ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Determiners – Quantifiers – Articles Advanced Level MCQs Test With Answers 3

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1	**A**	2	**A**	3	**B**	4	**E**	5	**C**	6	**D**	7	**A**	8	**E**	9	**B**	10	**C**
11	**C**	12	**D**	13	**D**	14	**E**	15	**C**	16	**A**	17	**C**	18	**B**	19	**D**	20	**E**
21	**B**	22	**E**	23	**E**	24	**C**	25	**A**	26	**A**	27	**B**	28	**D**	29	**C**	30	**D**
31	**E**	32	**C**	33	**A**	34	**D**	35	**E**	36	**C**	37	**B**	38	**D**	39	**E**	40	**E**
41	**B**	42	**A**	43	**C**	44	**B**	45	**C**	46	**E**	47	**D**	48	**C**	49	**A**	50	**B**
51	**B**	52	**D**	53	**D**	54	**C**	55	**E**	56	**B**	57	**A**	58	**E**	59	**C**	60	**D**

Explanations

1. The instructor told the young climbers to hold on to the rope with _____ hands.
✔ **A) both**
We use **both** for two things taken together, and people have two hands: **with both hands**. Not **each** or **either**, because they need a singular noun (**each hand**, **either hand**).

2. The noise of the gunshot rang through the trees and the birds flew off in _____ directions.
✔ **A) all**
All goes with a plural noun: **in all directions** means everywhere at once. Not **every** or **each**, because they need a singular noun (**in every direction**).

3. The train doesn't stop at _____ station along the way, but it stops at _____ of the main ones.
✔ **B) every / most**
Every goes with the singular noun **station**. **Most of the main ones** means the majority of the important stations. Not **each / much**, because **much of** is used with uncountable nouns, not with **ones**.

4. Unfortunately, our local library had _____ books on the subject, so I'm going to the city library tomorrow hoping to find _____ more.
✔ **E) few / some**
Few with a plural countable noun means 'not enough', which is why the speaker has to go to another library. **Some more** means an additional amount. Not **a few**, because it has a positive meaning ('some'), and **much** cannot be used with countable **books**.

5. There has been _____ fruit on the pear tree in our garden this year, so we won't be giving _____ away.
✔ **C) little / much**
Fruit is uncountable here, so we use **little** ('not much'). The negative **won't be giving** goes naturally with **much**. Not **a little**, because it has a positive meaning and doesn't explain why they won't give any away. **Many** is for countable nouns.

6. _____ players have won this competition before, so _____ of them could win today.
✔ **D) Both / either**
Both players refers to two players, and **either of them** means 'one or the other' of those two. Not **every / no** or **each / every**, because **every** and **each** need a singular noun (**every player**).

7. A lot of people rushed to the area, but most of _____ failed to find _____ gold.
✔ **A) them / any**
After **of** we need the object pronoun: **most of them**. In a negative sentence (**failed to**) we use **any** with uncountable **gold**. Not **they**, which is a subject pronoun.

8. The children have had quite _____ excitement for one day; I think it's time they went to bed.
✔ **E) enough**
Quite enough means 'as much as is needed, or even more', which is why it is time for bed. Not **little**, because **quite little** is not used, and the meaning would not fit the second part of the sentence.

9. He thought he would get the contract, but a business competitor of _____ got _____.
✔ **B) his / it**
The double possessive **a competitor of his** means 'one of his competitors'. The object pronoun **it** refers back to **the contract**. Not **him**, because after **a … of** we need a possessive pronoun (**of his**, **of mine**).

10. They gave the idea _____ consideration before accepting it.
✔ **C) a great deal of**
Consideration is uncountable here, so we use **a great deal of**, meaning 'a lot of'. Not **much of**, because **of** needs a determiner after it (**much of the time**). **Several** and **a good many** go with plural countable nouns.

11. Look! One of _____ in the race _____.
✔ **C) the horses / has fallen**
One of is followed by a plural noun with **the** (**one of the horses**). The verb is singular because the subject is **one**. **Look!** shows a present result, so we use the present perfect: **has fallen**. Not **the athletes / had fallen**, because the past perfect doesn't fit **Look!**

12. My daughter got a better mark for her last French written composition because there were _____ mistakes in it.
✔ **D) fewer**
Better mark is a comparison, so we need a comparative: **fewer** with the plural countable noun **mistakes**. Not **the least**, which is a superlative used with uncountable nouns.

13. In the USA, the number of representatives in government varies according to the population of a state, but there are two senators for _____ state.
✔ **D) each**
Each goes with a singular noun and looks at the states one by one: two senators **for each state**. Not **all** or **both**, because they need a plural noun.

