ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Prepositions (Intermediate / Upper-Intermediate) Test 4

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Explanations

1. His illness resulted _____ bad food.
✔ **B) from**
Result from comes before the cause: bad food caused the illness. **Result in** comes before the effect, e.g. **Bad food resulted in his illness.**

2. The cost of living has been high _____ June.
✔ **C) since**
With the present perfect (**has been**), use **since** + a point in time (June). Not **for**, because **for** goes with a period of time, e.g. **for three months**.

3. Wrap your scarf _____ your neck to keep warm.
✔ **D) around**
Around means circling something on all sides, so you wrap a scarf **around your neck**.

4. Each coat in the store has a tag _____ its price on it.
✔ **A) with**
With means 'having' here: a tag **with** its price on it is a tag that has the price written on it.

5. His illness was _____ bad food.
✔ **A) due to**
After the verb **be**, use **due to** to give the cause: **His illness was due to bad food.** It means 'caused by'.

6. Clouds formed _____ a rapid fall in the temperature.
✔ **C) because of**
Because of gives the reason for an action and comes after a normal verb: **Clouds formed because of a rapid fall.** Not **owing**, because it needs **to** (**owing to**). **As** needs a full clause after it, not just a noun phrase.

7. The formation of clouds was _____ a rapid fall in the temperature.
✔ **B) due to**
After **was**, use **due to** + noun to give the cause: **The formation of clouds was due to a fall in temperature.** Not **because**, as it needs a clause, and **because of** is not used after **be** in the traditional rule.

8. Almost everyone _____ the city was vaccinated _____ cholera.
✔ **C) in / against**
We live **in** a city, and we are vaccinated **against** a disease (to protect us from it). Not **from**, because the fixed phrase is **vaccinated against**.

9. We show other people that we are happy _____ smiling.
✔ **B) by**
Use **by** + -ing to show how we do something: **by smiling** means 'using a smile as the way'.

10. _____ the company's high profits this year, the employees did not receive a bonus.
✔ **D) In spite of**
The two ideas are in contrast: high profits, but no bonus. **In spite of** + noun shows this contrast. **Because of** and **due to** give a reason, which does not fit the meaning.

11. She remarried _____ the sake of her children.
✔ **A) for**
The fixed phrase is **for the sake of** someone, meaning 'to help or benefit' them.

12. He could swim _____ the age of five.
✔ **B) at**
We say **at the age of** + number: **at the age of five**. Not **in**, because **in** is used with years or months, not with ages.

13. She was _____ the point of leaving when I arrived.
✔ **D) on**
On the point of + -ing means 'about to do something very soon': she was just going to leave. Not **at**, because the fixed expression uses **on**.

14. The car had been left _____ the side of the road.
✔ **C) at**
At the side of the road describes a position at the edge of the road. **In** is wrong because the car is not inside the road, and **over** means above it.

15. He's sitting _____ the front of the car.
✔ **D) in**
We are **in** a car, so a passenger sits **in the front** (the front seat) or **in the back**. Not **at**, which we use for an area such as a bus or a classroom: **at the front of the class**.

16. They found the wreck _____ a depth of 200 meters below the surface.
✔ **A) at**
We use **at** with specific points, measurements, or depths, such as **at a depth of 200 meters**. Prepositions like **in**, **on**, or **by** do not fit this measurement structure.

17. She's a genius _____ saying the wrong thing _____ the wrong time.
✔ **C) at / at**
We say someone is **a genius at** doing something, and **at the wrong time** is the fixed phrase for a moment. Not **on**, because **on** is used with days and dates, not with **time**.

18. What's more important _____ you, independence or security?
✔ **B) to**
We say something is **important to** a person when it matters to them: **What's more important to you?**

19. The importance _____ washing one's hands is that it prevents infection.
✔ **A) of**
The noun **importance** is followed by **of**: **the importance of washing one's hands**. Not **to**, which goes with the adjective (**important to**).

20. He's rather tall _____ his age, and looks older than he is.
✔ **C) for**
For + age compares a person with what is normal: **tall for his age** means taller than most people of the same age.

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