ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Determiners – Quantifiers – Articles Advanced Level MCQs Test With Answers 1

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1	**C**	2	**B**	3	**B**	4	**A**	5	**E**	6	**C**	7	**D**	8	**B**	9	**E**	10	**E**
11	**D**	12	**A**	13	**C**	14	**A**	15	**D**	16	**B**	17	**E**	18	**C**	19	**A**	20	**B**
21	**C**	22	**E**	23	**D**	24	**D**	25	**B**	26	**E**	27	**D**	28	**C**	29	**D**	30	**A**
31	**B**	32	**D**	33	**B**	34	**E**	35	**A**	36	**B**	37	**B**	38	**D**	39	**A**	40	**B**
41	**A**	42	**C**	43	**A**	44	**D**	45	**A**	46	**D**	47	**A**	48	**B**	49	**C**	50	**C**
51	**A**	52	**B**	53	**D**	54	**A**	55	**C**										

Explanations

1. Despite the material donations from the local shops, the school still needs _____ more equipment such as video players, cassette players and computers.
✔ **C) some**
Equipment is uncountable, so we need a quantifier that works with uncountable nouns in a positive sentence: **some more equipment**. **A few** and **many** go only with plural countable nouns, and **a great many** also needs a plural noun. **No more** contradicts **still needs**.

2. The police found _____ counterfeit money as well as guns at the gang's headquarters.
✔ **B) a large amount of**
Money is uncountable, so it takes **a large amount of**. **Several more**, **only a few**, **a number of** and **large numbers of** are all used with plural countable nouns (**a number of guns**).

3. A colleague of _____ has lent us _____ holiday cottage for a week.
✔ **B) mine / his**
The double genitive **a colleague of + possessive pronoun** is used: **a colleague of mine** (one of my colleagues). Before a noun we need a possessive determiner: **his holiday cottage**. **Him** and **them** are object pronouns and cannot be used in either gap.

4. There is _____ information available on recycling, but unfortunately, little of _____ is known by ordinary people.
✔ **A) a lot of / it**
Information is uncountable, so it takes **a lot of**, and the pronoun that refers back to it must be singular: **little of it**. **Plenty of** is also possible in the first gap, but **them** cannot refer to an uncountable noun. **Several** and **too many** need plural countable nouns.

5. I've seen _____ of his work to know that he's ready for a promotion.
✔ **E) enough**
Work (what someone produces) is uncountable, and the pattern **enough of ... to do something** shows a sufficient quantity: **I've seen enough of his work to know... A few**, **several** and **a number** go with plural countable nouns, and **both** refers to two.

6. Personally, of the two halls, I prefer the one closer to the airport, but _____ seems suitable to hold our conference in.
✔ **C) either**
Of the two halls tells us we are talking about two things. **Either** means 'one or the other, it doesn't matter which' and takes a singular verb: **either seems suitable**. Not **both**, because the verb **seems** is singular. **All**, **none** and **every** are used for more than two.

7. Blood flows to _____ parts of the body through the circulatory system, which is composed of arteries, veins and capillaries.
✔ **D) all**
All is used with plural nouns: **all parts of the body**. **Every** needs a singular noun (**every part**), **whole** needs an article (**the whole body**), and **much** and **a little** go with uncountable nouns.

8. They had _____ money to spend on their house, but even with that limited amount, they managed to create a warm and friendly atmosphere.
✔ **B) little**
Little with an uncountable noun means 'not much, almost not enough', and the clue **that limited amount** confirms it. **A few** is for countable plurals, and **plenty of** means a lot, which contradicts **limited**. **Small number of** needs **a** and a plural noun.

9. _____ of the area managers is going to report his total sales to head office _____ two weeks.
✔ **E) Each / every**
Each of + plural noun takes a singular verb: **Each of the area managers is**. To describe how often something happens, we use **every + number + plural noun**: **every two weeks**. **All**, **both** and **every** cannot be followed by **of the managers is**.

10. We had had so much rain that the fields on _____ sides of the river were _____ flooded.
✔ **E) both / all**
A river has two sides, so we use **both** with the plural **sides**. **All** in the second gap means 'completely' or 'every one of them': **the fields were all flooded**. **Every** and **each** need a singular noun (**each side**).

11. When the river was flooded, the farmhouse was surrounded by water on _____ sides.
✔ **D) all**
A farmhouse has more than two sides, and **sides** is plural, so we use **all**: **surrounded by water on all sides**. **Every** and **each** need a singular noun, and **either** and **neither** refer to two things only.

