ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Determiners, Articles, Quantifiers Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 1

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Explanations

1. I listened to some news on _____ radio about _____ man arrested for embezzlement last Tuesday.
✔ **D) the / the**
On the radio is a fixed phrase: we use **the** when we talk about radio as a way of broadcasting. The man is identified by the phrase **arrested for embezzlement last Tuesday**, so he is a specific person: **the man**. Not **a / the**, because we don't say **on a radio** when we mean listening to a broadcast.

2. I was thinking of buying a maternity dress _____, but _____ was given one as a present by my husband.
✔ **A) myself / I**
The emphatic reflexive **myself** after the object stresses that the speaker would buy the dress personally. The second gap is the subject of the passive **was given**, so it needs the subject pronoun **I**. Not **mine** or **me**, because neither can be the subject of a verb.

3. Due to _____ rainy weather we've had recently, I didn't have to water _____ garden of our house every day.
✔ **A) the / the**
The rainy weather is specific because the relative clause **we've had recently** defines it. **The garden** is specific because **of our house** tells us which garden it is. Not the zero article, because both nouns are made definite by the words that follow them.

4. One of the _____ things the two rival companies have in common is _____ commitment to customer service.
✔ **B) few / their**
In **one of the few things**, **few** means 'a small number of' and goes with a plural countable noun. The possessive determiner **their** comes before a noun and refers back to the plural **companies**. Not **its**, because **companies** is plural. **Little** is used with uncountable nouns, and **theirs** is a pronoun that cannot come before a noun.

5. A very close relative _____ has just arrived from a trip during which he experienced many interesting adventures.
✔ **C) of mine**
The double genitive **a relative of mine** means 'one of my relatives'. It uses **of** plus a possessive pronoun (**of mine, of yours, of his**). Not **of me**: after **a/an + noun + of**, English uses the possessive pronoun, not the object pronoun.

6. Many farmers sold _____ land to developers or gave it away without realizing that it would no longer be _____.
✔ **D) their / theirs**
The possessive determiner **their** must come before a noun (**their land**). The possessive pronoun **theirs** stands alone and replaces the noun phrase (**it would no longer be theirs** = their land). Not **its**, because **farmers** is plural. Not **themselves**, because a reflexive pronoun cannot show possession.

7. The potable water system onboard the ship must meet _____ standards, the first of which is that the water be potable.
✔ **E) a number of**
Standards is a plural countable noun, so it takes **a number of** ('several'). **A little**, **a good deal of** and **a great quantity of** go with uncountable nouns. **Both of** would need a determiner (**both of the standards**) and refers to exactly two. The phrase **the first of which** suggests there are several standards.

8. The truth is, I'm not _____ pleased with Mike's grades this year.
✔ **E) at all**
Not ... at all strengthens a negative and means 'not in the least': **I'm not at all pleased**. Not **a little**: **not a little pleased** is a literary way of saying 'quite pleased', which is the opposite meaning. **A lot** cannot modify an adjective in this way.

9. Can our minds grasp the individual object as _____ stands by _____?
✔ **A) it / itself**
The subject pronoun **it** refers to **the individual object** and is the subject of **stands**. **By itself** means 'alone, separately'. The reflexive **itself** is used because it refers back to the same object.

10. Monkeys are famous for _____ eagerness to approach people and playfully interact with _____, especially in the circus.
✔ **B) their / them**
Their is a possessive determiner referring to **monkeys** (**their eagerness**). **Them** is an object pronoun referring to **people** after the preposition **with**. Not **themselves**, because a reflexive cannot replace a possessive determiner before a noun.

11. According to the schedule, the teachers have to come together _____ other week to discuss the problems of their students.
✔ E) every
Every other week means 'once every two weeks' (one week yes, the next week no). Not **each**: **each other** means 'one another' and expresses a reciprocal action, so it cannot express this frequency.

12. _____ researchers have demonstrated that global warming tends to result from greenhouse gases.
✔ B) A number of
A number of + plural countable noun means 'several' and takes a plural verb (**have demonstrated**). Not **Most of** or **Half of**: before a noun these need a determiner (**most of the researchers**), or you drop **of** (**most researchers**). **Much more** goes with uncountable nouns.

