ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Vocabulary Exercise – MCQ Test 14

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Explanations

1. Almost all the villages in New Guinea are surrounded by shrubby zones where people have _____ the original rain forest and planted gardens.
✔ **D) cleared away**
To **clear away** a forest means to remove the trees and plants so that the land can be used, here for gardens. The shrubby zones are what grows back after the rain forest has been removed. **Sealed off** (closed so no one can enter) and **kept out** do not fit the idea of planting gardens on the land.

2. In many countries training for the industry has always been considered to be _____ the concern of industry itself, not of the state.
✔ **B) primarily**
Primarily means 'mainly' or 'first of all'. It fits the contrast in the sentence: training is mainly **the concern of industry itself, not of the state**. **Firmly** does not collocate with 'the concern of', and **reputedly** ('according to what people say') clashes with 'has always been considered'.

3. Recent studies have shown that smokers are more _____ to common colds and flu than non-smokers.
✔ **B) susceptible**
Susceptible to means 'easily affected or harmed by', and it is the standard collocation with illnesses: **Children are more susceptible to infections.** **Responsible** and **applicable** also take 'to' or 'for', but they do not describe catching an illness.

4. Even quite late in the twentieth century, many men assumed that entry into certain professions was their _____ right.
✔ **B) exclusive**
An **exclusive right** is a right that belongs only to one group and to nobody else. Here men assumed that only they could enter certain professions. **Independent** and **excessive** do not express the idea of excluding others, which is what the sentence describes.

5. Evidence of racial bias in sentencing helped to convince certain states in America to _____ capital punishment in the late 1960s and early 1970s.
✔ **B) rule against**
To **rule against** something is to make an official decision that it is not allowed. Evidence of racial bias led some states to decide against using **capital punishment**. **Point out** means to mention a fact, and **keep down** means to control or limit, so neither fits a formal decision.

6. In Britain the prime minister is still appointed by the sovereign, but the latter's _____ in the selection process may now be said to be merely nominal.
✔ **E) participation**
Participation in means 'taking part in'. The sovereign's part in choosing the prime minister is now **merely nominal**, which means it exists in name only. **Process** is wrong because the sentence already says 'the selection process'.

7. He admits that he has not yet fully _____ the true implications or the logical conclusions of his startling discovery.
✔ **B) thought out**
To **think something out** is to consider it carefully and completely. Its natural objects are **implications** and **conclusions**: **He hasn't fully thought out the consequences. Played down** (to make something seem less important) does not fit with 'fully', and **backed out** takes no object.

8. _____ populated, rural Northumberland is one of the most unspoiled counties in England.
✔ **A) Sparsely**
Sparsely populated means that few people live in an area, spread over a large space. This explains why the area is **rural** and **unspoiled**. The opposite is **densely populated**. **Nearly** and **primarily** do not collocate with 'populated' in this sense.

9. Anti-lock brakes (ABS) help you to maintain steering control of your car even while braking on _____ roads.
✔ **D) slippery**
Slippery roads are wet, icy or oily, so tyres can slide on them. This is exactly when anti-lock brakes help you keep steering control. **Stagnant** describes water that does not flow, not roads.

10. Few would _____ that corporations, especially the multinational ones, are enormously powerful.
✔ **E) deny**
Few would deny that… means 'almost everyone accepts that…'. It is a common formal phrase for introducing a widely accepted fact. **Disdain** means 'to look down on' and cannot be followed by a **that**-clause in this way.

11. No _____ authority has the right to dictate whether a state shall adopt a socialist or a capitalist economic policy.
✔ **B) outside**
An **outside authority** is a power from outside the state, such as another country or an international body. The sentence argues that only the state itself should choose its economic policy. **Reputable** (respected) and **comprehensive** do not give this contrast between inside and outside.

12. Natural disasters have been defined as ecological disruptions exceeding the adjustment capacity of a community and _____ outside assistance.
✔ **D) calling for**
Call for means 'to need or demand'. A disaster that exceeds a community's capacity to cope **calls for outside assistance**. **Dealing with** and **putting up with** (tolerating) describe how the community responds to a problem, not what the disaster requires.

13. A basic _____ of amphibious warfare is undoubtedly command of the sea.
✔ **E) requirement**
A **requirement** is something that is necessary. A **basic requirement of** amphibious warfare (attacks from sea to land) is control of the sea. **Determination** means strong will, which is not something warfare itself 'has'.

14. Bacteria have a remarkable capacity for _____ tolerance to previously lethal drugs.
✔ **A) acquiring**
To **acquire** means to gain or develop something over time. **Acquire tolerance/resistance** is a standard collocation in biology and medicine. **Recovering** does not fit, because the bacteria never had this tolerance before.

15. If you want that post you'd better apply quickly; the last day for _____ applications is Friday.
✔ **D) submitting**
To **submit an application** means to hand it in officially. The **last day for submitting applications** is the deadline. **Withholding** means keeping something back, which is the opposite idea.

16. In this paper I should like to report some of the results of an _____ study of two hundred London families.
✔ **C) intensive**
An **intensive study** is a very detailed and thorough piece of research, often on a limited group such as two hundred families. **Extreme** and **emphatic** do not collocate with 'study' in this meaning.

17. For the present, the party is expected to put its differences aside and campaign _____ for a victory at the forthcoming elections.
✔ **A) vigorously**
To **campaign vigorously** means to campaign with great energy and strength. This fits a party that puts its differences aside in order to win. **Reluctantly** (unwillingly) contradicts the idea of uniting for victory.

18. Industry has developed rapidly in certain countries as raw materials are _____ available there.
✔ **D) abundantly**
Abundantly available means 'available in large quantities'. Plentiful raw materials explain why industry grew rapidly. **Scarcely** means 'hardly at all', which would give the opposite meaning.

19. I wasn't at all impressed by the _____ he gave me.
✔ **B) explanation**
You **give someone an explanation**, a reason for something that happened, and you can be unimpressed by it if it is weak: **His explanation for being late didn't convince me.** The other nouns do not collocate naturally with 'he gave me'.

20. The problem of how to _____ the vast quantities of waste we produce requires our urgent attention.
✔ **E) deal with**
To **deal with** a problem means to take action to handle or solve it. Here the problem is managing huge amounts of waste. **Put off** means to postpone, which contradicts 'urgent attention'.

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