ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Prepositions (Intermediate / Upper-Intermediate) Test 2

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1	**D**	2	**A**	3	**D**	4	**A**	5	**D**	6	**B**	7	**B**	8	**D**	9	**B**	10	**C**
11	**A**	12	**D**	13	**A**	14	**D**	15	**A**	16	**D**	17	**B**	18	**D**	19	**C**	20	**D**

Explanations

1. If you are _____ the North Pole, every direction is south.
✔ **D) at**
We use **at** for a point or exact place, such as **at the North Pole** or **at the bus stop**. Not **on**, because the North Pole is a point, not a surface.

2. It would have been nice to live _____ the eighteenth century.
✔ **A) in**
We use **in** with long periods of time: centuries, years, months and seasons, e.g. **in the eighteenth century**, **in 1990**. **At** is for clock times and **on** is for days.

3. My suit is a little too long _____ the arms.
✔ **D) in**
When we talk about the part of a piece of clothing that fits badly, we use **in**: **too long in the arms**, **too tight in the waist**. Not **at**, which is not used in this expression.

4. I last saw her _____ the car park.
✔ **A) in**
We use **in** for a place we are inside an area of, such as **in the car park** or **in the garden**. Not **into**, because that shows movement, and **saw her** does not describe movement.

5. I kissed her _____ both cheeks.
✔ **D) on**
We use **on** for the surface of a part of the body that we touch: **kiss someone on the cheek**, **pat someone on the back**.

6. He hit me _____ the eye.
✔ **B) in**
With soft parts of the body or openings like the eye, face and stomach, we say **hit someone in the eye**, **punch someone in the stomach**. Not **on**, which we use for hard surfaces we touch, e.g. **on the head**, **on the shoulder**.

7. He was wounded _____ the shoulder.
✔ **B) in**
For injuries we use **in** + body part: **wounded in the shoulder**, **shot in the leg**. Not **by**, which would introduce who or what did the wounding.

8. They moved the chair because it was _____ their way.
✔ **D) in**
In someone's way means blocking their path, so they cannot pass easily. Not **on the way**, which means during a journey.

9. We drove about _____ taxis all day.
✔ **B) in**
We use **in** for cars and taxis: **in a taxi**, **in taxis**. We use **on** for buses, trains and planes. Not **by**, because **by taxi** is only used in the singular with no article.

10. _____ a nine-month follow-up, not a single case of chicken pox occurred in the vaccinated group.
✔ **C) During**
During means within a period of time. Here the period is **a nine-month follow-up**, and no cases happened inside that time. Not **Until**, which needs a point in time (**until March**), not a period.

11. They may have come _____ an earlier train.
✔ **A) on**
We use **on** for a particular train, bus or plane: **on an earlier train**, **on the 6 o'clock bus**. We say **by train** only with no article.

12. This wardrobe was made _____ my father. He made it _____ some old packing cases _____ a few simple tools.
✔ **D) by / out of / with**
We use **by** for the person who did the action (**made by my father**). We use **out of** for the material something is made from (**out of some old packing cases**). We use **with** for the tool used (**with a few simple tools**). Not **by** for the tools, and not **with my father**, because the person who does the action needs **by**.

13. The safe had been blown open by the thieves _____ dynamite.
✔ **A) with**
In passive sentences, **by** introduces the person who did the action (**by the thieves**), and **with** introduces the tool or material they used (**with dynamite**). Other examples are **opened with a key** and **cut with a knife**. Not **by** again, because the doer, the thieves, is already given.

14. The situation had occurred _____ a misunderstanding.
✔ **D) because of**
Because of + noun gives the reason or cause: **because of a misunderstanding**. Not **for**, which does not express cause in this sentence.

15. The police accused him _____ going through a red light.
✔ **A) of**
The verb **accuse** is followed by **of** + -ing: **accuse someone of doing something**. Not **for**. We say **blame someone for**, but **accuse someone of**.

16. They are very similar. I often mistake one _____ the other.
✓ **D) for**
Mistake A for B means wrongly think that A is B: **I often mistake one for the other**. Not **with**, which goes with **confuse** (**confuse A with B**).

17. He suffers rather badly _____ migraines.
✓ **B) from**
We say **suffer from** an illness or a health problem: **He suffers from migraines**. Not **of**, which is not used with **suffer**.

18. Our TV isn't working. A repairer is coming to see _____ it today.
✓ **D) to**
See to something means deal with it or repair it: **A repairer is coming to see to it today** means the repairer will fix the TV. Not **see through**, which means understand that something is a trick. **See for** and **see like** are not used with this meaning.

19. Animals are not completely devoid _____ intelligence.
✓ **C) of**
Devoid of means completely without something: **devoid of intelligence**, **devoid of meaning**. The adjective **devoid** is always followed by **of**.

20. The teacher was disappointed _____ the work of the class.
✓ **D) with**
We say **disappointed with** something or someone: **disappointed with the work**, **disappointed with the results**. Not **from**, which is not used after **disappointed**.

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