ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Vocabulary Exercise – MCQ Test 3

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1	**E**	2	**C**	3	**A**	4	**A**	5	**B**	6	**A**	7	**A**	8	**B**	9	**A**	10	**A**
11	**A**	12	**C**	13	**C**	14	**A**	15	**C**	16	**B**	17	**C**	18	**D**	19	**C**	20	**C**

Explanations

1. Many members of the medical profession are of the opinion that laughter, a common element of everyday life, has _____ therapeutic effects on the body.
✔ **E) valuable**
Valuable means very useful or beneficial. The sentence says doctors think laughter is good for the body, so its therapeutic effects are **valuable**. **Hilarious** (very funny) describes jokes, not effects. **Ridiculous**, **awkward** and **morbid** (unhealthily interested in death) are all negative and do not fit a positive claim.

2. The fact that safety belts save lives is both _____ obvious and also supported by an impressive amount of evidence.
✔ **C) conclusively**
Conclusively means in a way that leaves no doubt, so **conclusively obvious** means clear beyond any argument. It fits the sense of the sentence: the fact is beyond doubt and is also backed by evidence. The other adverbs do not collocate with **obvious**: something cannot be **permanently**, **purposefully** or **appropriately** obvious. **Excessively** (too much) adds an unwanted negative meaning.

3. Founded to promote the art, science, and practice of rehabilitation care for people with disabilities, the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM) was _____ called the American College of Radiology and Physiotherapy.
✔ **A) originally**
Originally means at first, at the beginning. The sentence gives the organisation's first name, before it became the ACRM. Not **eventually**, which means in the end and would refer to its later name, but that later name is the ACRM itself.

4. As we approach the challenge of the millennium date change, more information is emerging about the potential _____ and pitfalls that might face the country.
✔ **A) perils**
Perils are serious dangers. The fixed phrase **perils and pitfalls** means dangers and hidden problems, and it matches the word **challenge** in the sentence. **Guards** and **protections** have the opposite idea. **Aides** (assistants) and **comrades** (friends, fellow members) do not fit the meaning.

5. According to the newspaper, the parliament is working on a _____ that will abolish all higher education entrance exams.
✔ **B) proposal**
A **proposal** is a formal plan or suggestion, for example a draft law that a parliament works on. Here it is a plan to abolish the entrance exams. **Disposal** (getting rid of something) looks similar but has a different meaning. A **refusal**, a **hindrance** (obstacle) or a **horizon** cannot abolish exams.

6. One major aim of the new constitution is to prevent the _____ of power by any majority.
✔ **A) misuse**
The **misuse of power** means using power wrongly or unfairly. This is what a constitution tries to prevent a majority from doing. Prevent the **existence** of power makes no sense, since a government must have power. **Compromise** and **completion** do not collocate with **of power** in this sense.

7. I thoroughly enjoyed the lecture; it wasn't _____, but it wasn't too scholarly, either.
✔ **A) oversimplified**
The structure **it wasn't X, but it wasn't too Y, either** needs two opposite faults. The opposite of **too scholarly** (too academic and difficult) is **oversimplified**, meaning made too simple. **Underestimated** and **underrated** describe how people judge something, not the content of a lecture. **Overdue** means late.

8. As far as we are concerned, the evidence put before the court was not _____ enough to convict the man.
✔ **B) conclusive**
Conclusive evidence proves something beyond doubt, which is what a court needs to **convict** someone. **Subsequent** (coming later) and **consecutive** (one after another) are about order in time. **Adamant** (refusing to change one's mind) and **earnest** (serious and sincere) describe people, not evidence.

9. His poetic output may not be large but, nevertheless, Philip Larkin is generally regarded as one of the _____ poets of our time.
✔ **A) distinguished**
The words **may not be large but, nevertheless** set up a contrast: Larkin did not write much, but he is still highly respected. **Distinguished** means famous and highly respected for excellent work. Not **prolific**, which means producing a lot of work and would contradict the first part of the sentence. **Extensive** and **excessive** also suggest a large amount, and **futile** (useless) does not fit.