12. _____ sheep escaped from Farmer Gile's field last week, and so far, only _____ of them has been found.
✔ **A) Several / one**
Sheep is plural here (**escaped ... of them**), so **several** fits. The singular verb **has been found** shows that the second gap must be singular: **only one of them has been found**. **A few** and **some** would need **have been found**.

13. Each of _____ has a blue dash of paint on _____ coat, so it will be easy to recognize Farmer Gile's sheep.
✔ **C) them / its**
After **each of** we need an object pronoun: **each of them**. Because **each** is singular and refers to an animal, the possessive determiner is **its**: **on its coat**. **Their** cannot follow a preposition, and **theirs** cannot come before a noun.

14. We must admit that the fault was not entirely _____. Some of it must have been _____.
✔ **A) hers / ours**
With no noun after the gap, we need possessive pronouns: **not entirely hers** and **some of it must have been ours**. **Her**, **their** and **my** are determiners that need a noun after them, and **us** and **you** are not possessives.

15. Thank you for letting me know about this birthday wish of _____.
✔ **D) his**
The double genitive uses **of + possessive pronoun**: **this birthday wish of his** (= his birthday wish). Not **him**, **me** or **us**, because these are object pronouns, and **your** needs a noun after it (**of yours**).

16. I made a lot of friends in Mexico, but I have only kept in touch with _____ them.
✔ **B) a few of**
Before a pronoun like **them** a quantifier needs **of**: **a few of them**. **Many**, **several** and **little** would need **of** as well, and **little** is for uncountable nouns. **Plenty of them** contradicts **only**.

17. If we've got _____ time, we'll try to do _____ shopping as well.
✔ **E) enough / some**
Time and **shopping** are both uncountable. **Enough time** means a sufficient amount, and **do some shopping** is a common fixed phrase. **Many**, **a few** and **several** need plural countable nouns, and **plenty** needs **of**.

18. Blood plays a critical part in the fight against disease because blood contains _____ kinds of disease-combating agents.
✔ **C) several**
Kinds is a plural countable noun, so **several** fits: **several kinds of agents**. **Each** and **neither** need a singular noun, **much** is for uncountable nouns, and **a lot** needs **of**.

19. If parts of the body do not get _____ blood, they will become infected and their tissues will die.
✔ **A) enough**
Blood is uncountable, and **enough** means 'as much as is needed': **do not get enough blood**. **Many** is for countable nouns, **plenty** needs **of**, and **all** and **whole** do not fit the meaning.

20. Upon graduation, _____ student is sent an information pack giving useful tips and information about finding suitable employment.
✔ **B) each**
Student is singular and the verb **is sent** is singular, so we need **each**: **each student is sent**. **All**, **many** and **a few** need a plural noun (**all students are**), and **none** cannot come directly before a noun.

21. Although we've already had _____ volunteers, we're still looking for _____ to help out at the school fete.
✔ **C) a number of / a few more**
Volunteers is a plural countable noun, so we use **a number of volunteers**, and for extra people we use **a few more** (= a small number of additional ones). **Much more** and **a little more** are used with uncountable nouns. **Almost no / quite a lot** does not fit **already** and **still**.

22. _____ of his poems, "The Swans", _____ difficult to fully appreciate if you don't know about the poet's meeting Nelly Sachs.
✔ **E) One / is**
The poem's title shows that we are talking about a single poem, so we need **One of his poems** followed by a singular verb, **is**. The present simple **is** fits because it describes a general fact about the poem. **Several** and **some** would need a plural verb, and **much** is not used with countable nouns.

23. _____ secret meetings the board of directors has had lately have led to _____ speculation in the office.
✔ **D) A few / some**
Meetings is plural countable, so **A few** fits. **Speculation** is uncountable, so it takes **some**. Not **a good many / a few**, because **a few** cannot go with an uncountable noun. **Every one of** would need **the** (**every one of the meetings**).

24. If people showed _____ concern for the environment, there wouldn't be _____ pollution in the world.
✔ **D) more / so much**
This is a second conditional about an unreal present situation: **if people showed more concern, there wouldn't be so much pollution**. Both **concern** and **pollution** are uncountable, so we use **more** and **so much**. **Too many** and **a few more** need countable nouns.

25. It takes _____ of concentration and patience to make intricate lace handicrafts.
✔ **B) a good deal**
The gap is followed by **of** and the uncountable nouns **concentration** and **patience**, so we need **a good deal of** (= a lot of). **A great many** is used only with plural countable nouns. **Enough**, **a little** and **much more** are not followed by **of** before a noun like this.

26. _____ bird watchers arrived at the place where the rare bird had been sighted.
✔ **E) A large number of**
Bird watchers is a plural countable noun, so we use **A large number of**. **A small amount of**, **a little**, **too much** and **a good deal of** are all used with uncountable nouns.

