ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Describing Change Synonymous Sentences MCQ Test With Answers – Mini Comprehension Exercise 6

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

Explanations

1. **Choose the synonymous statement.**

There has been an increase in the number of foreign publications translated into Turkish.
✓ A) Turks want to broaden their horizons upon the outside world.
More translated foreign books mean that people want to read and learn about other countries. To **broaden your horizons** means to widen your knowledge and experience. **Narrow** is the opposite.

2. We are in the middle of December.
✓ B) In the southern hemisphere, the days are continuing to get longer.
In the southern hemisphere, the longest day is around 21 December, so in mid-December the days are still **getting longer**. In the northern hemisphere they would be getting shorter.

3. The government is making plans to tighten up the border controls.
✓ B) Life will be much harder for smugglers.
To **tighten up** border controls means to make them stricter. Smugglers secretly bring goods across borders, so stricter controls make their life **harder**, not easier.

4. There has been marked progress in her English.
✓ A) Her English is unquestionably better now.
Marked progress means clear, noticeable improvement, so her English is **unquestionably better**. If progress has **plateaued**, it has stopped and is no longer improving.

5. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of students attending that course.
✓ B) The number of students attending that course has trebled this term.
A **dramatic increase** is a very large rise, and **trebled** (become three times bigger) shows this. A **slump** is a sudden fall, which is the opposite.

6. It is obvious that there is a steady decrease in the number of people out of work.
✓ A) We cannot fail to observe that unemployment is continuing to drop by about 1% each year.
A **steady decrease** in the number of people out of work means unemployment is falling regularly, e.g. **by about 1% each year**. The other option describes rising unemployment.

7. There has been a marked deterioration in the company's customer support services.
✓ A) Recently, there has been a noticeable increase in the customer complaints against the company's after-sales services.
A **marked deterioration** means services have clearly become worse, so customers complain more. **Better organized than ever** describes an improvement, the opposite.

8. There has been a noticeable weakening of the TL (Turkish Lira) in recent months.
✓ A) Turkish travellers can now buy less foreign currency with the same amount of TLs.
When a currency **weakens**, it is worth less against other currencies, so the same amount of lira buys **less** foreign currency. A stronger lira would buy more.

9. The number of tickets bought by school children has risen by almost 50%.
✓ A) School children are now buying almost one and a half times as many tickets as they did before.
A rise of almost 50% means the number is now almost **one and a half times** the old figure (e.g. 100 → 150). So school children are buying almost one and a half times as many tickets as before. The other option talks about a **decline**, which is a fall, not a rise.

10. There has been a general improvement in the standard of living.
✓ A) We live in better houses, eat higher-quality food, have more leisure and travel more than we used to just ten years ago.
A **general improvement in the standard of living** means people live better in general: better houses, food, more leisure and travel. **Incomparably worse** is the opposite.

11. There has been a constant rise in the rate of inflation for the past six years.
✓ A) Prices have been going up faster and faster each year since 2002.
The **rate of inflation** is how fast prices rise. If this rate shows a **constant rise**, prices go up **faster and faster** every year. **No consistency** would mean irregular changes, not a steady rise.

12. The daytime mean temperature in the region was 0.12 degrees centigrade lower this year than it was last year.
✓ B) The daytime mean temperature in the region was almost the same this year as it was last year.
A difference of only **0.12 degrees** is tiny, so the temperature was **almost the same**. A **sharp fall** would be a big, sudden drop, which 0.12 degrees is not.

13. Plans are being made to reduce the percentage of conventional weapons in the armed forces.
✓ B) There are plans to lessen the country's investment in conventional weapons in favour of the more sophisticated weapons of warfare.
To **reduce the percentage** of conventional weapons means to have fewer of them in proportion, so the country will **lessen** its investment in them. **Bolster up with more and more** means the opposite: increase.

14. Business growth has got to the point where customers are coming to us rather than us having to go to them.
✓ B) Our sales are booming.
If customers come to the company without being looked for, business is very strong: sales are **booming** (growing fast). A **recession** is a period when business gets worse.

15. The rules are to be enforced more vigorously.
✓ B) The rules will be implemented more strictly than they are now.
To **enforce** rules **more vigorously** means to make sure people obey them **more strictly**. A **relaxation** of the rules would make them less strict.

16. Last year, almost 40% of our students took part in musical activities and only 25% opted for our painting classes. This year, the percentages are 35% and 30%, respectively.
✓ B) There has been a narrowing of the gap between the two student groups.
Last year the gap was 40% − 25% = 15 points; this year it is 35% − 30% = 5 points. The gap is smaller, so it has **narrowed**. **Respectively** means 'in the same order': music 35%, painting 30%.

17. Some management positions in the company are going to be phased out this year.
✓ A) Some of the present management positions in the company will no longer exist next year.
To **phase out** something means to stop it gradually until it no longer exists. So these positions **will no longer exist**; there will be no new chances to apply for them.

18. In recent years, there has been an upward trend in the number of people shopping in small local stores.
✓ A) Fewer people are shopping at large supermarkets and more are shopping in small local stores.
An **upward trend** means a rise, so more people are shopping in small local stores and **fewer** at supermarkets. Use **fewer** with countable nouns like **people**. The other option says more people choose supermarkets, the opposite.

19. Our company has opened new facilities in Konya, Denizli, and Malatya in the last five years.
✓ B) Things are certainly looking up for our company.
Opening new facilities in three cities shows the company is growing, so things are **looking up** (improving). **The future looks dim** means the future looks bad.

20. The government is to curtail its funding of the healthcare services next year.
✓ A) There are going to be cuts in healthcare spending next year.
To **curtail** means to reduce or limit, so there will be **cuts** in healthcare spending. **Accelerated** funding would suggest more or faster spending, the opposite.

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