ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Vocabulary Exercise – MCQ Test 11

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Explanations

1. I don't know how the nurse _____ the constant demands of that elderly patient.
✔ **E) puts up with**
Put up with means to accept or tolerate something unpleasant without complaining: **I can't put up with this noise any longer.** The phrase "constant demands" shows that the nurse has to tolerate something difficult. Not **thinks over**, which means to consider something carefully before deciding.

2. As he has taken those antibiotics, it will be very difficult to _____ just what the problem is.
✔ **D) find out**
Find out means to discover a fact or the truth about something: **We need to find out why the machine stopped.** The antibiotics may hide the symptoms, so it will be hard to discover what the problem is. Not **look up**, which means to search for information in a book, list or online source.

3. The brain and spinal cord _____ the central nervous system.
✔ **C) make up**
Make up means to form or constitute a whole: **Women make up 60% of the staff.** Together, the brain and the spinal cord form the central nervous system. Not **stand for**, which is used for abbreviations and symbols (**CNS stands for central nervous system**).

4. Air pollution is obviously one of the major _____ of city life.
✔ **B) disadvantages**
A **disadvantage** is a feature that makes a situation worse or less attractive. Air pollution is clearly a negative aspect of living in a city, and the collocation **major disadvantages of** fits naturally. The other nouns do not describe a drawback.

5. The lawyer submitted to the court several documents to _____ his point of view.
✔ **A) support**
To **support** a point of view means to give evidence that it is true or reasonable: **There is little data to support this theory.** A lawyer presents documents as evidence for his argument. Not **improve**: documents strengthen an argument as evidence, so the natural collocation is **support a point of view**.

6. The latest figures concerning the company's sales are certainly very _____.
✔ **E) disturbing**
Disturbing means worrying or upsetting: **disturbing news**, **disturbing figures**. Sales figures can be a cause for concern, so this adjective fits. **Determined**, **emphatic** and **reluctant** describe people's attitudes, not figures, and **intensive** means concentrated or thorough (**intensive training**).

7. On Tuesday, I'll be able to let you know _____ how many people will be attending the conference.
✔ **D) precisely**
Precisely means exactly: **I can tell you precisely how many people will come.** On Tuesday the speaker will know the exact number of attendees. Not **mostly**, which means mainly or in most cases and does not go with a question like "how many".

8. From the evidence, it seems pretty obvious that someone _____ the office sometime during the night.
✔ **C) broke into**
Break into means to enter a building illegally, usually by force, in order to steal: **Thieves broke into the shop last night.** The words "evidence" and "during the night" suggest a burglary. Not **made out**, which means to see or understand something with difficulty.

9. If it rains, the football match will be _____ until next week.
✔ **B) put off**
Put off means to postpone, to move an event to a later time: **The meeting has been put off until Friday.** The clue is "until next week". Not **turned off**, which is used for machines and lights (**turn off the TV**).

10. For the chemists of the 18th and 19th centuries, an understanding of the chemical nature of food was a major _____.
✔ **A) objective**
An **objective** is an aim or goal that you are trying to achieve: **Our main objective is to reduce costs.** For early chemists, understanding food was a major goal of their work. Not **significance**: it is an uncountable noun meaning importance, so **a major significance** is not natural English.

11. The green button on the far left of the machine _____ the volume.
✔ **C) regulates**
To **regulate** something means to control it, especially its level or amount: **A thermostat regulates the temperature.** The button controls the volume of the machine. Not **allows**, which needs an object plus an action (**allows you to change the volume**).

12. You should have attended that lecture on durability testing of fibres; it really was most _____.
✔ **B) stimulating**
Stimulating means interesting and full of new ideas that make you think: **a stimulating discussion**. The speaker regrets that the listener missed the lecture ("You should have attended"), so the lecture must have been good. **Irrelevant** and **dull** are negative and contradict this. **Feasible** (possible to do) and **reluctant** (unwilling) cannot describe a lecture.

13. His forecast turned out to be _____ accurate considering how little information he had to work on.
✔ **D) surprisingly**
Surprisingly shows that a result is unexpected. The clue is "considering how little information he had": with so little information, an accurate forecast was not expected. Not **intentionally**, which means on purpose and makes no sense with **accurate**.

14. The new engineer is highly knowledgeable, but can we _____ him to lead the team successfully?
✔ **E) rely on**
Rely on someone to do something means to trust or depend on them to do it: **You can rely on her to finish on time.** The speaker doubts whether the engineer can be trusted to lead the team. **Run on**, **put on** and **make on** do not have this meaning, and **take up** means to start a hobby or accept an offer.

15. Many of the less developed countries find it hard to _____ the more developed ones, due to the rapid advances in technology there.
✔ **B) keep up with**
Keep up with means to move or progress at the same speed as someone else so that you are not left behind: **Small firms struggle to keep up with big companies.** Rapid technological progress in rich countries makes it hard for poorer ones to stay at the same level. Not **make up for**, which means to compensate for a loss or mistake.

16. Many experiments _____ blood composition are carried out in this laboratory.
✔ **A) related to**
Related to means connected with or concerning: **problems related to stress**. Here it introduces the subject of the experiments: blood composition. Not **contained in**, which would mean the experiments are inside the blood composition, which makes no sense.

17. _____ obesity results basically from an excess of calories, in some instances, the genetic background may be a contributing factor.
✔ **D) Even though**
Even though introduces a clause that contrasts with the main clause: excess calories are the basic cause, but genetics may also play a part. It joins two clauses, so it fits before "obesity results...". Not **However** or **Nevertheless**: they also show contrast, but they are adverbs and cannot join two clauses in this way. Not **Since**, which gives a reason, not a contrast.

18. It may have something to do with the rising price of medicines, but certainly _____ people are beginning to show an interest in natural remedies.
✔ **E) more and more**
More and more describes a number or amount that keeps increasing: **More and more people work from home.** The phrase "are beginning to show an interest" describes a growing trend. Not **the more**, which is used in comparative structures such as **the more you learn, the more you know**.

19. Each year, large amounts of carbon monoxide are _____ into the atmosphere by automobiles and factories.
✔ **B) emitted**
To **emit** means to send out gas, heat, light or sound: **Cars emit harmful gases.** Cars and factories release carbon monoxide into the air. Not **absorbed**, which has the opposite meaning (to take in).

20. The first two paragraphs _____ the particular requirements of the digital environment as the source of data and as a means of producing maps and other visualisations.
✔ **A) lay emphasis on**
Lay emphasis on (also **place emphasis on**) means to give special importance to something or to stress it: **The report lays emphasis on safety.** The paragraphs highlight the particular requirements of the digital environment. Not **stop short of**, which means to almost do something but not do it in the end.

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