27. This footballer can kick the ball with _____ feet, but he is especially dangerous with his left.
✔ D) both
A person has two feet, and **feet** is plural, so we use **both**: **with both feet**. **Either** would need the singular noun (**either foot**), and **all** and **some** are not used for a pair.

28. On international airlines, there are always _____ a pilot and a co-pilot and each knows the other's job, so, in the event that _____ falls ill during the flight, the other is qualified to land the plane safely.
✔ C) both / either
Both ... and links two items: **both a pilot and a co-pilot**. In the second gap we need a singular word meaning 'one of the two, it doesn't matter which': **in the event that either falls ill**. **Neither** would make no sense, and **any** and **all** are used for more than two.

29. She hasn't accepted the job in Vienna for _____ reasons, the most important of which is that she hates cold weather.
✔ D) a few
Reasons is a plural countable noun, so **a few reasons** (= a small number) fits. **Much** is for uncountable nouns, **each** and **every** need a singular noun, and **plenty** needs **of**.

30. _____ students actively participated in the discussion, which annoyed the teacher because it showed that _____ of them hadn't prepared sufficiently.
✔ A) Few / most
Few without **a** has a negative meaning ('not many'), which explains why the teacher was annoyed, and **most of them hadn't prepared** gives the reason. Not **too few / none**, because **none of them hadn't prepared** is a double negative and reverses the meaning. **None of** cannot come directly before **students**.

31. The short life span of _____ animals as compared to humans is an advantage to experimenters since it allows them to observe _____ generations of the same species.
✔ B) many / several
Animals and **generations** are plural countable nouns, so we use **many animals** and **several generations**. **Much**, **a little** and **much more** go with uncountable nouns, and **so few** contradicts the advantage described.

32. I'm sorry there is _____ coffee left. Would you mind drinking tea instead?
✔ D) no
No is used directly before a noun to make a positive verb negative: **there is no coffee left**. **None** is a pronoun and cannot be followed by a noun. **Any** would need a negative verb (**there isn't any**).

33. The coach was glad that they didn't have _____ major injuries during the school's sports week, and _____ team was ready for the next week's competition.
✔ B) any / the whole
In a negative sentence we use **any** with plural nouns: **didn't have any major injuries**. **The whole team** means all of the team as one unit. **All team** and **much of team** are wrong, because a singular countable noun needs **the**.

34. Public transport is getting more and more unbearable in this city because there are _____ people, but not _____ vehicles.
✔ E) too many / enough
Too many means more than is acceptable, which explains why transport is **unbearable**. **Not enough vehicles** means fewer than needed. **Much** and **so much** cannot be used with the plural countable nouns **people** and **vehicles**.

35. Marketing research is _____ expensive undertaking, and its costs are built into _____ prices of products.
✔ A) an / the
Undertaking is a singular countable noun mentioned for the first time, and it starts with a vowel sound, so we use **an expensive undertaking**. **The prices of products** is specific because it is defined by the **of**-phrase. (In the options, _____ means no article.)

36. If you improve _____ conclusion section of your essay, I think you'll get _____ better mark.
✔ B) the / a
The conclusion section is specific: there is only one in your essay. **A better mark** is not a particular mark, just one of many possible higher marks, so the indefinite article is used.

37. What's _____ name of _____ player who scored _____ last goal?
✔ B) the / the / the
All three nouns are specific. **The name** is the name of a particular player, and **the player** is defined by the relative clause **who scored...**. With **last**, we normally use **the**: **the last goal**.

38. I'm going to buy _____ hose pipe because I'm tired of washing _____ car using _____ bucket.
✔ D) a / the / a
A hose pipe is any hose pipe, mentioned for the first time. **The car** is a particular car the speaker owns and the listener knows about. **Using a bucket** refers to any bucket, so the indefinite article is used.

39. _____ highly valued animal fibre, _____ silk has long been used for the production of luxury textiles of _____ finest quality.
✔ A) A / _____ / the
The opening phrase classifies silk as one of a type, so it takes **a**: **A highly valued animal fibre**. **Silk** used in a general sense is uncountable and takes no article. Superlatives take **the**: **of the finest quality**.

40. According to Hindus, the god Krishna discovered the pearl when he picked one from the ocean to adorn _____ daughter Pandaia on _____ wedding day.
✔ B) his / her
Both gaps come before a noun, so we need possessive determiners. Krishna is male, so it is **his daughter**. The wedding day belongs to the daughter, so it is **her wedding day**. Not **hers** or **him**: a possessive pronoun (**hers**) and an object pronoun (**him**) cannot come before a noun.

