ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

General Vocabulary MCQ Exercise 7

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Explanations

1. **Choose the words with the same meaning as the underlined words.**

In big cities, the streets are filled with trash.
✓ **C) refuse**
Trash (mainly American) and **refuse** (formal British) both mean rubbish or waste that people throw away. Not **cans**, because cans are only one kind of rubbish.

2. She was taken aback when she saw the present he had bought for her.
✓ **B) surprised**
Be taken aback means to be very surprised or shocked by something unexpected, so it matches **surprised**. Not **happy**: the idiom tells us about the surprise, not whether she liked the present.

3. They debated about the problem for over an hour behind closed doors.
✓ **C) argued**
To **debate** means to discuss a problem seriously, with people giving different opinions, so it is closest to **argued**. Not **talked**, because that is too general and does not show the disagreement.

4. I assume that you will be going to the park this afternoon.
✓ **B) suppose**
To **assume** means to believe something is true without being sure, so it means **suppose**. Not **know**, because knowing means being certain.

5. The principal of the school summoned the students who had been causing problems to his office.
✓ **C) called**
To **summon** someone means to officially order them to come to you, so it means **called**: **The boss called me to her office.**

6. I approached the hurt animal cautiously.
✓ **A) carefully**
Cautiously means carefully, trying to avoid danger or mistakes. Not **slowly**: you are often slow when you are careful, but the word is about care, not speed.

7. The child bumped into the edge of the table.
✓ **D) side**
The **edge** of a table is its outside border, where the top stops, so here it means the **side** of the table. Not **centre** or **middle**, which are the opposite of the edge.

8. I hired a woman to do the cooking for me.
✓ **B) employed**
To **hire** a person means to pay them to work for you, so it means **employed**. Not **rented**: in British English you can **hire** a car (rent it), but people are not rented.

9. The inquiry found the cause of the accident.
✓ **C) investigation**
An **inquiry** is an official process of finding out the facts about something, so it means an **investigation**. Not **findings**, because findings are the results of an inquiry, not the inquiry itself.

10. I hardly ever have time to go to the cinema.
✓ **D) seldom**
Hardly ever means almost never, so it is the same as **seldom**. Not **never**, because hardly ever means it still happens sometimes, but very rarely.

11. The workers maintained the equipment to prevent the loss of time and money.
✓ **A) kept up**
To **maintain** equipment means to keep it in good working condition, so it means **kept up**. Not **checked**, because checking is only one part of maintaining something.

12. He finally mastered the art of karate.
✓ **C) learned**
To **master** a skill means to learn it completely and do it very well, so it is closest to **learned**. Not **beat** or **won**: you master a skill, you don't defeat it.

13. The minimal number of hours necessary to complete the programme is 50.
✓ **B) least**
Minimal means the smallest possible amount, so the minimal number of hours is the **least** number. Not **maximum** or **most**, which mean the opposite.

14. He had been waiting for the opportunity to speak with his employer.
✓ **D) chance**
An **opportunity** is a good time or situation that makes it possible to do something, so it means a **chance**. Not **moment**, which is just a point in time and doesn't carry the idea of a possibility.

15. There was an abundant quantity of food on the table.
✓ **E) plentiful**
Abundant means more than enough, so it means **plentiful**. Not **enough**, **adequate** or **sufficient**, because they mean just enough, not a lot more.

16. I quit practising the guitar about 3 months ago.
✓ **C) stopped**
To **quit** doing something means to stop doing it, so it means **stopped**. **Started**, **began** and **continued** have the opposite or a different meaning.

17. Tayfun was ready to go before his mother had time to get ready.
✓ **B) prepared**
Ready to go means **prepared** to go, with everything done that is needed before leaving. Not **finished**, because he was about to start something, not end it.

18. The children gathered wildflowers for their teacher.
✓ **A) picked**
To **gather** flowers means to collect them from the plants, so here it means **picked**. Not **brought**: the children may have brought the flowers later, but gathered describes collecting them.

19. The antique jar was handled with the utmost care.
✓ **D) carried**
To **handle** an object means to hold and move it with your hands, so here the jar was **carried** very carefully. Not **managed**, because we manage people or situations, not a jar.

20. He longed to return to his home.
✓ **C) desired**
To **long** to do something means to want it very much, so it means **desired**: **She longed to see her family again.** Not **hoped**, because hoping is wanting something and expecting it, not a strong wish.

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