ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Comparatives – Superlatives MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 2

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Explanations

1. It's _____ to go by car than by train.
✓ **B) cheaper**
The word **than** shows we are comparing two things, so we need the comparative form: **cheap → cheaper**. Not **the cheapest**, because the superlative is used for one thing out of a group, not with **than**.

2. It is much _____ to speak English than to understand it.
✓ **B) more difficult**
Long adjectives form the comparative with **more**: **difficult → more difficult**. The clue is **than**. **Much** can come before a comparative to make it stronger: **much more difficult**.

3. He's _____ intelligent than my brother.
✓ **D) more**
Intelligent is a long adjective, so its comparative is **more intelligent**. The word **than** tells us we need the comparative. Not **better**, because **better** is the comparative of **good** and cannot go before another adjective.

4. He is _____ among his classmates.
✓ **C) the youngest**
Among his classmates means we compare him with a whole group, so we need the superlative with **the**: **the youngest**. Not **taller**, because a comparative needs **than**.

5. This is _____ place I've ever seen.
✓ **B) the dirtiest**
After **This is … I've ever seen** we use the superlative: **the dirtiest**. With adjectives ending in consonant + **-y**, change **y** to **i** and add **-est**: **dirty → dirtiest**.

6. What is _____ crime than loss of time?
✓ **A) a greater**
The word **than** shows a comparison, so we need the comparative **greater**. **Crime** is a countable noun here, so we use **a**: **a greater crime**. Not **greatest**, because the superlative is not used with **than**.

7. He came home in the _____ mood.
✓ **B) sunniest**
The before the gap and no **than** after it show we need the superlative: **the sunniest mood** (a very happy mood). **Sunny → sunniest** (change **y** to **i** and add **-est**).

8. A false friend is _____ than an open enemy.
✓ **B) worse**
Bad has an irregular comparative: **bad – worse – the worst**. Because of **than**, we need the comparative **worse**. Not **the worst**, because the superlative is not used with **than**.

9. "Why do you always buy five loaves, no _____ and no _____?"
✓ **D) more / less**
The fixed expression **no more and no less** means 'exactly this number'. **More** is the comparative of **much/many**, and **less** is the comparative of **little**. Not **less / fewer**, because the expression always puts **more** first.

10. It's _____ in here than it is in the street.
✓ **C) hotter**
The word **than** shows a comparison, so we need the comparative. Short adjectives ending in one vowel + one consonant double the last letter: **hot → hotter**.

11. Are the streets of London _____ or _____ than the streets of Belfast?
✓ **C) narrower / wider**
Both adjectives are compared with **than**, so both must be comparatives: **narrower** and **wider**. Not **more narrow / wide**, because **wide** must also be in the comparative form.

12. I make _____ mistakes now than last year.
✓ **B) fewer**
Mistakes is a plural countable noun, so we use **few – fewer – the fewest**. Because of **than**, we need the comparative **fewer**.

13. The weather is much _____ pleasant than it usually is at this time of year.
✓ **B) more**
Pleasant forms its comparative with **more**: **more pleasant**. The clue is **than**, and **much** makes the comparative stronger. Not **the most**, because the superlative is not used with **than**.

14. Spending the summer at the seaside is _____ pleasant than spending it in the town.
✓ **C) more**
Pleasant forms its comparative with **more**: **more pleasant**. The word **than** shows we compare two things. Not **the most** or **the least**, because superlatives are not used with **than**.

15. It is _____ and _____ to live here than there.
✓ **D) warmer / more pleasant**
Both adjectives are compared with **than**, so both must be comparatives: short **warm → warmer**, longer **pleasant → more pleasant**. Not **warm / more pleasant**, because **warm** must also be comparative.

16. Are the streets _____ and _____ than they were some years ago?
✓ **E) wider / cleaner**
Both adjectives are compared with **than**, so both need the comparative **-er** form: **wider** and **cleaner**. Not **wide / cleaner**, because **wide** must also be comparative.

17. Lake Baikal is _____ lake in the world.
✓ **B) the deepest**
In the world shows we compare Baikal with all other lakes, so we need the superlative with **the**: **the deepest**. Not **deepest**, because the superlative needs **the** before it here.

18. Many people think Scotland is _____ than England.
✓ **D) more beautiful**
Beautiful is a long adjective, so its comparative is **more beautiful**. The clue is **than**. Not **most beautiful**, because the superlative is not used with **than**.

19. My luggage was _____ than my friend's.
✓ **D) less**
Luggage is uncountable, and **less** is the comparative of **little**: **My luggage was less than my friend's** means I had a smaller amount. Not **many**, because it is not a comparative and is used with countable nouns.

20. Her love must be _____ than mine.
✓ **D) deeper**
The word **than** shows a comparison between two things, so we need the comparative: **deep → deeper**. Not **the deepest**, because the superlative is not used with **than**.

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