14. _____ employees voted against the strike even though they were dissatisfied with the pay rise.
✔ **E) A good many**
A good many means 'quite a lot of' and goes directly before a plural countable noun: **a good many employees**. Not **several of**, because **of** needs **the** (**several of the employees**). **Half** also needs **the** here (**half the employees**).

15. After _____ wins at the amateur level, he'll be ready to race professionally.
✔ **C) a few more**
A few more goes with a plural countable noun and means 'a small number of additional': **a few more wins**. Not **much**, which is for uncountable nouns, and **plenty** needs **of**.

16. Tea and coffee contain caffeine, which is harmful, so the doctor told me to avoid drinking _____.
✔ **A) both of them**
There are two drinks, tea and coffee, so we use **both of them**. Not **all of them**, because **all** is for three or more. **Neither** is wrong because **avoid** already has a negative meaning.

17. Decades ago the notion of landing a spacecraft on _____ moon would have seemed _____ impossible feat.
✔ **C) the / an**
The moon takes **the** because there is only one. **Feat** is a singular countable noun mentioned for the first time, so we need **an** before the vowel sound: **an impossible feat**.

18. If there is _____ food in the world for everyone, why do so _____ people die of starvation?
✔ **B) enough / many**
Enough food means as much as is needed. **So many** goes with the plural countable noun **people**. Not **much / few**, because **so few people** would contradict the surprise in the question.

19. Of the two shops in the village, _____ sold sun cream, so he had to keep a long-sleeved shirt on all day.
✔ **D) neither**
Neither means 'not one and not the other' of two things, and there are **two shops**. The result (he had to keep his shirt on) shows the meaning is negative. Not **none**, which is used for three or more.

20. The best goal of the match was _____, but _____ were pretty spectacular as well.
✔ **E) Simon's / yours**
Simon's means 'Simon's goal', and the possessive pronoun **yours** means 'your goals', so we don't repeat the noun. Not **him / mine**, because **the best goal was him** doesn't make sense; it needs a possessive form.

21. The new dress my sister bought didn't fit _____ so she gave it to _____.
✔ **B) her / me**
After the verbs **fit** and **gave it to** we need object pronouns: **fit her**, **gave it to me**. Not **hers / mine**, because these are possessive pronouns.

22. He felt as if _____ world was watching and waiting for him to make a mistake in the play, but in fact, it was only the village boy scout club.
✔ **E) the whole**
The whole world means 'everybody, everywhere' and is a fixed phrase with a singular noun. Not **all**, because we say **all the world**, not **all world**. **Every world** makes no sense.

23. She had _____ reasons to dislike her job, but I don't know exactly why she left.
✔ **E) plenty of**
Plenty of means 'many' and goes with the plural noun **reasons**. Not **some of**, because **of** needs a determiner after it (**some of the reasons**). **Much** and **a little** are used with uncountable nouns.

24. The company is so stable that you can buy shares in it with almost _____ risk of losing any money.
✔ **C) no**
Almost no risk means 'very little risk'. **No** goes directly before a noun. Not **none**, which is a pronoun and cannot come before a noun, and **almost any risk** would mean the opposite.

25. Two smartly dressed doormen stood at _____ side of the hotel's entrance.
✔ **A) either**
An entrance has two sides. **Either side** means 'each of the two sides' and takes a singular noun. Not **both**, because it needs a plural noun (**both sides**).

26. We rang _____ hotels before we found _____ with vacant rooms.
✔ **A) several / one**
Several hotels means more than two hotels. **One** replaces a singular noun: **one (hotel) with vacant rooms**. Not **every / any**, because **every** needs a singular noun.

27. The teacher said that we could write on _____ sides of the paper, but to start a new page for _____ question.
✔ **B) both / each**
Paper has two sides, so **both sides**, with a plural noun. **Each question** treats the questions one by one and takes a singular noun. Not **either / every**, because **either** needs a singular noun (**either side**).

28. _____ of seagulls followed the tractor as the farmer ploughed the field.
✔ **D) A large number**
A large number of goes with plural countable nouns: **a large number of seagulls**. Not **Almost all** or **Only some**, because **of** would then need **the** (**almost all of the seagulls**).

29. It takes _____ of dedication to become a top-class athlete.
✔ **C) a great deal**
A great deal of means 'a lot of' and goes with uncountable nouns such as **dedication**. Not **enough**, because we say **enough dedication**, not **enough of dedication**.

