ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Irrelevant Sentences Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 3

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Explanations

1. (I) When Europeans first arrived in North America, the forests were full of bears. (II) There were more than half a million of these wild animals. (III) Then the Europeans began to cut down the forests where the bears lived. (IV) They also began to hunt them in great numbers. (V) Therefore, by 1800 the number of bears had doubled.
✔ **E) V**
The paragraph explains why the number of bears fell. The Europeans cut down the forests where the bears lived (III) and hunted them in great numbers (IV). Sentence V says the number of bears **had doubled**. This is the opposite of what the earlier sentences lead to, so **Therefore** makes no sense and the sentence breaks the logic of the paragraph.

2. (I) Many Amish families earn their living from farming. (II) The Amish people dress in very plain clothes. (III) The men and boys wear dark jackets and trousers, plain shirts and hats. (IV) The women and girls wear long dresses and small bonnets. (V) They have long hair and don’t wear any make-up or jewellery.
✔ **A) I**
Sentences II–V are all about how the Amish **dress** and look: plain clothes, the men's jackets and hats, the women's dresses and bonnets, and no make-up or jewellery. Sentence I is about how Amish families **earn their living** (farming). It is a different subject, so it does not belong in a paragraph about clothing.

3. (I) To an outsider, Istanbul may at first seem like a Western city. (II) The Western dress, the many new buildings, the traffic problems all make the city seem very modern. (III) But there is another side to this great city, its rich past as the capital of the Ottoman Empire. (IV) In the narrow back streets, the bazaars, and the mosques, this past seems very near and real. (V) The Blue Mosque is one of the best examples of Islamic architecture in Istanbul.
✔ **E) V**
The paragraph contrasts Istanbul's **modern, Western** look with the **other side** of the city, its Ottoman past, which still feels **near and real** in the back streets, bazaars and mosques. Sentence V moves away from this idea. It judges one building, the Blue Mosque, as an example of Islamic architecture and adds nothing to the modern-versus-past contrast. Not IV: IV directly develops the 'past' side introduced in III.

4. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✔ **B) II**
The paragraph tells the personal story of Anna Feng: she secretly invested their savings (I), the stocks **plunged** while her husband thought the money was in a bank (III), she has **recouped** half her losses (IV), and she hopes to win it all back before he notices (V). Sentence II makes a general comment about everyone's optimism. It breaks the timeline between I and III, where **he** clearly refers back to her husband in I.

5. (I) Skin cancer used to be considered an affliction mainly of older people, and indeed, it was rising among the over-50s. (II) About 1 million Americans are diagnosed each year with nonmelanoma skin cancer. (III) Some 800,000 of these are basal cell, the most common type, and another 200,000 are squamous cell. (IV) If left untreated, these skin cancers may become invasive, requiring fairly major surgery. (V) But these types rarely metastasize and are relatively easy to cure if caught early on.
✔ **A) I**
Sentences II–V focus on **nonmelanoma skin cancer**: how many Americans get it, its two main types (**basal cell** and **squamous cell**), what happens if it is left untreated, and how easy it is to cure if caught early. Sentence I is about which **age group** skin cancer affects. Nothing in the rest of the paragraph develops this idea, so it is the irrelevant sentence.

6. (I) Right now the only treatment for food allergy is to avoid the food for life. (II) But researchers are looking for better options. (III) One that has received a lot of attention is Anti-IgE, which tries to block the antibody that causes allergic reactions. (IV) Another focus is finding ways to prevent the immune system from attacking the food protein in the first place, which may teach the immune system to tolerate the food. (V) When people complain of allergies, they have hives or a scratchy throat.
✔ **E) V**
The topic is **treatment** for food allergy. Sentence I gives the current treatment, II says researchers want **better options**, and III and IV describe two of these options (**One that…**, **Another focus…**). Sentence V describes the **symptoms** of allergies (hives, a scratchy throat), not treatments, so it moves away from the main idea.

7. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✔ **E) V**
Sentences I–IV develop one idea: views of Britain's class system are always **out of date**. Orwell called class distinctions **anachronistic**, and Adonis argued the same, saying old images such as **monocles and stately homes** were misleading. Sentence V changes the subject to whether an expensive school education helps or harms a **politician's career**, which does not support the point about outdated ideas of class.

8. (I) Bedrooms should be devoid of clutter and have adequate lighting. (II) Light-sensitive night lights can make getting up in the middle of the night safer. (III) Many people today like to paint their bedroom walls in bright, cheerful colours. (IV) Minimizing clutter and ensuring ample space around the bed is also important. (V) Comforters or blankets should be well fitted so they are not dragging on the floor.
✔ **C) III**
The paragraph gives **safety tips** for bedrooms, all aimed at preventing falls: no clutter, good lighting, night lights, space around the bed, and blankets that don't drag on the floor. Sentence III is about **fashion**: the colours people like for their walls. It has nothing to do with safety, so it is the irrelevant sentence.

