ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Inappropriate Sentences MCQ Exercise 3

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Explanations

1. (I) The appeal of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson has never declined. (II) I still read detective stories in my free time. (III) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous character still has a following that is surprising. (IV) The readers of these stories are seldom impressed by modern detectives that use modern techniques. (V) No police or detective character has been able to push Sherlock Holmes off his throne.
✔ **B) II**
The passage is about how popular Sherlock Holmes still is with readers in general. Sentence II suddenly talks about the writer's own free time (**I still read…**), so it breaks the flow and does not belong.

2. (I) Modern life has brought many comforts to our homes. (II) The number of new appliances that reduce the workload in the house is increasing daily. (III) We have more leisure time these days. (IV) It has become unnecessary to keep up with the Joneses as the new assortment of home machinery is extremely variable. (V) Some cities have very heavy traffic in the mornings.
✔ **E) V**
The passage is about home appliances and the comfort and free time they give us. Sentence V is about traffic in cities, which has nothing to do with machines in the home. Not III: more leisure time is a direct result of the reduced workload in II.

3. (I) World War II brought about many changes in Europe. (II) The reassignment of borders after the war changed maps. (III) The influence of America on Europe was also responsible. (IV) The Cold War and new alliances changed the development of the world. (V) Many tourists visit the old castles of Europe every summer.
✔ **E) V**
Every sentence except V describes a change that World War II brought: new borders, American influence, the **Cold War** and new alliances. Sentence V is about tourism today, so it does not belong.

4. (I) One of man's favourite raw materials is iron. (II) No one knows exactly when the first discovery was made. (III) It was one of the first metals to be discovered and used by man. (IV) There are many different types of metals used in industry today. (V) The first uses of iron were probably for weapon-making but the most important influence of iron was seen in its role in the development of machinery during the industrial revolutions which started in the 1700s.
✔ **D) IV**
The passage is about iron: its discovery and its first uses. Sentence IV talks about **many different types of metals** in industry today, so it moves away from the topic of iron.

5. (I) It is believed that the earliest writing forms date back to 3000 B.C. (II) The people who lived in Iraq at the time were called the Sumerians. (III) The first people to have used a system of writing were called Sumerians. (IV) They used a picture symbol system called CUNEIFORM. (V) This name comes from the Latin word for "wedge", as their writing symbols were wedge-shaped strokes drawn on clay tablets.
✔ **B) II**
The passage is about the first writing system. Sentence III introduces the Sumerians as the first people to write, and IV–V describe their writing. Sentence II gives extra information about where they lived and repeats their name before it is properly introduced, so it breaks the flow.

6. (I) New York City has many skyscrapers. (II) Raising vegetables in flower pots has become a common form of farming in urban areas. (III) It is possible to see New York City high-rise balconies with tomatoes, lettuce and other vegetables or fruits growing along their edges in large flower pots. (IV) Although the harvest is limited, the pleasure of growing them and the flavour provided by these homegrown vegetables are rewarding. (V) Many companies that supply seeds are working to create miniature varieties of these plants for the balcony farmers.
✔ **A) I**
The passage is about growing vegetables in flower pots in cities. Sentence I only says that New York has many skyscrapers, which is not about balcony farming, so it does not belong.

7. (I) The start of the postal service we know and use today was with the introduction of the first postage stamp. (II) This happened in Britain in 1840. (III) A London merchant named William Dockwra began the "penny post" which was later taken over by the government. (IV) During those days, the charges for the post were paid by the person who received the letter and the price changed according to the distance it was mailed. (V) Today, we have to go to the post office and pay for the letter we mailed.
✔ **E) V**
The passage describes the history of the postal service: the first stamp, the penny post and how people paid for post in the past. Sentence V jumps to an obvious fact about today and adds nothing to this history, so it is the irrelevant one.

8. (I) Bringing up children is much more difficult than it looks to non-parents. (II) Many people had felt that it was adequate to feed, clothe and shelter their children, in the past. (III) Today, however, we know that providing good education, a loving and secure environment and teaching values is as important as feeding, clothing and sheltering. (IV) Without all of these factors, children will not be brought up in a way that allows them to cope with the stresses of life as we know it today. (V) Many young people have psychological problems.
✔ **E) V**
The passage explains what children need to grow up well: food and shelter, but also education, love and values. Sentence V makes a general statement about young people's psychological problems, which does not continue this idea.

9. (I) Alfred Bernhard Nobel was a Swedish chemist who lived from 1833 to 1896. (II) He likes to speak Russian in his free time so he learned it. (III) He was the son of an explosive manufacturer and helped his father at his job. (IV) He is also well known as the developer of dynamite which was a far safer explosive than others used in those days. (V) His misgivings about his work led him to create a fund that would raise money for an annual prize known as the Nobel Prize.
✔ **B) II**
The passage is about Nobel's work with explosives and how it led to the Nobel Prize. Sentence II is about his free time and even uses the present tense (**likes**) for a man who died in 1896, so it does not fit.

10. (I) The Maya Indians of Central America were remarkably advanced. (II) Central America has a warm, tropical climate. (III) They had a form of writing based on symbols and a calendar. (IV) They had made important achievements in the fields of astronomy, architecture, maths and the arts. (V) Their culture declined and they were conquered by the Spaniards in the 1500s.
✔ **B) II**
The passage is about how advanced the Maya civilisation was: writing, a calendar, astronomy and art. Sentence II is about the climate of Central America, not about the Maya, so it breaks the flow.