30. If Richard had _____ patience, he would have _____ arguments with the manager.
✔ **D) more / fewer**
This is a second conditional about an unreal present: if he **had more patience** (uncountable), he **would have fewer arguments** (plural countable). Not **less**, because **arguments** is countable.

31. _____ cashier underwent the company's training scheme before starting to work here.
✔ **E) Every**
Every goes with a singular noun and a singular verb: **every cashier underwent**. Not **several**, **both**, **all** or **a great many**, because they all need a plural noun (**all cashiers**).

32. For many years, the workers at the old factory suffered _____ injustice.
✔ **C) a lot of**
Injustice is uncountable here, so we use **a lot of**. Not **plenty**, because it needs **of** (**plenty of injustice**). **Several** and **a great many** go with plural countable nouns.

33. After the oil spill from the huge tanker, the _____ beach was covered in thick black oil.
✔ **A) whole**
The whole beach means 'all of the beach' and is used with a singular countable noun after **the**. Not **all**, because **the all beach** is wrong; we say **all the beach**.

34. We can see the Shrewsbury Town football pitch from the window of our shop. Yesterday, I was watching _____ them play through the window, but stopped when _____ customer came in.
✔ **D) _____ / a**
No article goes before the pronoun **them**. **A customer** is singular and mentioned for the first time, so we use **a**. Not **the**, because the customer hasn't been mentioned before.

35. In 1991, the remains of _____ Neolithic hunter, which were 5,300 years old, were discovered high in _____ Alps.
✔ **E) a / the**
A Neolithic hunter is mentioned for the first time, so we use **a**. Names of mountain ranges take **the**: **the Alps**. Not **the / _____**, because mountain ranges always need **the**.

36. Do you know _____ name of _____ American author Bill Bryson's latest book?
✔ **C) the / the**
The name of is specific, so it takes **the**. Before a description followed by a name we also use **the**: **the American author Bill Bryson**. Not **a / an**, because the name of the book and the author are specific, not one of many.

37. Celebrating the end of one year and the start of a new one is an age-old religious, social, and cultural observance in almost _____ part of the world.
✔ **B) every**
Almost every goes with a singular noun: **almost every part of the world**. Not **all**, because it needs a plural noun or **the** (**all parts**, **all the world**).

38. _____ albatross, _____ largest and most majestic sky bird, has _____ wingspan of over nine feet.
✔ **D) The / the / a**
The albatross refers to the whole species. A superlative takes **the**: **the largest**. **A wingspan** is singular and not specific, so it takes **a**. Not **An / a / a**, because a superlative cannot take **a**.

39. If I had _____ fabric left, I could make a dress, but I think I've only got _____ to make a skirt.
✔ **E) a little more / enough**
A little more fabric means 'a small extra amount' of an uncountable noun. **Enough to make a skirt** means just the amount needed for a skirt. Not **a few more**, because **fabric** is uncountable.

40. Cyanide leaked into _____ Mersey Canal, and _____ nine-mile stretch of _____ canal was affected.
✔ **E) the / a / the**
Canal names take **the**: **the Mersey Canal**. **A nine-mile stretch** is mentioned for the first time, so it takes **a**. **The canal** refers back to the canal already named, so it takes **the**.

41. I went into town specially to buy a jacket for the Christmas party, but I didn't see _____ that I liked.
✔ **B) any**
In negative sentences we use **any**. Here it is a pronoun meaning 'any jacket': **I didn't see any that I liked**. Not **none**, because **didn't see none** is a double negative, and not **some**, which is used mainly in positive sentences.

42. As _____ British athlete in this discipline reached the qualifying time, Britain won't be represented in this event at the Olympics.
✔ **A) no**
No goes before a singular noun and means 'not a single one'. This explains why Britain **won't be represented**. Not **hardly any**, because it needs a plural noun and would mean that some athletes did qualify.

43. Throughout the history of the country, _____ French, along with most of the other people of the world, have paid little attention to the quality of _____ natural environment.
✔ **C) the / their**
The French (with **the**) means French people as a nation. The possessive determiner **their** refers back to them: **their natural environment**. Not **theirs**, because it is a pronoun and cannot stand before a noun.

44. Diamonds have _____ uses. In addition to the obvious use in jewellery, they have _____ number of industrial applications.
✔ **B) many / a**
Many goes with the plural countable noun **uses**. **A number of** means 'several'. Not **plenty of / the**, because **the number of** means the exact total, not 'several'.

45. _____ the painters have achieved so far is to make the office look more of a mess than it did this morning.
✔ **C) All**
All (that) the painters have achieved means 'the only thing they have achieved'; **all** is used as a pronoun here. Not **The whole**, because it needs a noun after it (**the whole job**).

