ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Comparatives – Superlatives MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 1

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Explanations

1. It was _____ music I have ever heard.
✔ **C) the most beautiful**
I have ever heard compares this music with all music, so we need the superlative with **the**: **the most beautiful**. Not **most beautiful**, because a superlative before a noun needs **the**.

2. It's _____ powder I have ever used.
✔ **B) the best**
I have ever used shows a superlative. **Good** is irregular: good – better – **the best**. Not **best**, because the superlative before a noun needs **the**.

3. John is _____ of all to act.
✔ **D) the quickest**
Of all compares John with everybody, so we use the superlative: **the quickest**. Not **quicker**, because the comparative compares only two things.

4. He is _____ strong _____ his brother.
✔ **C) as / as**
To say two things are equal, use **as + adjective + as**: **He is as strong as his brother.** Not **so … as**, which is used mainly in negatives (**not so strong as**).

5. English grammar is _____ than the Russian one.
✔ **B) easier**
The word **than** needs a comparative. Short adjectives ending in -y change y to i and add -er: easy – **easier**. Not **as easy as**, because **as … as** cannot be followed by **than**.

6. I have _____ time than he does.
✔ **D) less**
Time is uncountable, and **than** needs a comparative: little – **less** – least. Not **least**, which is a superlative and doesn't go with **than**.

7. This girl is _____ intelligent than the rest of the class.
✔ **C) more**
Long adjectives form the comparative with **more**: **more intelligent than**. Not **the most**, because **than** needs a comparative, not a superlative.

8. Two heads are _____ than one.
✔ **E) better**
This is a proverb: **Two heads are better than one** (two people can solve a problem more easily than one). **Than** needs a comparative, and good – **better** – best is irregular.

9. Alice came late, Philip came later, and Tony _____.
✔ **B) last**
When we talk about the order in which people arrive, the natural phrase is **came last**: **Tony came last** (after everyone else). Not **more late** or **most late**, because **late** forms **later** and **latest/last**, not forms with more/most.

10. Mark Twain, one of _____ and _____ American writers, lived in a small town in his childhood.
✔ **C) the greatest / most popular**
One of is followed by a superlative: **one of the greatest and most popular writers**. One **the** covers both adjectives. Long adjectives use **most**, short ones add **-est**.

11. - Why didn't you discuss this question yesterday?

- It was _____ important than the others.
✔ **D) less**
Than needs a comparative: little – **less** – least, so **less important than the others**. Not **the least**, which is a superlative and can't be used with **than**.

12. Your English is much _____ now. You've made _____ mistakes this time.
✔ **B) better / fewer**
Much goes before a comparative: **much better** (good – better – best). **Mistakes** is a countable plural noun, so we use **fewer**, not **less**.

13. The Thames is _____ river in England.
✔ **A) the longest**
In England compares the Thames with all other rivers, so we use the superlative: **the longest**. Not **longest** without **the**, because a superlative before a noun needs **the**.

14. Do you have _____ or _____ rain this autumn than the last one?
✔ **B) more / less**
Than needs comparatives. **Rain** is uncountable, so we use **more** and **less**. Not **more / fewer**, because **fewer** is only for countable nouns (**fewer days**).

15. Please tell me something _____ than this old joke.
✔ **C) more interesting**
Than needs a comparative, and long adjectives use **more**: **more interesting**. **Less interesting** is grammatical but makes no sense: nobody asks for a more boring joke.

16. This question is _____ than the first one, so let's discuss it tomorrow.
✓ **B) less important**
Than needs a comparative: **less important than**. The clue **let's discuss it tomorrow** shows it is not urgent. Not **the least important**, because a superlative cannot be used with **than**.

17. Do you have _____ or _____ energy than usual?
✓ **D) more / less**
Energy is uncountable and **than** needs comparatives, so we use **more** and **less**. Not **much / little**, because these are not comparative forms.

18. We have _____ money than they have.
✓ **C) less**
Money is uncountable, and **than** needs a comparative: little – **less** – least. Not **few**, which is for countable nouns and is not a comparative.

19. - Please give me this bouquet of flowers. I think it is _____ than the others.

- But it's _____. **-** Never mind. I'll buy it.
✓ **B) more beautiful / more expensive**
Than needs a comparative: **more beautiful than the others**. In the second gap the comparison with the other bouquets is understood: **But it's more expensive** (than the others). Not **most expensive**, because a superlative needs **the**.

20. Of the four girls, Marcia is _____.
✓ **C) the prettiest**
Of the four girls compares more than two people, so we use the superlative: pretty – **the prettiest**. Not **prettier**, because the comparative compares only two.

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