ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Vocabulary Exercise – MCQ Test 7

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Explanations

1. In the foundry, liquid hydrogen must be stored in large stainless steel tanks with double walls filled with _____ and evacuated to a high vacuum.
✔ **C) insulation**
Insulation is material that stops heat (or electricity or sound) from passing through. Liquid hydrogen is extremely cold, so the space between the double walls is filled with insulating material and emptied of air to keep heat out. **Grit** and **sediment** are small particles of dirt or sand, so they do not fit the purpose of the walls.

2. It is our firm's _____ that the new law should be implemented immediately.
✔ **B) consensus**
A **consensus** is an opinion that all or most members of a group agree on: **It is our firm's consensus that …** means everyone in the firm agrees. Not **regulation**, because a regulation is an official rule, and it cannot express what the firm believes should happen.

3. As she suffered from digestive troubles after too much eating and drinking during the holiday, the doctor insisted on a strict _____.
✔ **A) diet**
A **diet** is a controlled plan of what you eat, often for health reasons. The clue is **digestive troubles after too much eating and drinking**: the doctor wants her to eat carefully, so she must follow a **strict diet**. The other options (**plot**, **dent**, **rife**, **deck**) have nothing to do with food.

4. One should never _____ in the disputes of neighbours; the best policy is to keep out of other people's affairs.
✔ **C) interfere**
To **interfere in** something means to get involved in a situation that does not concern you, usually unhelpfully. The second half of the sentence, **keep out of other people's affairs**, shows this meaning. Not **interact**, which is neutral (to communicate with others) and is not used with **in the disputes of**.

5. The theme of that play is quite complicated, but the actual _____ of the story is quite simple.
✔ **E) frame**
The **frame** of a story is its basic structure or outline, the framework on which the events are built. The sentence contrasts a complicated **theme** (the ideas) with a simple **frame** (the structure). Not **summary**, because a summary is a short description written about a story, not a part of the story itself.

6. When Newton arrived in Cambridge in 1661, the movement now known as the scientific revolution was well advanced, and many of the works _____ to modern science had appeared.
✔ **A) basic**
Basic to something means forming its foundation or being fundamental to it: **works basic to modern science** are the key works on which modern science was built. The clue is that the scientific revolution was **well advanced**, so its fundamental works had already been published. **Indulgent**, **brave**, **strict** and **reluctant** describe people's attitudes and make no sense with **works … to modern science**.

7. Physically speaking, the Pacific Basin includes not only all those countries bordering on the Pacific coast but also the Pacific island nations _____ across the ocean.
✔ **D) scattered**
Scattered means spread over a wide area, often irregularly. The Pacific island nations lie at many different points **across the ocean**, so they are **scattered across** it. Not **expanded**, because islands do not grow across an ocean, and **based** would need a place after it (**based in**), not a description of spread.

8. At the beginning of the 20th century, Albert Einstein developed the theory of relativity, _____ that Newtonian mechanics could not be applied to bodies moving at speeds close to the speed of light.
✔ **B) demonstrating**
To **demonstrate that** something is true means to show or prove it clearly. The participle clause **demonstrating that …** describes the result of developing the theory: it showed that Newton's laws fail at very high speeds. **Demonstrate** is one of the few options that can take a **that**-clause. Not **regarding**, because it means 'concerning' and cannot be followed by **that**.

9. The ambitious staff of the language learning centre have shown great _____ in performing their duties.
✔ **B) efficiency**
Efficiency is the ability to work well and quickly without wasting time or effort. The phrase **show great efficiency in performing their duties** is a common collocation, and **ambitious** staff are likely to work in this way. Not **gaiety**, which means cheerfulness and has nothing to do with doing duties well.

10. In the operation of nuclear reactors, great care is exercised to protect personnel in the area and to _____ instruments that are sensitive.
✔ E) safeguard
To **safeguard** means to protect something from harm or damage. The sentence is parallel: **to protect personnel … and to safeguard instruments**, so the gap needs a verb with a similar meaning. Not **eliminate**, which means to remove completely. That is the opposite of what you do with valuable sensitive instruments.

