ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Prepositions (Intermediate / Upper-Intermediate) Test 6

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11	**A**	12	**C**	13	**C**	14	**A**	15	**C**	16	**B**	17	**D**	18	**B**	19	**C**	20	**C**

Explanations

1. Did you hear about the architect who designed a three-story house _____ any stairs?
✔ **B) without**
Without means 'not having' something: **a house without any stairs** is a house that has no stairs. Not **instead of**, because that needs something to replace the stairs, like **a lift instead of stairs**.

2. Break this chocolate _____ pieces and share it _____ all the children.
✔ **B) into / among**
We **break something into pieces** when the change makes new parts. We **share something among** a group of more than two people, like **all the children**. Not **to pieces**, because the usual phrase with **break** is **into pieces**.

3. If you're _____ trouble, you ought to confide _____ someone and ask _____ advice.
✔ **B) in / in / for**
These are fixed phrases: **be in trouble**, **confide in someone** (tell them your secrets or problems) and **ask for advice**. Not **at trouble** or **ask of advice**; those prepositions are not used in these phrases.

4. She's struggling _____ difficulties.
✔ **D) under**
Under is used for a heavy load or pressure that someone carries, as in **struggling under difficulties** or **under pressure**. The other prepositions cannot be used with **struggle** in this meaning.

5. He lives _____ a village _____ the hills.
✔ **A) in / beneath**
We live **in** a village, town or city. **Beneath the hills** means 'below, at the foot of the hills'. Not **at a village**, because **at** is used for a point or an address, not for the place where you live.

6. He has difficulties _____ paying his taxes.
✔ **C) over**
Difficulties over something means problems connected with it, as in **difficulties over paying his taxes**. **Difficulties with** or **in** are also common, but **at**, **by** and **for** are not used after **difficulties**.

7. I can't get my needle _____ this thick cloth.
✔ **D) through**
Through means going in one side and out of the other side of something. The needle has to pass **through the thick cloth**.

8. I was walking _____ the hospital with a friend when it happened.
✔ **C) past**
Past means moving by something and going beyond it: **walking past the hospital**. Not **among**, which is used for being in the middle of many things or people.

9. Will you please send _____ Jack? I want to talk to him.
✔ **A) for**
Send for someone means ask them to come to you: **Please send for Jack** = ask Jack to come here. Not **send to**, which means send something to a person.

10. I'm afraid we can't agree _____ each other _____ anything.
✔ **B) with / on**
We **agree with** a person and **agree on** a topic or decision: **agree with each other on anything**. Not **agree to**, which is used for accepting a plan or a request, as in **agree to a suggestion**.

11. Common politeness is all I ask _____ you _____ return _____ mine.
✔ **A) of / in / for**
Ask something of someone means expect or request it from them. **In return for** means 'as an exchange for'. So the sentence means: all I want from you is politeness, because I am polite to you. Not **in return to**; the phrase is always **in return for**.

12. He was charged _____ theft and brought _____ trial _____ jury.
✔ **C) with / to / by**
These are fixed legal phrases: **be charged with** a crime, **be brought to trial** and **trial by jury**. Not **charged for**; with a crime the verb **charge** takes **with**.

13. The teacher gave me ninety marks _____ a hundred for literature.
✔ **C) out of**
Out of is used for scores and marks: **ninety out of a hundred** = 90 from a possible 100. Not **from** or **of**; they are not used to give a score this way.

14. Who's the girl _____ blue _____ yellow hair?
✔ **A) in / with**
In is used for the clothes or colour someone is wearing: **the girl in blue**. **With** is used for a feature of someone's body: **with yellow hair**.

15. Don't play the fool. You should be _____ such childish games _____ your age.
✔ **C) above / at**
Be above something means be too good, too old or too sensible to do it. **At your age** is the fixed phrase for how old someone is. Not **in your age**; we always say **at your age**.

16. The rider fell _____ his horse as it was jumping _____ a stream.
✓ **B) off / over**
Fall off a horse or bike means come down from it, and a horse jumps **over** a stream, from one side to the other. **Fall from** is also possible, but **jumping through a stream** is wrong, so the first option fails.

17. If you're sure he'll be back _____ then, I'll wait, thank you.
✓ **D) by**
By then means 'at or before that time'; we use **by** for a deadline: **he'll be back by then**. Not **until** or **till**, because they describe an action that continues up to a time, and **be back** is a single moment.

18. The human body is made _____ a number of different systems.
✓ **B) up of**
Be made up of means consist of, or be formed from several parts: **The body is made up of different systems**. Not **made out of**, which is used for a material, as in **a box made out of wood**.

19. Children _____ sixteen years _____ age are not admitted _____ their parents.
✓ **C) under / of / without**
Under sixteen years of age means younger than sixteen; **years of age** is a fixed phrase. **Not admitted without their parents** means they can only enter if their parents come with them. Not **over**, because the rule is about young children.

20. Wait _____ eleven o'clock. If your teacher doesn't come _____ then you can leave the class.
✓ **C) until / by**
Until (or **till**) is used for an action that continues up to a time: **wait until eleven**. **By then** means 'at or before that time': **if your teacher doesn't come by then**. Not **at then**, which is not correct English.

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