ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Altar or Alter Quiz: 20 Questions with Answers

English Vocabulary Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/altar-or-alter-quiz-with-answers/

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11	**C**	12	**C**	13	**A**	14	**D**	15	**D**	16	**A**	17	**D**	18	**C**	19	**C**	20	**A**

Explanations

1. The priest placed two candles on the ___.
✔ **A) altar**
The table used in a religious ceremony is an altar, a noun spelt with a second a.

2. We had to ___ our plans when the train was cancelled.
✔ **B) alter**
You can say “change our plans”, so you need the verb alter, with an e.

3. The trousers were too long, so the tailor ___ them.
✔ **D) altered**
The tailor changed them to fit. Alter is a regular verb: alter, altered.

4. In the story, the groom is left at the ___ on his wedding day.
✔ **C) altar**
The phrase is left at the altar: left just before the wedding.

5. Being early doesn’t ___ the fact that you forgot the tickets.
✔ **C) alter**
“That doesn’t alter the fact that …” means it is still true. Alter is the verb that means change.

6. The dress fits well now, after one small ___ to the sleeves.
✔ **A) alteration**
An alteration is a change. An altercation is a noisy argument.

7. The comic-book hero’s ___ ego is a quiet office worker.
✔ **B) alter**
Alter ego is a fixed Latin phrase that means other self. It is never altar ego.

8. The recipe has stayed ___ for a hundred years.
✔ **B) unaltered**
Unaltered means not changed. It comes from the verb alter.

9. Flowers had been laid on the ___ of the old temple.
✔ **A) altar**
An altar is found in temples and shrines as well as churches. After “the” you need the noun.

10. The discovery could ___ the course of history.
✔ **B) alter**
To alter the course of something is to change its direction. After “could” you need a verb.

11. The company was accused of sacrificing safety on the ___ of profit.
✔ **C) altar**
The formal phrase is on the altar of: giving one thing up to get another.

12. Nothing you say now will ___ my decision.
✔ **C) alter**
“Will change my decision” works, so write alter.

13. The village has hardly ___ since my grandparents were young.
✔ **A) altered**
Alter can also mean become different. After “has” you need the past participle, altered.

14. The high ___ of the cathedral is carved from white marble.
✔ **D) altar**
The high altar is the main altar in a large church.

15. The sign in the tailor’s window says “Repairs and ___”.
✔ **D) alterations**
Alterations are changes made to clothes so that they fit.

16. The captain had to ___ course to keep the ship away from the storm.
✔ **A) alter**
To alter course is to change direction. After had to you need the base form of the verb.

17. The museum’s finest treasure is a painted ___ from a Spanish church.
✔ **D) altarpiece**
An altarpiece is a painting or carving above or behind an altar. It is one word, spelt with altar.

18. Moving to a new country was a life-___ experience for my sister.
✔ **C) altering**
Life-altering means changing someone’s whole life. It comes from the verb alter, with an e.

19. She embroidered a white ___ cloth for the village church.
✔ **C) altar**
An altar cloth covers the altar, the holy table in a church. Things in a church are spelt altar, with a.

20. In our reading group, boys and girls ___: first a boy reads, then a girl.
✔ **A) alternate**
To alternate is to take turns. It looks like alter, but it does not mean change.