11. The field of statistical thermodynamics provides a deeper understanding of such _____ as temperature, vapour pressure, and diffusion.
✔ E) phenomena
Phenomena (singular **phenomenon**) are facts or events in nature that can be observed and studied. Temperature, vapour pressure and diffusion are physical phenomena that thermodynamics explains. Not **applications**, because these are natural properties and processes, not practical uses of the science.

12. Today's social security system is _____ popular, partly because it is universal and partly because retirement benefits are related to contributions, so most people feel the system is fair.
✔ A) extremely
The gap needs an adverb of degree to modify the adjective **popular**: **extremely popular** means very popular. The reasons that follow (it is universal and fair) explain this popularity. Not **favorably**, which modifies verbs (**viewed favorably**) and does not collocate with **popular**. **Likely** and **eventually** do not express degree.

13. Census taking was not a widespread practice before 1800, so it is impossible to trace the history of world urbanization with any _____ until the 19th century.
✔ D) precision
Precision means exactness and accuracy. The phrase **with any precision** means 'accurately at all'. Without census data before 1800, historians cannot measure urbanization exactly. Not **capacity**, which means the ability to hold or do something and does not fit **trace … with any ___**.

14. It is a book rich in ideas and beauty, a material that _____ and tries to answer great fundamental questions and demands the most active reading one is capable of.
✔ A) raises
To **raise a question** means to bring it up or cause people to think about it, and it is a fixed collocation. The book **raises** fundamental questions and then **tries to answer** them. Not **casts**, because we say **cast doubt on**, not **cast questions**. **Alludes** would need **to** (**alludes to questions**).

15. By the time the _____ child enters school today, he has already spent more hours learning about his world from TV than he will spend in a classroom earning a college degree.
✔ B) average
Average here means typical or ordinary, representing most people in a group. The sentence makes a general claim about children in general: **the average child**. Not **vulnerable** (easily hurt), which adds a meaning the sentence does not support, and **parsimonious** means unwilling to spend money.

16. Judging from her recent speeches to the public, the Prime Minister seems to be trying to _____ the confidence of her people.
✔ D) regain
To **regain** something means to get it back after losing it. **Regain the confidence of** people is a common collocation, and it suggests she lost public trust and her speeches are trying to win it back. Not **affect**, which only means to have an influence on something and does not show a clear aim.

17. In the 1980s and early 1990s, chemical weapons became a growing _____ among many nations, as a result of which an international agreement called the Chemical Weapons Convention came into force in 1997.
✔ A) concern
A **concern** is a worry about something important. **A growing concern among many nations** explains why countries signed an international agreement against chemical weapons. Not **notice**, which does not collocate with **growing … among nations** in this meaning. **Feature** simply means a typical quality.

18. Many local authorities are _____ opposed to the introduction of comprehensive schooling despite the disadvantage of having undereducated people.
✔ A) bitterly
Bitterly opposed is a strong collocation meaning opposed with deep anger or resentment. Adverbs like **bitterly**, **strongly** and **fiercely** typically go with **opposed**. Not **deliberately**, which means 'on purpose' and describes actions, not a state of opposition.

19. Because he had researched the subject so _____, he was able to answer all the questions he was asked effortlessly.
✔ C) exhaustively
Exhaustively means very thoroughly, covering every detail. Because he had researched the subject **so exhaustively**, he could answer every question **effortlessly**, and that is the logical cause-and-effect clue. Not **unequivocally** (without any doubt), which describes statements, not research.

20. The authors tried to meet the _____; nevertheless, there were only twenty-four hours remaining and they knew that it would be impossible to complete the novel.
✔ A) deadline
A **deadline** is the time or date by which a task must be finished, and **meet a deadline** is a fixed collocation. The clues **only twenty-four hours remaining** and **impossible to complete the novel** show the authors were running out of time. The other options (**circulation**, **donation**, etc.) do not collocate with **meet**.