and understanding of the facts. The magazine gives buyers information, so they can make **more informed purchasing decisions**. Not **representative**, which means typical of a group.

14. He was discharged from the hospital but was advised to return after a month for further _____.
✔ **A) treatment**
Further treatment means more medical care after the first stage. A patient who has left hospital may be told to come back for more care. Not **recovery**, which is something the patient does, not something he returns to hospital to receive.

15. Science requires the testing of its ideas or theories to see if its predictions are _____ by experiment.
✔ **B) borne out**
To **bear out** a prediction or claim means to confirm that it is true; it is often passive: **The results were borne out by later studies.** Experiments test whether predictions are confirmed. Not **made up**, which means invented.

16. Radioactivity was discovered in 1896 by Becquerel, who noticed that salts containing uranium _____ radiation.
✔ **C) gave off**
To **give off** means to emit or produce something such as heat, light, gas or radiation: **The fire gave off a lot of smoke.** Becquerel noticed that uranium salts emitted radiation. Not **came up with**, which means to think of an idea or plan.

17. In the past, too, people relied on plant substances to _____ a wide range of illnesses.
✔ **D) cure**
To **cure** an illness means to make it go away and make the patient healthy again. Not **recover**: people recover **from** an illness; you cannot 'recover an illness'.

18. Some women are _____ troubled with backache as they get older.
✔ **C) continually**
Continually means repeatedly or frequently over a long period. Backache keeps troubling some women as they age. Not **consecutively**, which means one after another in an unbroken sequence and is used for numbered or ordered things (**three consecutive days**).

19. A poorly planned vegetarian diet will typically be _____ in iron, zinc and calcium.
✔ **B) deficient**
Deficient in means lacking a necessary amount of something: **a diet deficient in vitamins**. A badly planned diet does not contain enough iron, zinc and calcium. Not **unhealthy**, which does not take **in** with a list of nutrients in this way.

20. The subject of statics is _____ the calculation of the forces acting on and within structures that are in equilibrium.
✔ **E) concerned with**
Be concerned with means to be about or deal with a particular subject: **Statics is concerned with forces in balanced structures.** Not **taken care of** (= looked after or handled) or **given rise to** (= caused), which do not describe the topic of a subject.

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