ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Vocabulary Exercise – MCQ Test 2

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Explanations

1. Due to the far-reaching research and the speedy innovations during the past few years, the computer system we bought only last year is now _____, and therefore we have to purchase a new one.
✔ **B) obsolete**
Obsolete means no longer used because something newer and better exists. The clue is 'speedy innovations' and 'we have to purchase a new one': last year's computer is already out of date. Not **temporary**, which describes something planned to last only a short time, not something replaced by progress.

2. In the 19th century, the mechanization of printing _____ the means for meeting the increased demand for books in industrialized societies.
✔ **C) provided**
Provide the means for (doing something) is a fixed collocation meaning 'make it possible'. Mechanized printing made it possible to meet the growing demand for books. Not **achieved**: we achieve a goal or result, not 'the means for' something.

3. Although the Germanic tribes that forcibly migrated into southern and western Europe in the 5th century were _____ converted to Christianity, they retained many of their customs and ways of life.
✔ **C) ultimately**
Ultimately means 'in the end, after a long process'. The tribes did become Christian eventually, but they still kept their old customs. Not **likely**, which would make the conversion only probable and weaken the contrast with 'Although … they retained'.

4. She is the oldest person in the village, 92 years to be precise, and has a _____ word of advice for everyone.
✔ **E) kindly**
Kindly is used here as an adjective meaning warm, friendly and caring, as in **a kindly word of advice**. It suits a wise old woman who helps everyone. Not **credible** (believable) or **faithful** (loyal), which do not collocate naturally with 'word of advice'.

5. Space research is largely a branch of pure science, independent of any applications which _____ from it.
✔ **E) stem**
Stem from means 'come from' or 'result from'. Practical applications may result from space research, but pure science does not depend on them. Example: **Many problems stem from a lack of money.**

6. The most effective way to reduce the destructiveness of earthquakes is to design and construct buildings and other structures capable of _____ strong shaking.
✔ **A) withstanding**
Withstand means to resist a strong force without being damaged, as in **withstand strong shaking**. Not **swaying**: buildings may sway during an earthquake, but 'capable of swaying' does not mean they survive it.

7. When the author moved to Tucson, Arizona, in 1992, his _____ was retirement in a climate less harsh than that of his native Chicago.
✔ **D) goal**
Goal means aim or purpose: the reason for his move was to retire somewhere with a milder climate. **His goal was retirement** is natural. Not **avidity**, which means eagerness or greed and cannot be equal to 'retirement'. Not **withdrawal**: it does not express a purpose and does not fit the sentence.

8. It is a curious _____ that the moon exactly covers the sun’s disk during a total eclipse seen from the earth.
✔ **A) coincidence**
A **coincidence** is when two things happen or fit together by chance, with no planned connection. The moon and sun just happen to look the same size from the earth. **A curious coincidence** is a common collocation. Not **resemblance**, which means looking similar, not fitting together by chance.

9. It now appears that while US leaders are still willing for the nation to exert itself abroad and give large amounts of foreign assistance, the American public is _____ to go along with these policies.
✔ **C) reluctant**
Reluctant to do something means unwilling or hesitant. The word 'while' shows a contrast: the leaders are willing, but the public is not keen to go along with these policies. Not **deliberate**, which means intentional and is not followed by 'to go along'.

10. The range of measures permitting workers to reduce their working hours or to take a career break is _____ broad in Belgium; most measures are non-obligatory and are based on incentives.
✔ **A) relatively**
Relatively means 'quite, compared with others'. **Relatively broad** says that Belgium offers a fairly wide range of measures compared with other countries. Not **respectively**, which links items in the same order as a list mentioned earlier.

11. Microstructural features in metals _____ affect what happens on a larger scale, particularly when systems are pushed to their limits.
✔ **B) profoundly**
Profoundly means deeply or to a great degree. **Profoundly affect** is a strong collocation: tiny features have a big effect on large-scale behaviour. Not **randomly**, **cautiously**, **thoughtfully** or **recklessly**: the last three describe people's behaviour, not physical structures.

12. English is quite an easy language to _____; nevertheless, several other languages, including Dutch and Latin, _____ characteristics which make this far more difficult.
✔ **D) automate / contain**
To **automate** a language means to make computers process it automatically, for example in speech recognition. Other languages **contain characteristics** (have features) that make this harder. Only **contain** fits the second gap. 'Exclude', 'undermine', 'cover' and 'appreciate characteristics' do not make sense with 'which make this far more difficult'.

13. As he has persistently withstood all kinds of political coercion on this issue for so long, it is unlikely that he would _____ at this stage.
✔ **E) relent**
Relent means to finally give in or become less strict after refusing for a long time. He has resisted pressure for so long that he is unlikely to give in now. Not **dispose**, which needs 'of' and means get rid of something.

14. There are many ways of _____ the incapacitated from buildings: by lift, carrying or putting people in temporary refuges to await rescue.
✔ **C) evacuating**
Evacuate means to move people out of a dangerous place to safety. The clues are 'from buildings', 'by lift, carrying' and 'await rescue'. **The incapacitated** means people who cannot move easily on their own.

15. The Civil War came as a climax to a long series of quarrels between the North and South over the _____ of the United States Constitution.
✔ **B) interpretation**
Interpretation means the way something is understood or explained. North and South disagreed about what the Constitution meant, for example on states' rights. **The interpretation of the Constitution** is a standard collocation.

16. Even allowing for inflation, the prices are _____ higher than last year, and as a result, I'm certain that almost no one will be able to afford them.
✔ **D) considerably**
Considerably means much or a lot. It fits the result clause: almost no one will be able to afford them. Not **slightly**, because a small rise would not stop almost everyone from buying. Note that **prices** are **high/higher**, while **things** are **expensive**.

17. Amongst the issues causing bridge engineers much difficulty, the most significant ones are those of _____ and repair.
✔ **A) maintenance**
Maintenance means regular work to keep something in good condition. **Maintenance and repair** is a very common pair, especially for bridges and buildings. Not **evaluation** (assessment), which does not pair naturally with 'repair'.

18. Until the introduction of the practice prepared by DETR, there was _____ in the environmental monitoring of chemical accidents, with different methodologies producing variable results.
✔ **E) inconsistency**
Inconsistency means a lack of agreement or uniformity. The clue is 'different methodologies producing variable results': the methods did not match until a common practice was introduced. Not **redundancy**, which means unnecessary repetition or job loss.

19. Since words alone may fail to convey an idea, teachers often _____ such visual aids as pictures, charts, and films.
✔ **B) employ**
Employ here means use: **employ visual aids** means use pictures, charts and films. Not **facilitate**, which means make a process easier; we facilitate learning, not 'facilitate pictures'.

20. As both private industry and government departments tend to concentrate on _____ results, there is a steady shift of scientists from the pure to the applied field.
✔ **D) immediate**
Immediate results are results that come quickly and are directly useful. Industry and government want fast, practical outcomes, so scientists move from pure research to applied research. Not **partial** (incomplete), which does not explain why applied science attracts them.

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