9. (I) The city of Greenvale allows residents to keep bees only under strict conditions - the hives cannot even be placed next to a neighbour's fence. (II) The beekeeper must be an adult, must register with the city council and must keep no more than two hives. (III) Honey has been used as a medicine since ancient times. (IV) There is no requirement to have any formal training. (V) Two inspections of the hives must be carried out each year, separated by an interval of at least six months.
✔ **C) III**
The paragraph lists the **rules and conditions** for keeping bees in Greenvale: where hives may be placed, who may keep them, how many are allowed, what is **not** required, and how often inspections must happen. Sentence III is about the history of **honey as a medicine**. It mentions a bee product but gives no rule or condition, so it does not belong.

10. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✔ **C) III**
The passage follows one thread: Japan went from being admired to **receiving lectures** (II). Those **lectures** were politely ignored (IV), and now **the time for lectures is over** (V). Sentence III adds a separate economic detail, **price deflation**, and breaks the link between II and IV. **Those lectures** in IV must follow directly after the mention of lectures in II.

11. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✔ **A) I**
Sentences II–V form a clear chain. Scientists usually rely on **computer simulations** (II), Galantucci developed a **human alternative** (III), he describes his game (IV), and the game forces players to **invent a language** (V). Sentence I gives another scientist's opinion about **the game** before any game has been introduced. It also shifts the focus to **imitation**, so it interrupts the flow and is the irrelevant sentence.

12. (I) “In the future, the only thing that will get read is something that will be online. (II) MSN is initially scanning only books from the British Library that are out of copyright. (III) If it isn't online, it doesn't exist”, proclaims the director of content partnerships at Google. (IV) Yet for search companies such as Google, Yahoo! and Microsoft's MSN, digitising books is particularly important because it represents the next critical phase of the industry. (V) Most of the web has already been scanned and indexed— there are already between 8 billion and 10 billion items online.
✔ **B) II**
Sentences I and III are two halves of one quotation; the opening quotation mark in I closes only in III. Sentence II cuts this quotation in two. It also gives a narrow detail about **which books MSN is scanning**, not the general point about why being online matters. The rest of the passage (IV–V) explains why **digitising books** is the next phase for search companies, so II is the sentence that does not fit.

13. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✔ **D) IV**
The paragraph argues that studying at an **English-medium university** brings benefits, mainly better **job opportunities** because of English skills (II, III, V). Sentence IV talks about applicants without enough **qualifications** in general. This is not about studying in English, and **As a result** does not follow logically from III.

14. (I) Nothing could have surprised me so much as Aunt Clara’s marriage. (II) She is such an interesting person that you never guess what she’ll do next. (III) It shocked the other members of the family, too. (IV) Some of them even got very annoyed, especially my father. (V) He said he’d never approve of her marrying such a young man.
✔ **B) II**
The paragraph is about how surprised and upset the family was by **Aunt Clara's marriage**: it surprised the writer (I), **shocked** the others (III), and annoyed the father, who disapproved of her **marrying such a young man** (IV–V). Sentence II says she is so unpredictable that you **never guess what she'll do next**. This works against the idea of surprise and moves away from the family's reaction, so it does not fit.

15. (I) Among the many peoples to settle the island of Malta were the Phoenicians, who reached it in about the 9th century B.C. (II) They were followed by the Romans. (III) In succession, the island was then occupied by the Arabs, the Knights, the French, and most recently, the British. (IV) The Phoenicians, of course, came from the area called Lebanon today. (V) All in all, there is a wide variety of population there.
✔ **D) IV**
The paragraph lists, in order, the peoples who settled or occupied Malta: the Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs, Knights, French and British. It then concludes that Malta's population is very varied (V). Sentence IV tells us where the Phoenicians came from, which is about Lebanon, not Malta. It breaks the line from the list in III to the conclusion in V.

16. (I) Legumes are a category of vegetable that includes beans, lentils and peas. (II) The cocoa bean is eaten as candy, in cakes, cookies and puddings. (III) In some places, however, it is also eaten in a nonsweet form. (IV) The Mexicans, for example, make a chicken dish with a spicy chocolate sauce. (V) In other places, it is added to hot drinks without any sugar.

✔ **A) I**

Sentences II–V are about how the **cocoa bean** (chocolate) is eaten: usually in sweet foods, but in some places in **nonsweet** forms, such as the Mexican chicken dish with spicy chocolate sauce. Sentence I defines **legumes** (beans, lentils, peas). It shares the word **beans** but is a different subject, so it is irrelevant.

17. (I) Different countries have different customs. (II) Sometimes, these customs are so different that what may be a traditional act in one country may be a sign of disrespect in another. (III) For instance, in Turkey, when people see each other after a long time, they hug each other and kiss each other on the cheeks. (IV) However, in Japan, this is considered impolite, and people usually bow to each other instead. (V) In many Asian countries, such as Japan, China and South Korea, people prefer to eat rice at lunchtime.

✔ **E) V**

The paragraph explains that a custom which is normal in one country can be **disrespectful** in another. It gives the example of **greetings**: hugging and kissing in Turkey (III), but bowing in Japan, where hugging is seen as impolite (IV). Sentence V is about **food at lunchtime**, not greetings or politeness, so it is the irrelevant sentence.