13. Most of our traditions are _____ practised because they're regarded as obsolete.
✔ D) no longer
No longer means 'not now, although in the past it was true'. It goes before the main verb in an affirmative sentence: **are no longer practised**. Not **any more** or **any longer**: these need a negative verb and usually come at the end of the clause (**aren't practised any more**).

14. The artists of the Spanish Market work with many different kinds of materials; _____ weave cloth on looms or punch designs into tin, _____ make their own pottery or carve objects out of bone.
✔ A) some / others
Some ... others contrasts two groups within a larger group: some artists do one thing, other artists do something else. Not **many / each**: **each** would need a singular verb (**each makes**). **All / none** is contradictory, and **a good deal** is used with uncountable nouns.

15. He spent the _____ night drinking, so there was hardly _____ wine left.
✔ C) whole / any
The whole night means 'all of the night'; **whole** comes after **the**. **Hardly** is a negative word, so it is followed by **any**: **hardly any wine** = almost no wine. Not **every / no**, because **hardly no** is a double negative, and **the every night** is not English.

16. High cholesterol is one of the three major risk factors for heart disease. Cigarette smoking and high blood pressure are _____ two.
✔ D) the other
There are three factors. One has been named, so the remaining two are **the other two**; **the** shows they complete the set. Not **another**: **another two** means 'two more, additional ones', not the rest of a closed group.

17. Of the two churches in the town, one is a Catholic church and _____ is Lutheran.
✔ B) the other
With two things, we say **one ... the other**. **The other** means the remaining one, the second of the pair. Not **another**: it means 'one more of many', so it is wrong when there are only two.

18. Despite the huge budget deficit, _____ of local government spending is directed towards the private sector.
✔ A) a great deal
Spending is uncountable here, so it needs a quantifier for uncountable nouns: **a great deal of** ('a lot of'). Not **a good many** or **very few**: these go with plural countable nouns. **A large many** and **a considerable group of spending** are not correct English.

19. There were almost 2500 demonstrators in the square last weekend. This shows that _____ people attended the demonstration.
✔ C) a great number of
People is a plural countable noun, so it takes **a great number of**. Not **a large amount of** or **a great quantity of**: these are used with uncountable nouns (**a large amount of money**). **Very little** and **much of** are also for uncountable nouns.

20. I'm afraid I won't be able to say _____ since I have _____ idea about the issue.
✔ C) anything / no
After a negative verb (**won't be able to say**), we use **anything**. **Have no idea** is a fixed expression meaning 'not know at all'. Not **nothing / any**: **won't say nothing** is a double negative.

21. Laura has three pets, _____ of which is a Siamese cat that has just given birth to twin kittens, and _____ are male dogs that frequently fight.
✔ C) one / the others
To single out one member of a larger group before **of which**, we use the quantifier **one** (**one of which**). Because Laura has three pets in total, the remaining two form the entire rest of a closed group, which requires the definite plural pronoun **the others**. **Others** without **the** refers to an indefinite subset rather than all remaining pets, and **other** cannot stand alone as a plural pronoun.

22. A number of different models of procurement _____ to provide access to a variety of content over the term of the contract.
✔ A) are being considered
A number of + plural noun takes a plural verb: **a number of models are**. The models do not consider anything; someone considers them now, so we need the present continuous passive **are being considered**. Not **is considered**, because the verb must be plural.

23. _____ question in the test was checked in detail before being given to the students, and _____ containing mistakes or causing ambiguity were corrected by the teachers.
✔ B) Every / any
Every + singular noun (**every question**) means all the questions, one by one. **Any** used as a pronoun means 'whichever ones' (**any containing mistakes** = any questions that contained mistakes). Not **Each / no**: **no** cannot stand alone as a pronoun; you would need **none**. **Either** is only used for two things.

24. While there are _____ formidable women on the screen today, _____ of them have involved themselves in the Method school as part of their training.
✓ E) many / very few
While introduces a contrast. There are **many** strong actresses, but **very few** of them trained in the Method school. Not **many / a good many** or **quite a few / many**: these give no contrast, so **while** would make no sense. **The number of** and **a good deal** do not fit this structure.

25. She spends _____ money on clothes whenever she goes shopping.
✓ A) a large amount of
Money is uncountable, so it takes **a large amount of**. Not **a great number of**, **several**, **many** or **a couple of**: these are used with plural countable nouns (**a great number of dresses**).

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