11. (I) The monotremes are a group of warm-blooded animals that lay eggs. (II) Although they are mammals in all other ways, they are unusual in that they do not give birth to their babies. (III) There are only two kinds of monotreme: the duck-billed platypus and the echidna, both of which are found in Australia. (IV) The kangaroo is a well-known marsupial. (V) The monotremes are animals that still carry a major characteristic of the reptiles from which they evolved.
✔ **D) IV**
All the other sentences describe **monotremes**, the egg-laying mammals. Sentence IV is about the kangaroo. The kangaroo is a **marsupial**, which is a different group of animals, so the sentence does not belong.

12. (I) The Alps are the largest mountain system in Europe. (II) They extend about 1200 km from France through Switzerland, Italy, Germany and Austria to Slovenia. (III) Mont Blanc is the highest mountain in the Alps. It is 4810 metres high. (IV) It is on the border between France and Italy. (V) Skiing in this area is treasured worldwide.
✔ **E) V**
The passage gives geographical facts about the Alps: their size, the countries they cross and their highest mountain. Sentence V suddenly talks about skiing, a sport, and does not continue these facts.

13. (I) Although the bicycle is a common sight in cities today, early versions looked very different. (II) One of the first, built in Germany in 1817, had no pedals, and riders pushed it along with their feet. (III) Pedals were added in the 1860s, and the safer design with two wheels of the same size appeared in the 1880s. (IV) Many people prefer to travel by car because it is faster. (V) Today, bicycles are used all over the world for transport, sport and fun.
✔ **D) IV**
The passage tells the history of the bicycle, from the first model without pedals to the bicycles we use today. Sentence IV is about cars and why people like them, so it breaks the topic.

14. (I) Sigmund Freud is commonly known to be an Austrian. (II) Actually, he was born in a Moravian town. (III) He was born in 1856 and moved with his family to Vienna four years later. (IV) His education was in Vienna but he later continued his studies in Paris. (V) Vienna is famous for its coffee houses.
✔ **E) V**
The passage is about Freud's early life: where he was born, where he grew up and where he studied. Sentence V is about Vienna's coffee houses and says nothing about Freud, so it does not belong.

15. (I) The newspapers that are read today play an important part in the lives that we lead. (II) The first newspapers were very different from those we read today. (III) This was due to the fact that they were written by hand. (IV) The first newspaper is said to have been written under the orders of the Roman leader Julius Caesar. (V) Today, however, our newspapers are printed with computers and other forms of modern technology.
✔ **A) I**
Sentences II–V compare how the first newspapers were made (by hand) with how they are made today (with computers). Sentence I is about the importance of newspapers in our lives, which is a different idea, so it is the irrelevant one.

16. (I) There are seven colours of the rainbow. (II) Rainbows are usually seen in sunlight but can also be present under moonlight or artificial light. (III) A rainbow always appears in the part of the sky opposite the sun. (IV) For this reason, the person looking at the rainbow will usually only be able to see half of the circle that is actually present. (V) The reason one can see this lovely sight is due to the way in which clouds or other forms of moisture reflect the light that passes through them.
✔ **A) I**
Sentences II–V explain when, where and why we can see a rainbow. Sentence I only states how many colours it has, which is not part of this explanation, so it does not fit the flow.

17. (I) Over the last twenty or so years, the music preferences of young people have changed. (II) New performers come and go. (III) New styles of music pop up and then just as suddenly disappear. (IV) Rock, disco, hard rock, acid, punk and many other types have come around. (V) I like to listen to classical music.

✔ **E) V**

The passage describes how young people's music tastes and styles have changed over the years. Sentence V is the writer's personal taste (**I like…**), so it does not belong.

18. (I) Men first began to farm about 10,000 years ago. (II) It is thought these first farmers were probably in Turkey. (III) People learned with time which plants produced which foods and which foods were appropriate to provide a food supply that would feed developing civilisations. (IV) Today most of the foods that we eat are from grains. (V) With time farming methods improved and spread to many other lands.

✔ **D) IV**

The passage is about the beginning and early spread of farming. Sentence IV jumps to what we eat today, which interrupts the history between III and V, so it is the irrelevant one.

19. (I) The first metals used by men were copper and then a combination of copper and tin as bronze. (II) This is probably because these metals have low melting points and are therefore easy to smelt and work with. (III) Early men worked these metals into tools, works of art, jewellery and other items of beauty. (IV) As man increased his knowledge of the control of fire he was able to extract other important metals from ore, such as iron. (V) Early men only used stones for weapons and tools.

✔ **E) V**

The passage is about the first metals people used: copper, bronze and later iron. Sentence V talks about stones, not metals, and goes back to an earlier time, so it breaks the flow.

20. (I) The crab is an animal that is found in water. (II) The Crab Nebula is a cloud of gas and dust left by a supernova that Chinese astronomers noted in 1054 A.D. (III) Today it is believed to be the remains of a star. (IV) At some point in the existence of some stars, the energy which created them goes out of control. The stars then explode. (V) What remains of these stars is a cloud of hot gases which travels through space, like the Crab Nebula.

✔ **A) I**

The passage is about the Crab Nebula and how exploding stars form such clouds. Sentence I is about the crab, the sea animal, which only shares the name, so it does not belong.

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