18. (I) Swimming at least 300 metres a day tones up all the muscles in your body; therefore, it is a good way to stay healthy. (II) Another benefit of swimming is that it's the best way to lose weight. (III) Swimming is a sport that you can do alone. (IV) Doctors all over the world recommend swimming for overweight people. (V) Many sports centres now offer special swimming classes for people who want to lose weight.

✔ **C) III**

The paragraph is about the **health benefits** of swimming: it tones the muscles (I), helps you **lose weight** (II), is recommended by doctors for overweight people (IV), and sports centres offer classes for people who want to lose weight (V). Sentence III says swimming can be done **alone**. This is true, but it has nothing to do with health.

19. (I) The divorce rate in many European countries has increased over the last decade. (II) One reason for this is that many men and women don't want to be tied down to just one partner their whole lives. (III) Mainly children are affected by this rapid increase in divorce. (IV) Another reason is that men and women are so busy with their careers that they have little time to work on their marriage. (V) In the future, it has been suggested that marriage will become rare.

✔ **C) III**

The paragraph gives the **reasons** for the rise in divorce: **One reason…** (II) and **Another reason…** (IV). Sentence III talks about the **effects** of divorce on children, a different idea. It also sits between the two reasons and breaks the **One reason… Another reason** pattern.

20. (I) Years ago people started fighting for animal rights. (II) They struggled in order to prevent manufacturers from testing their products on animals. (III) Some products such as make-up, perfume, and medicine are now being tested without using animals. (IV) These days some species of animals are gradually becoming extinct. (V) However, animal testing is still a major problem all over the world.

✔ **D) IV**

The paragraph is about the fight against **testing products on animals**: people began campaigning (I–II), some products are now tested without animals (III), but **animal testing** is still a major problem (V). Sentence IV is about animal species becoming **extinct**. This is a different problem, not connected to product testing.

21. (I) Is it possible for a party to join a government and stay in the opposition at the same time? (II) Forming a government in New Zealand is no mean feat. (III) Helen Clark, who was sworn in for a third three-year term as New Zealand's prime minister on October 19th, obviously thinks so. (IV) Her minority coalition, of Labour and the one-man Progressive Party, commands fewer than half of the votes in the 121-seat parliament. (V) To give herself a working majority, she has entered into peculiar agreements with two smaller parties.

✔ **B) II**

Sentence III says Helen Clark **obviously thinks so**. **So** refers back to the question in I: whether a party can be in government and in opposition at the same time. The rest explains her unusual arrangement with smaller parties. Sentence II comments generally on how hard it is to **form a government**. It breaks the link between the question in I and the answer in III, so it is the irrelevant sentence.

22. (I) Home to nearly two-fifths of humanity, two neighbouring countries, India and China, are two of the world's fastest-growing economies. (II) Both are poor countries that have made great strides in reducing poverty, especially since embarking on radical economic reform. (III) But India and China, always very different civilisations, have followed very different paths to growth. (IV) Under the reform, they have converged somewhat in the past two decades but will remain distinctive. (V) The two countries reacted to the recent deaths of two reformist leaders in the same way.

✔ **E) V**

The paragraph compares **India and China** as fast-growing economies. Both have reduced poverty through **economic reform**, but they have followed **different paths to growth** and remain distinctive. Sentence V is about how the two countries reacted to the **deaths of two leaders**, a political event that has nothing to do with their economic growth.

23. (I) China is mobilising 30,000 extra troops and 90 more helicopters to help with the rescue operation after Monday's devastating earthquake. (II) Correspondents say that hopes of finding survivors fade with each passing day. (III) About 10 million people in Sichuan province have been directly affected by the 7.9-magnitude quake that flattened entire villages, state media said. (IV) Nearly 15,000 people have been killed, and another 26,000 are still trapped. (V) China is also busy preparing to host the Olympic Games in Beijing in August.

✔ **E) V**

The paragraph reports on the **earthquake** in Sichuan: the rescue operation, fading hopes of finding survivors, the number of people affected, and the numbers killed and trapped. Sentence V is about preparations for the **Olympic Games**. This has nothing to do with the earthquake or the rescue, so it is the irrelevant sentence.

24. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*

✔ **A) I**

Sentences II–V discuss the new **EU proposals on pesticides**: scientists' worries, the changing registration process, the possible effect on **yields and food costs**, and the campaigners' opposing view. Sentence I describes how **these tiny unwanted animals** damage crops. **These** has nothing to refer back to, and the sentence is about pests themselves, not the debate over the new rules.

25. (I) Major changes in the Earth's natural systems driven by global warming are under research. (II) Since 1970, there's been about 0.5°C to 0.6°C of warming - that's the global average. (III) Glacier and permafrost melting, earlier spring-time, coastal erosion and animal migrations are among the observations laid at the door of manmade warming. (IV) The research, in the journal Nature, involves many scientists who took part in last year's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report. (V) It links warming and natural impacts on a tighter regional scale.

✔ **B) II**

The paragraph is about **research** linking global warming to **changes in natural systems**: melting glaciers, earlier springs, coastal erosion and animal migrations. It then describes the study itself (IV–V). Sentence II only states **how much** the average temperature has risen. It does not mention the research or any natural impacts, and it breaks the link between I and III.

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