ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Vocabulary Exercise – MCQ Test 12

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Explanations

1. Syndicalism embodies the idea that workers, through direct action, _____ a general strike, should seize control over the means of production and hence gain political power.
✔ **A) especially**
The gap adds one important example of 'direct action': **especially** means 'above all' or 'in particular', as in **direct action, especially a general strike**. Not **consistently** (always in the same way) or **previously** (before): neither introduces an example.

2. Even in developed countries, it is not unusual to see wage and job _____ against women.
✔ **C) discrimination**
Discrimination against someone is unfair treatment because of their sex, race, age and so on. **Wage and job discrimination against women** is a fixed collocation. Not **separation** or **difference**, which do not take **against** and do not mean unfair treatment.

3. The origins of stress vary from person to person, and people _____ differently to stressful events.
✔ **D) react**
React to something means to behave in a certain way because of it: **people react differently to stressful events**. Not **refer to** (mention) or **rely on** (depend on), and **adopt** does not take **to** here.

4. This hotel certainly offers a high standard of service at _____ rates.
✔ **B) competitive**
Competitive rates/prices are as low as, or lower than, those of rivals, which suits a hotel offering good service. Not **reliable**: services or people are reliable, but we do not normally describe prices this way. **Relative** and **contemporary** do not collocate with **rates** in this sense.

5. I'm sure the boy is not really backward, but it is certainly difficult for him to _____ the other students in his class.
✔ **C) keep up with**
Keep up with someone means to progress at the same speed as them: **it is difficult for him to keep up with the other students**. Not **make up for**, which means to compensate for something bad, as in **make up for lost time**.

6. Every community in the world recognizes certain activities as crimes and has developed its own way of _____ them.
✔ **E) dealing with**
Deal with a problem means to take action to solve or control it: **its own way of dealing with crimes**. Not **looking after**, which means taking care of a person or thing, so it does not fit **crimes**.

7. The visitors were taken to the airport, and there they were _____ by the assistant manager.
✔ **B) seen off**
See someone off means to go to an airport or station with someone to say goodbye as they leave: **they were seen off by the assistant manager**. Not **made off**, which means 'escaped quickly' and cannot be used in the passive like this.

8. The top research universities in the U.S.A. are _____ the fact that women researchers are encountering substantial barriers to career advancement.
✔ **C) facing up to**
Face up to a difficult fact means to accept it and start dealing with it: **facing up to the fact that women researchers are encountering barriers**. Not **waiting for** or **pulling out of** (withdrawing from), which do not collocate with **the fact that**.

9. His doctor _____ advising him to take it easy for a while and stop all overtime but he didn't listen.
✔ **B) kept on**
Keep on + -ing means to continue doing something repeatedly: **His doctor kept on advising him to take it easy**. The other phrasal verbs are not followed by an **-ing** form with this meaning. **Ran through** means 'quickly practised or checked'.

10. I'm afraid I can't _____ the signature on this painting, but it has been signed.
✔ **A) make out**
Make out means to see, read or hear something with difficulty: **I can't make out the signature**, although it is there. Not **find out**, which means to discover a fact or piece of information, not to read handwriting.

11. Our understanding of the development of behaviour has long been hampered by the tendency to _____ sharply between "innate" and "acquired" behaviour.
✔ **C) distinguish**
Distinguish between A and B means to recognise the difference between two things: **distinguish sharply between 'innate' and 'acquired' behaviour**. Not **separate**, which normally takes an object (**separate A from B**) rather than **between**.

12. Owing to the shortages in some building materials and labour _____ in some trades, the building industry began to make more use of prefabricated parts.
✔ **E) scarcity**
Scarcity means a situation in which there is not enough of something. **Labour scarcity** means not enough workers, which matches **shortages** earlier in the sentence. Not **components** (parts of a machine or structure) or **immunity** (protection from disease or punishment).

13. In a blizzard, the _____ of very low temperatures, strong wind and suffocating snow often proves fatal.
✔ **E) combination**
A **combination** is a mixture of several things together: **the combination of very low temperatures, strong wind and suffocating snow**. Not **endurance**, which is the ability to bear hardship and does not describe a mixture of conditions.

14. As regards the proposals for the treaty on economic cooperation, my government has certain _____ concerning them.
✔ **B) reservations**
To **have reservations about/concerning** something means to have doubts about it, so you cannot agree completely. This is typical diplomatic language: **my government has certain reservations**. Not **restrictions**, which are rules that limit something, not doubts.

15. The _____ concerning total disarmament have broken down without leading to any fruitful results.
✔ **C) negotiations**
Negotiations are formal talks aimed at reaching an agreement. **Negotiations break down** when they fail: **the negotiations have broken down without any fruitful results**. Not **commitments**, which are promises; they are broken, not said to **break down**.

16. A well-organized company that knows its products are of a high standard does not fear _____.
✔ **C) competition**
Competition means rival companies trying to win the same customers. A firm sure of its high standards **does not fear competition**. Not **concentration** or **conversion**, which do not make sense as something a company fears here.

17. Many schools have _____ the old rule that pupils must wear ties, and several others are planning to do the same next year.
✔ **B) abolished**
Abolish means to officially end a law, rule or system: **Many schools have abolished the old rule**. Not **executed**, which means 'carried out' (a plan or order), the opposite of ending a rule.

18. A hundred years ago the chestnut _____ a quarter of the hardwood trees in America.
✔ **C) made up**
Make up means to form a particular amount or part of a whole: **the chestnut made up a quarter of the hardwood trees**. Not **made out**, which means 'saw or understood with difficulty'.

19. Fats can only be _____ for energy by aerobic metabolism.
✔ **D) broken down**
Break down in science means to divide a substance into simpler parts through a chemical process: **Fats can only be broken down for energy by aerobic metabolism**. Not **cut out** (stop eating or doing something) or **set up** (establish).

20. You should _____ this treatment for a further week, by which time recovery will be complete.
✔ **E) keep to**
Keep to means to continue following a plan, rule or course of treatment without changing it: **keep to this treatment for a further week**. Not **put up with**, which means to tolerate something unpleasant, not to continue following it.

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