ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Vocabulary Exercise – MCQ Test 16

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Explanations

1. From the report released today, it appears that oil tankers suffer their major _____ on their return journeys.
✔ **A) spills**
A **spill** is an accident in which liquid, especially oil, escapes from a container or ship. Oil tankers are known for **oil spills**, so this is the natural collocation with 'suffer'. **Repairs** and **costs** are not things a ship 'suffers' in this sense, and **drills** are training exercises.

2. It is plain that the authorities will not lift the ban unless the company fully _____ with the new safety regulations.
✔ **C) complies**
Comply with means to obey a rule, law or request: **All companies must comply with the regulations.** The preposition 'with' after the gap is the clue. **Matches** does not take 'with' in this sense, and **accomplishes** (to achieve) takes a direct object, not 'with'.

3. When the chairman tried to explain his views to the shareholders at the _____ general meeting, he was shouted down by them with cries of “Resign!”.
✔ **A) annual**
The **annual general meeting** (AGM) is the fixed term for the yearly meeting of a company's shareholders. **Annual** means 'happening once a year'. **Recurrent** (happening again and again) is close in meaning but does not form this set phrase.

4. The passengers, who _____ the boat in England, were tired but happy to have arrived after the long voyage.
✔ **B) got off**
Get off means to leave a bus, train, boat or plane: **We got off the boat in Dover. Turned up** (arrived, appeared) does not take 'the boat' as an object, and **took after** means to resemble a parent.

5. Progress in materials research is _____ to overcoming such problems as the finiteness of the world’s resources and possible shortages of strategic materials.
✔ **A) crucial**
Crucial to means extremely important for something: **Research is crucial to progress.** Note that here 'to' is a preposition, so it is followed by the **-ing** form 'overcoming'. **Subsequent to** means 'after', which does not fit the meaning.

6. I don’t know how we are going to _____ the expected surge of immigrants into the country.
✔ **B) cope with**
Cope with means to deal successfully with a difficult situation: **The hospital couldn't cope with so many patients.** An expected sudden increase is a problem to be handled, so **cope with** fits. **Run through** means to rehearse or quickly review.

7. He was rather _____ when he learned that his proposal had been turned down.
✔ **E) put out**
Be put out is an informal adjective-like phrase meaning annoyed or upset: **She was rather put out that nobody thanked her.** Having a proposal turned down naturally makes someone feel **put out**. **Found out** means discovered, which does not describe a feeling.

8. At the board meeting, his suggestion was _____ as it seemed politically controversial.
✔ **E) cast aside**
Cast aside means to reject or get rid of something as unwanted: **His ideas were cast aside.** A controversial suggestion at a meeting is likely to be rejected. **Put out** in the passive means 'annoyed' or 'extinguished', not 'rejected'.

9. Despite the gusty wind, they were able to put out the fire before it _____.
✔ **D) got out of hand**
Get out of hand means to become impossible to control: **The party got out of hand.** The clue is 'despite the gusty wind': the wind could have made the fire spread uncontrollably, but they put it out first. Not **broke up**, because a fire does not 'break up'; that phrasal verb is used for meetings, relationships or objects falling into pieces.

10. Following a number of thefts in the shopping centre, the police have been warning people to _____ pickpockets.
✔ **D) watch out for**
Watch out for means to stay alert because something or someone may be dangerous: **Watch out for ice on the roads.** The police are warning people, so the meaning is 'be careful of'. **Rely on** means to trust or depend on, which is the opposite of the intended meaning.

11. I can't _____ the signature of the oil painting, but it has been signed.
✓ **A) make out**
Make out means to manage to see, read or hear something with difficulty: **I can't make out his handwriting.** The signature is there ('it has been signed') but it cannot be read clearly. **Find out** means to discover information, not to read something that is hard to see.

12. Before I send this article to the editor, I would be grateful if you could _____ it for me.
✓ **E) go through**
Go through means to examine or check something carefully: **Could you go through my essay before I hand it in?** Before sending an article to an editor, you would ask someone to check it. **Look up** means to search for information in a dictionary or list, not to check a whole text.

13. I had my doubts about her when I took her on, but now I'm pleased to say that she has _____ to be a talented executive.
✓ **C) turned out**
Turn out to be means to be discovered to be something in the end, often unexpectedly: **The stranger turned out to be my cousin.** The contrast between 'I had my doubts' and 'I'm pleased to say' shows a surprising result. **Made out** does not combine with 'to be' in this sense of a result.

14. The operation weakened him, but he'll shortly _____ now that he knows he is coming out of the hospital.
✓ **E) pull through**
Pull through means to recover from a serious illness or operation: **The doctors think she will pull through.** The clue is 'the operation weakened him' together with the positive news that he is leaving hospital. **Keep up with** means to stay at the same speed or level as someone, which needs an object.

15. If a part of the city is _____ residential use, no one may build a factory there.
✓ **D) zoned for**
Zone for means to officially set aside an area of land for a particular purpose: **This land is zoned for housing.** The clue is 'no one may build a factory there', which shows an official planning rule. **Made for** means 'perfectly suited to', not an official decision.

16. One of the disadvantages of growing older is that you never seem to have the opportunity to _____ all of the sports you would like to.
✓ **D) take part in**
Take part in means to participate in an activity: **She takes part in several sports.** It is the natural collocation with 'sports'. **Make room for** (create space or time for) is tempting, but you make room for a hobby in your schedule, not 'make room for all of the sports you would like to' in this sense of doing them.

17. Aristotelianism _____ a geocentric view of the universe and dealt with nature in qualitative rather than quantitative terms.
✓ **C) rested on**
Rest on means to be based on or depend on an idea: **His argument rests on two assumptions.** Aristotle's philosophy was built on the idea that the Earth is the centre of the universe. **Held out** (to last or to resist) does not express 'being based on'.

18. No one knows when the oil wells of the world will _____, but what is certain is that before they do, alternative sources of energy must be developed.
✓ **A) dry up**
Dry up means a supply comes to an end: **The well dried up in the summer.** Oil wells eventually stop producing oil, which is why alternative energy is needed. **Drop off** means to decrease or fall asleep, but it does not mean a supply has completely run out.

19. Congress has _____ a big problem in its economic policy: the unions won't cooperate, and management doesn't approve of what it is trying to do.
✓ **E) come up against**
Come up against means to face a difficulty or opposition: **We came up against a lot of resistance.** The colon introduces the problems they are facing: the unions and management both oppose them. **Got away with** means to avoid punishment for something, which does not fit 'a big problem'.

20. The manager who was said to have revealed the plans so as to get financial benefit _____ after the criticism from the shareholders.
✓ **C) stepped down**
Step down means to resign from an important job or position: **The CEO stepped down after the scandal.** Criticism from shareholders after revealing plans for personal gain would lead a manager to resign. **Stood for** means to represent or to tolerate, and **set up** means to establish something.

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