10. Through the winter, the bank rates were reasonably steady, but they have started to _____ again.
✔ **A) fluctuate**
Fluctuate means to rise and fall irregularly. The linker **but** contrasts it with **reasonably steady**, and **again** shows the rates were unstable before. **Improve** does not form a contrast with **steady**. **Incline** and **exchange** do not describe changes in rates.

11. The criticism he made concerning the annual fiscal report was _____ to the point.
✓ **A) remarkably**
To the point means relevant and direct. It is usually intensified with degree adverbs such as **very**, **remarkably** or **refreshingly**. **Remarkably** means to an unusual or notable degree, so the criticism was strikingly relevant. Not **immediately**, which refers to time and does not combine with **to the point** to describe a quality. **Incessantly** (without stopping) and **incompetently** do not fit either.

12. We will repeat the experiment twice in order to _____ the results.
✓ **C) verify**
To **verify** results means to check that they are correct or true. Scientists repeat an experiment for exactly this reason. The other verbs (**vanish** = disappear, **spill**, **sneak**, **pinch**) have nothing to do with checking results.

13. Diplomatic relations between the two countries, which were _____ during the war, have not yet been restored.
✓ **C) severed**
To **sever** relations means to end them completely, for example **They severed all ties with the company.** The clue is **have not yet been restored**: something must have been broken first. Not **established**, because relations that were set up would not need restoring.

14. People who are constantly in the public eye must learn to remain _____ in the face of criticism.
✓ **A) composed**
Composed means calm and in control of your feelings. You often hear **remain composed** when people face pressure or criticism. **Outrageous** (shocking) and **resultant** (caused by something) do not describe a calm reaction. **Appreciated** and **restored** do not fit the meaning.

15. They raised no _____ to his prolonged leave of absence since they didn't want to lose him altogether.
✓ **C) objection**
Raise an objection (to something) is a fixed collocation meaning to say that you disagree with or oppose something. They accepted his long leave because they did not want to lose him. **Refutation** (proving something false) and **refusal** do not combine with **raise ... to**. A **refund** is money given back.

16. As the conditions of the expedition are likely to be severe, you had better take the necessary _____.
✓ **B) precautions**
Take precautions is a fixed collocation meaning to act in advance to avoid danger or problems. It fits because the conditions will be **severe**. We **make efforts** and **make attempts**, not **take** them. **Trials** and **objections** do not fit the meaning.

17. It was felt that the EU had _____ on a programme of economic change that the member states could not sustain.
✓ **C) embarked**
To **embark on** something means to start a new and usually large or difficult project, for example **embark on a career** or **embark on a programme**. The preposition **on** after the gap is the clue. **Surpassed** and **specified** take a direct object without **on**. **Relieved** and **retired** do not fit the meaning.

18. To be a leader, it is not enough to be hardworking and knowledgeable; one must also be able to inspire _____.
✓ **D) confidence**
Inspire confidence is a common collocation meaning to make people trust and believe in you, which is a key quality of a leader. **Restraint** (self-control) and **discretion** (care in what you say) are not things a leader inspires in others. **Denial** and **reservation** (doubt) are negative.

19. The two major political parties in Britain are currently _____ to extreme and radically different approaches to the solution of Britain's economic problems.
✓ **C) committed**
Be committed to something means to be firmly dedicated to a policy or course of action. This describes parties that strongly support their approaches. Not **obsessed**, which is followed by **with**, not **to**, and is too negative for this context. **Referred**, **implied** and **meant** make no sense here.

20. I have looked through the report, but I must admit, only _____.
✓ **C) superficially**
Superficially means only on the surface, without careful or detailed attention. The words **but I must admit, only** show that the speaker is confessing to a limited reading of the report. **Thoroughly**, **carefully** and **seriously** express the opposite, which would not need an admission.

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