ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Determiners Grammar Test Exercises – Multiple Choice Questions With Answers – Advanced Level 9

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Explanations

1. Despite the advances in technology, _____ of the universe is yet to be discovered.
✔ **A) much**
Much of goes with uncountable or singular nouns and means 'a large part of'. Here it means a large part of the universe is still unknown. **Several** needs a plural noun, and **a quantity** or **an amount** would need **of** and an uncountable noun such as **a quantity of water**.

2. She has gone to Turkey for _____ months for her treatment.
✔ **B) several**
Several means 'more than two but not many' and comes directly before a plural countable noun: **several months**. **Plenty of months** is unnatural, **whole** needs **the** or **a** (**a whole month**), and **most months** does not fit a single period of treatment.

3. _____ the sixteen teams in the cup were represented with their flags.
✔ **E) All**
All can come directly before **the** + plural noun: **all the sixteen teams** (or simply **all sixteen teams**). **Some** and **many** need **of** before **the**, as in **some of the teams**, and **much of** and **plenty of** do not fit a specific, countable group like this.

4. Very _____ people are travelling by train because of its slowness.
✔ **A) few**
Very few goes with plural countable nouns such as **people** and means 'almost no'. The clue is **because of its slowness**: the train is slow, so not many people use it. Not **little**, because **little** is used with uncountable nouns (**very little time**).

5. I can do very _____ work at nights despite _____ my efforts.
✔ **E) little / all**
Work is uncountable, so we use **very little**: **very little work** means 'almost no work'. **Despite all my efforts** means 'although I try very hard'; **all** can come directly before **my** + plural noun. Not **a little / a few**: **very a little** is not possible, and **a few** cannot come directly before **my** (we would need **a few of my efforts**).

6. There weren't _____ people in the stadium because of the heavy rain.
✔ **A) many**
In negative sentences we use **many** with plural countable nouns: **There weren't many people**. Not **much**, because **much** goes with uncountable nouns (**There wasn't much rain**).

7. We have _____ petrol in the tank, so I think it will be sufficient to get to the town.
✔ **C) a little**
A little with an uncountable noun means 'some, a small but enough amount'. The clue is **it will be sufficient**, which is a positive idea. Not **little**, which means 'almost none' and would suggest the petrol is not enough.

8. _____ student in the school is a representative of our institution outside.
✔ **A) Any**
Any + singular noun can mean 'every one, no matter which': **any student** means each and every student represents the school. **Everyone** is a pronoun and cannot come before a noun (**everyone student** is wrong). **Both** and **all** need a plural noun, and **few** needs a plural noun too.

9. There were _____ vegetables in the grocery so he went to look for _____ grocery since we needed _____ of them.
✔ **A) hardly any / another / plenty**
Hardly any means 'almost no', which explains why he went to look for **another grocery**. **Another** is used before a singular countable noun to mean 'a different one'. We **needed plenty of them** means we needed a lot. Not **some / other / some**, because **other** cannot be used alone before a singular countable noun (**other grocery** is wrong).

10. You can't convince me to go there; I hate watching _____ silly games.
✔ **E) such**
Such + adjective + plural noun is used for emphasis: **such silly games**. Not **that**, because **that** is singular and cannot go with the plural **games**. **Every** needs a singular noun.

11. _____ nutrition experts today believe the food we eat should contain all kinds of foods.
✔ A) Most
Most + plural noun (without **the**) means 'the majority of' people or things in general: **most nutrition experts**. **Each** and **another** need a singular noun, and **little** goes with uncountable nouns. **Enough experts** is grammatical but does not make sense here.

12. The _____ problem stems from his coming before the scheduled time to the city.
✔ B) whole
Whole is used after **the** before a singular noun to mean 'all of it, complete': **the whole problem**. Not **all**, because **all** comes before **the** (**all the problem**), not after it. **Many**, **a lot** and **every** do not fit after **the** with a singular noun.

13. _____ one of these two cars has the capability to reach a speed of 100 km/h in 6 seconds.
✔ E) Either
Either one of refers to one of two things, it does not matter which, and takes a singular verb: **Either one of these two cars has…**. Not **both**, because **both** means the two together and cannot be followed by **one**. **No one of** is wrong; we say **neither of** or **none of**.

14. I believe that John is _____ honest man. No one can claim that he has ever deceived anyone.
✔ B) an
We use **a** or **an** when we describe someone as a member of a group. The choice depends on the first sound, not the letter: **honest** begins with a vowel sound because the **h** is silent, so we say **an honest man**. Not **a**, because **a** comes before a consonant sound.

15. Do you remember _____ man I pointed out to you yesterday?
✔ C) the
We use **the** when both speakers know which person is meant. The relative clause **I pointed out to you yesterday** identifies the man exactly, so we say **the man**.

16. My father bought _____ new car last month which is _____ one of _____ best models of BMW.
✔ E) a / _____ / the
A new car introduces the car for the first time. **One of** is not normally preceded by an article, so the second gap stays empty. Superlatives take **the**: **one of the best models**. Not **a / _____ / a**, because a superlative cannot take **a** (**a best model** is wrong).

