ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Prepositions (Intermediate / Upper-Intermediate) Test 7

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Explanations

1. The heart pumps blood _____ the body.
✓ **B) throughout**
Throughout means 'in every part of' something. The heart sends blood to every part of the body, so **throughout the body** is correct.

2. Mary thinks that David is _____ love _____ her.
✓ **A) in / with**
The fixed expression is **be in love with** someone: **She is in love with him.** We never say 'on love' or 'love at' someone.

3. Who takes care _____ the office when the manager is away _____ business?
✓ **B) of / on**
We say **take care of** something or someone, and **be away on business**, meaning away because of work. Not **in business**, which means 'working in trade' or 'still operating'.

4. I was _____ work when thieves broke _____ our house.
✓ **D) at / into**
We say **at work** for being at your workplace. **Break into** a building means to enter it by force, usually to steal. **Break in** has no object, so 'broke in our house' is wrong.

5. _____ his age, he still enjoys jogging.
✓ **D) Despite**
Despite shows contrast: something happens even though you would not expect it. He is old, but he still enjoys jogging, so the answer is **Despite his age**.

6. _____ the weather report, it's going to be sunny tomorrow.
✓ **D) According to**
According to introduces the source of information: **according to the weather report / the news**. **Although** is a conjunction and needs a full clause after it.

7. I want to ask your advice _____ one or two questions.
✓ **B) concerning**
Concerning means 'about' and is a little formal: **I'm writing concerning your order.** Not **considering**, which means 'taking something into account'.

8. _____ the circumstances, this was an important win for them.
✓ **A) Considering**
Considering means 'when you take something into account'. **Considering the circumstances** means 'when we think about the difficult situation'. Not **concerning**, which only means 'about'.

9. _____ inflation, the general cost of living in Turkey rose by 70% last year.
✓ **C) Due to**
Due to means 'because of' and introduces a cause: inflation caused the cost of living to rise. **In spite of** would show a contrast, which makes no sense here.

10. _____ Greenland and Antarctica, the world has 13.15 billion hectares of land.
✓ **B) Excluding**
Excluding means 'not counting' or 'leaving out'. The total does not count Greenland and Antarctica. **As of** refers to a point in time (**as of today**), not to things left out.

11. The mines had been closed _____ a geological survey.
✓ **C) following**
Following means 'after' or 'as a result of' an event: the survey took place, and after it the mines were closed. **Except for** and **excluding** mean 'not including', which makes no sense here.

12. A: Which way do you have to go if you travel _____ air?
B: You go _____ Bahrain.
✓ **B) by / via**
We say **travel by air / by train / by car**, with no article. **Via** means 'passing through a place on the way': **We flew to Sydney via Dubai.** Not **by means of air**, because we just say **by air**.

13. _____ popular belief, the desert can produce crops.
✓ **C) Contrary to**
Contrary to popular belief is a fixed phrase meaning 'although most people think the opposite'. Many people think deserts cannot produce crops, but they can.

14. Different methods are used _____ what results are required.
✓ **A) depending on**
Depending on means 'according to' or 'changing with' something. The method changes according to the results that are needed: **Prices vary depending on the season.**

15. Many incompatible couples stay together _____ their children.
✓ **B) for the sake of**
For the sake of someone means 'for the good of' or 'to help' them. The couples stay together to benefit their children. Not **in favor of**, which means 'supporting an idea or choice'.

16. We just can’t agree. Her opinions on this subject are totally _____ mine.
✓ **A) opposite to**
Opposite to means 'completely different from'. The clue is **We just can't agree**: her opinions are the reverse of mine.

17. _____ the inclusion of the unacceptable clause, the contract was signed.
✓ **A) Despite**
Despite shows contrast: the clause was unacceptable, but the contract was still signed. Not **Due to** or **Thanks to**: these show a cause, and an unacceptable clause would not be a reason for signing.

18. I can’t get the top _____ this bottle.
✓ **A) off**
Get something off means 'remove it from a surface': **get the top / lid off**. Here **off** means separated from the bottle. Not **of**, which does not show removal.

19. _____ receiving bad reviews, the film was a success.
✓ **A) Despite**
Despite shows contrast and can be followed by an **-ing** form: **Despite receiving bad reviews**. Bad reviews usually mean failure, but the film succeeded.

20. Severe steps will be taken against those responsible _____ their rank.
✓ **C) irrespective of**
Irrespective of means 'without considering' or 'no matter what': everyone responsible will be punished, whatever their rank. Not **regardless**: it means the same, but it needs **of** before a noun (**regardless of their rank**).

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