46. Let's go somewhere for a cup of tea. I don't want to go to any more shops as I've spent _____ already.
✔ **E) too much**
Too much is used here as a pronoun meaning 'more money than I should'. Not **a lot of**, because it needs a noun after it. **Several** and **a few** are for countable things.

47. Despite all _____ efforts, neither Susan's composition nor _____ was good enough to impress the teacher.
✔ D) our / mine
The possessive determiner **our** goes before the noun **efforts**. The possessive pronoun **mine** replaces **my composition**. Not **ours / my**, because **ours** cannot stand before a noun, and **my** needs a noun after it.

48. The richness of Asia's cultures is reflected in _____ arts and literature.
✔ C) its
Asia is singular and not a person, so the possessive determiner is **its** (no apostrophe): **its arts**. Not **theirs**, because it is a pronoun and cannot stand before a noun.

49. The teacher said that if Joseph caused _____ trouble in class, she would send his mother a letter.
✔ A) any more
Any more goes with the uncountable noun **trouble** in a conditional and means 'additional'. Not **a number of** or **several**, because they need a plural countable noun.

50. Herman Melville's book 'Moby Dick' tells of the adventures of Captain Ahab, who had lost _____ leg in an earlier struggle with _____ whale.
✔ B) a / a
A leg means one of his two legs, so it is not specific. **A whale** introduces the animal for the first time in the sentence. Not **the / the**, because **the leg** would suggest he had only one.

51. A: Which of these two wallpaper designs would you like in the living room? B: _____. _____ look horrible. Why can't we just paint the walls?
✔ B) Neither / Both
For two things, **Neither** means 'not one or the other', and **both** (with a plural verb, **look**) means 'the two of them'. Not **None / Some**, which are not used for two items, and **Some look horrible** doesn't fit B's refusal.

52. I wonder if _____ of our neighbours would look after our cat while we are away.
✔ D) either
Either of our neighbours means 'one or the other of our two neighbours', which fits a polite question about who might help. Not **every**, because **every** cannot be followed by **of** (we say **every neighbour** or **every one of**). Not **few**, because its negative meaning ('not many') makes no sense after **I wonder if**.

53. _____ of the competitors was badly affected by the extreme heat and passed out.
✔ D) One
The singular verb **was** shows that the subject is singular: **One of the competitors was**. Not **Some** or **All**, which would need **were**. **No** cannot be followed by **of**.

54. I would like her more if she showed _____ consideration for others.
✔ C) a little
Consideration is uncountable here, so **a little** ('some, a small amount') fits. The speaker wants her to show some consideration. Not **too much**, which has a negative meaning, and **fewer** or **many**, which are for countable nouns.

55. I'm glad we bought the new lawnmower. Now I can mow the lawn using _____ the effort.
✔ E) half
Half the effort means only 50% of the work, which explains why the speaker is glad. **Half** can go directly before **the**. Not **all the effort**, because that would not be a reason to be glad.

56. Smog may appear brownish in colour when it contains high concentrations of nitrogen dioxide, or it may look blue-grey when it contains large amounts of ozone. In _____ case, prolonged exposure will damage lung tissue.
✔ B) either
Two kinds of smog are described, brown and blue-grey. **In either case** means 'in each of the two cases' and takes a singular noun. Not **both**, because it needs a plural noun (**in both cases**).

57. In _____ mid-1970s, people became aware of the phenomenon called _____ acid rain.
✔ A) the / _____
Decades take **the**: **in the mid-1970s**. **Acid rain** is an uncountable noun used as a name after **called**, so it has no article. Not **an**, because **rain** is uncountable.

58. The word deafness is used to describe _____ degree of hearing loss, though it is most commonly used where there is _____ total inability to hear.
✔ E) any / a
Any degree of means 'whatever degree, large or small'. **Inability** is singular and countable here, so it takes **a**: **a total inability to hear**. Not **some / much**, because **some degree** is narrower, and **much** doesn't fit **total inability**.

59. Although the Australian author Peter Carey's first three novels were well received, his fourth book received _____ criticism than acclaim.
✔ C) far more
Than shows a comparison, so we need the comparative **more**. **Far** makes it stronger: **far more criticism than acclaim**. Not **so much** or **plenty of**, because they cannot be followed by **than**.

60. Despite the scarcity of arable land, _____ the population in the Middle East is engaged in farming.
✔ D) a good deal of
A good deal of means 'a large part of' and is used with a singular or uncountable noun such as **the population**. Not **a great many of**, because it is used with plural countable nouns (**a great many of the farmers**).