41. She started reading first thing in the morning, and by nightfall, she had read the _____ book.
✔ A) whole
The whole + singular noun means all of one thing: **the whole book**. **All** would need a different word order (**all the book** / **all of the book**). **Each**, **every** and **either** do not follow **the**.

42. The best way to avoid high cholesterol levels in the blood is through maintaining a balanced diet that includes _____ the major food groups in moderation.
✔ C) all
All the + plural noun means every one of a group: **all the major food groups**. **Both** refers to only two, and there are more than two food groups. **Many** and **several** cannot be followed directly by **the**, and **whole** needs a singular noun.

43. _____ I was going to suggest was that we should hold our meetings at a more convenient time.
✔ A) All
All + clause means 'the only thing': **All I was going to suggest was that...** (= the only thing I was going to suggest). **Each**, **every**, **both** and **the whole** cannot be used in this way before a clause.

44. I hope we haven't invited _____ people to welcome them all properly.
✔ D) too many
The pattern **too many + plural noun + to-infinitive** means 'so many that it is impossible to...': **too many people to welcome them all properly**. **Lots of** and **plenty of** do not express excess, and **so much** is for uncountable nouns.

45. A few relatives of _____ are going to stay with _____ over the weekend.
✔ A) hers / us
After **of** in the double genitive we use a possessive pronoun: **a few relatives of hers**. After the preposition **with** we need an object pronoun: **stay with us**. **I** is a subject pronoun, and **their** needs a noun after it.

46. None of _____ wanted to become involved in the quarrel between two members.
✔ D) us
After **none of** we need an object pronoun: **none of us**. **Your** and **her** (as a determiner) would need a noun, **they** is a subject pronoun, and **him** is a single person, which makes no sense with **none of**.

47. If we don't get _____ bookings, we'll have to cancel the trip.
✔ A) a few more
Bookings is a plural countable noun, so we use **a few more bookings** (= a small number of extra ones). **Much more** and **a little more** go with uncountable nouns, and **no longer** and **any longer** refer to time.

48. They only delivered _____ our order today, but they will bring the rest tomorrow.
✔ B) half
Half can come directly before a determiner without **of**: **half our order** (= half of our order). **Some**, **most** and **each** need **of** before **our** (**some of our order**), and **both** refers to two items.

49. The state of Arizona in the US is very hot, but there is usually only _____ humidity, so the heat is quite bearable.
✔ C) a little
Humidity is uncountable, and **only a little** means a small amount, which explains why the heat is bearable. **Few** and **several** are for countable nouns. **Much** does not fit after **only** in a positive sentence like this.

50. Of the many dresses she was shown, _____ was actually to her taste, but she had to choose one for the party.
✔ C) none
None (= not one) is used for a group of more than two, and the clause **but she had to choose one** shows that she did not like any of them. Not **neither**, because **neither** is only for two, and here there were **many dresses**. **Some**, **most** and **both** do not fit the singular verb **was** or the contrast with **but**.

51. Although the film was reviewed favourably by _____ critics, it received _____ appreciation from the audience.
✔ A) many / little
Critics is plural countable, so **many critics** fits. **Appreciation** is uncountable, and **little** (= not much) creates the contrast that **Although** signals. **Too few** and **fewer** are used with countable nouns, and **either** and **both** refer to two.

52. A: Should I study art or philosophy?

B: _____! In my opinion, they are _____ a waste of time.
✔ B) Neither / both
B rejects both choices, so the reply is **Neither!** (= not one and not the other). **They are both a waste of time** uses **both** after the verb **be** to refer to the two subjects. **All** and **none** are for more than two.

53. Spanish, Italian and French are all derived from Latin, which is why there are _____ similarities between them.
✔ D) so many
Similarities is a plural countable noun, so we use **so many** to emphasise the large number. **Too much** and **much less** are for uncountable nouns. **Such a lot** would need **of** (**such a lot of similarities**).

54. You can ride up hills much more easily because _____ bicycle has five more gears than _____.
✔ A) your / mine
Before the noun **bicycle** we need a possessive determiner: **your bicycle**. At the end of the comparison, with no noun after it, we need a possessive pronoun: **than mine**. Not **mine / yours**, because **mine** cannot come before a noun.

55. Almost _____ nation sends teams of selected athletes to take part in the Olympic Games, which are held _____ four years.
✔ C) every / every
Almost every + singular noun is a common pattern: **almost every nation**. **Each** is not used after **almost**. To describe regular intervals, we use **every + number + plural noun**: **every four years**.