17. _____ earth is one of _____ planets of our solar system.
✔ C) The / the
We say **the earth**, like **the sun** and **the moon**, because there is only one. After **one of**, a specific plural group takes **the**: **one of the planets of our solar system**. Not **a** in the second gap, because **a** cannot go with a plural noun such as **planets**.

18. How can he be abroad? I just saw him half _____ hour ago.
✔ E) an
The fixed expression is **half an hour**. We use **an** because **hour** begins with a vowel sound (the **h** is silent). Not **a**, which is used before consonant sounds.

19. His mood always changes; he is as changeable as _____ English weather. He is somewhere between _____ happiest and _____ saddest.
✔ C) the / the / the
The English weather refers to the well-known weather of a particular country, so **the** is used. Superlatives always take **the**: **the happiest**, **the saddest**. Not **an / the / the**, because **an** cannot go with an uncountable noun like **weather**.

20. Among _____ many millions of species in _____ animal kingdom, several hundred billion individuals are on _____ move at any one time, performing some kind of migration, usually annual.
✔ C) the / the / the
The many millions of species refers to the specific total number of species, so **the** is used before **many**. **The animal kingdom** is a unique category, so it also takes **the**. **On the move** is a fixed expression meaning 'travelling'. Not **a** in the first gap, because **a** cannot go with the plural **many millions**.

21. In order to close _____ case on _____ great robbery of 1945 and right _____ decades-old wrong, this art must be returned to its rightful owners.
✔ A) the / the / a
Close the case refers to a specific legal case, so it takes **the**. **The great robbery of 1945** is a particular, well-known event identified by the phrase **of 1945**, so it also takes **the**. **Right a wrong** is a fixed expression: **wrong** is a countable noun here, so we say **a decades-old wrong**. Not **a great robbery**, because the robbery is a specific known event, not one of many.

22. Machines will do _____ hard work for _____ human beings in _____ future.
✔ C) the / _____ / the
The hard work means the difficult work that people now do, so it takes **the**. **Human beings** in general takes no article, because plural nouns used in a general sense have zero article. **In the future** is a fixed expression. Not **a hard work**, because **work** is uncountable and cannot take **a**.

23. People are very interested in _____ future because they are sure that it will be very different from _____ past.
✔ A) the / the
The future and **the past** are fixed expressions with **the** when they mean the time to come or the time gone by. Note that British **in future** (zero article) means 'from now on', which is a different meaning from **be interested in the future**. Not **a / a**: **a future** or **a past** would mean one possible future or past.

24. At _____ moment we use mainly coal fuel and electric energy to heat our houses, to transport _____ people, and to produce _____ food.
✔ D) the / _____ / _____
At the moment is a fixed expression meaning 'now'. **People** and **food** are used in a general sense here, so they take no article: **transport people**, **produce food**. Not **the people** or **the food**, which would refer to specific people or food already mentioned.

25. Sometimes, I can be so busy with so many things during the week that I don't remember my appointments, and I can't remember my own telephone number _____.
✔ C) either
Either is used at the end of a negative sentence to add one negative idea to another: **I don't remember my appointments, and I can't remember my number either**. Not **too** or **also**, which are used in positive sentences (**I like it too**). **Neither** needs a positive verb after it (**Neither can I**).

26. You can buy _____ of these two books; they are _____ very helpful if you want to improve your knowledge in the field.
✔ D) either / both
Either of + two things means 'one or the other, it doesn't matter which': **buy either of these two books**. **Both** refers to the two together: **they are both very helpful**. Not **all**, because **all** is used for three or more.

27. I recommend that you buy _____ brown tie which matches _____ shirt you bought yesterday.
✔ D) the / the
The is used when a noun is made specific. **The brown tie which matches…** is identified by the relative clause, and **the shirt you bought yesterday** is a shirt both speakers know. Not **a** in the second gap, because the shirt is a particular one.

28. You should have chosen the black one _____ than the red one.
✔ B) rather
Rather than means 'instead of' and joins two choices: **chosen the black one rather than the red one**. Not **better than**, because **choose something better than something** does not express a preference; **instead** is followed by **of**, not **than** (**instead of the red one**).

29. I found nobody there when I arrived. Apparently, _____ the students had left the area because of a misunderstanding as to the appointed time.
✔ E) all
All can come directly before **the** + plural noun: **all the students**. The clue is **I found nobody there**, so every student had left. Not **none**, which needs **of** (**none of the students**), and **each** and **either** need a singular noun.

30. You can say _____ you like about him, but you won't change my mind, since I have examined all the reports about him.
✔ C) whatever
Whatever means 'anything at all' and is the object of **say**: **You can say whatever you like**. Not **whichever**, which is used for a choice from a limited set (**Take whichever book you like**). **Whomever** refers to people, not to things said.

31. Can you give me _____ more information about the organization, because I still have _____ question marks in my mind?
✔ A) some / some
Some is used in requests and offers, even in questions, when we expect a positive answer: **Can you give me some more information?** With the plural **question marks** it means 'a number of'. Not **a**, because **information** is uncountable, and not **the**, because no specific information or questions have been mentioned.

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