ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Missing Sentences – Paragraph Completion Test 3

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Explanations

1. _____ As a student, she studied dancing at the University of Michigan. Then in 1982, she recorded her first successful song: "Everybody".
✔ B) The famous pop singer Madonna was born in Bay City, Michigan in the USA.
The gap is the first sentence, so it should introduce the person. **The famous pop singer Madonna was born in Bay City, Michigan** names her and gives her background, which leads naturally to **As a student…** and **Then in 1982…**. The other options jump ahead or contradict the text: she studied dancing, not singing, at the university.

2. In the old Roman calendar the month of March was considered the first month of the year. _____ This was later changed to our present calendar in which January is the first month of the year. The Scottish were the first people of the British Isles to change to this new calendar in 1600.
✔ D) In fact, the first day of the year was the 1st of March.
The missing sentence must continue the idea of March starting the year. **In fact, the first day of the year was the 1st of March** adds a detail about this. The next sentence, **This was later changed…**, then refers back to it. Not the sentence about Janus: it jumps to January before the text explains the change.

3. In the classic film 'Citizen Kane', Orson Welles plays a character based on William Randolph Hearst. _____ The failures that are often not seen outside a very private circle of friends and family of well-known people usually include shyness and loneliness, as in the case of Hearst.
✔ A) His famous portrayal of this well-known man revealed to the public not only his successes but also some of his failures.
The next sentence begins with **The failures**, so the missing sentence must mention failures first. Only **revealed to the public not only his successes but also some of his failures** gives that link. The other options do not mention failures, so the next sentence would make no sense after them.

4. One of the most impressively beautiful collections of art accumulated by a personal collector can be found in the Lehman Wing of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. _____ Although Robert Lehman is best remembered as the owner of this collection, as he was the one who left it to the museum after his death, his father Philip had actually started the collection which Robert continued until his death and which he donated to the museum in his last will and testament.
✔ C) The collector whose name has been given to the wing where the collection is today displayed was Robert Lehman.
The following sentence starts with **Although Robert Lehman is best remembered as the owner**, so the gap must first name Robert Lehman as the collector. The correct option does this: **the wing… was Robert Lehman**. The option about the collection being **donated by many people** contradicts the text, which says one family built it.

5. Mary Shelley, the wife of the well-known Romantic poet, wrote 'Frankenstein'. _____ This was probably due to the strange subject of life from non-living matter, which was a subject greatly discussed in her circle of acquaintances at that time.
✔ A) When she had it published in 1818, she did so anonymously.
The next sentence gives a reason: **This was probably due to the strange subject…**. There must be an action that needs explaining, and publishing **anonymously** (without her name) is exactly that. Not **The public liked the book**: the strange subject would not explain why people liked it.

6. The value of one's heritage is many times not understandable at a young age. _____ These young people are later able to realize that these social restrictions help maintain the values that all societies are built upon.
✔ E) Most teenagers have some feelings concerning the values their parents teach them, but most are negative due to the restrictions they encounter.
The next sentence refers to **These young people** and **these social restrictions**. Only the option about **teenagers** and **the restrictions they encounter** introduces both. Not the option about parents teaching us: it does not mention young people or restrictions.

7. "Gone with the Wind" was one of the most expensive epic pictures made at that time. _____ After the waste of all the money and time to find the right woman for the part, the producer's brother brought Vivien Leigh to him and said: "I want you to meet Scarlett O'Hara."
✓ C) One of the reasons for this expense was that so many screen tests had been made to find the right Scarlett O'Hara.
The first sentence talks about the film being **expensive**, and the last one about wasting money and time **to find the right woman for the part**. The correct option joins the two: **one of the reasons for this expense** was the many **screen tests** for Scarlett O'Hara. Not **The director had many problems**: it is too general and does not mention the expense or the search for an actress.

8. The rate of crime in our area has increased dramatically. _____ The changes in the value of money, inflation, war, etc., have forced some people to resort to crime in order to live.
✓ C) This seems to be a common problem throughout our country and even the world.
The paragraph moves from **our area** to big, worldwide causes like **inflation** and **war**. The correct option widens the topic in the same way: **a common problem throughout our country and even the world**. Not the option about **young people enlisted into the services**: it brings in an unrelated idea.

9. In my youth, my family and I spent our holidays in our village. _____ Although we had no financial ties left there, the relatives and friends who were all very special to us lured us back, so that we returned every chance we had.
✓ A) These trips were full of especially joyful memories.
The last sentence explains why the family loved going back, because of special relatives and friends. **These trips were full of especially joyful memories** links the holidays to these happy feelings. Not **We knew everyone who lived in the village**: it does not prepare the idea of being **lured back**.

10. It was once said that one of the values of TV films, even old reruns, was that they gave a person a deeper understanding of life. _____ Today, however, as many people do not really have the time to read, good films on TV seem to be the only alternative.
✓ C) Before these times, good books were said to do the same thing.
The last sentence says that today people have no time **to read**, so films are **the only alternative**. The gap must first mention reading. **Before these times, good books were said to do the same thing** does this. Not **I prefer to spend my free time reading**: the paragraph is general, not personal.

11. Have you ever noticed how beautiful the web of a spider is? _____ This awe-inspiring work of beauty is, however, a deadly trap for unsuspecting insects.
✓ E) The intricate details of their webs are so fine and so well crafted that even today no artist can reproduce them.
The next sentence calls the web **This awe-inspiring work of beauty**, so the gap must describe its beauty. The correct option praises its **intricate details** that **no artist can reproduce**. Not the option about webs **many times their own size**: it is about size, not beauty.

12. The audience at the concert hall viewed the performance with pleasure. _____ He slowly crossed to the grand piano, bowed towards the audience, gracefully sat down and began to play.
✓ A) The entrance of the long-awaited pianist brought the audience to their feet.
The next sentence begins with **He slowly crossed to the grand piano**, so the gap must introduce a man, the pianist. Only **The entrance of the long-awaited pianist** gives **He** someone to refer to. The other options do not mention any performer.

13. Finding a repairman that is trustworthy and knowledgeable is not easy today. _____ However, it is not a good idea to call these men in to look at expensive appliances without first checking their credentials.
✓ E) Most repairmen go to special schools and courses to learn how to repair appliances.
The next sentence starts with **However** and mentions **these men** and **their credentials** (proof of training). The gap needs a positive point about repairmen's training: **Most repairmen go to special schools and courses**. **However** then warns that you should still check. Not the repair shop option: it does not mention training, so **credentials** has no link.

14. Being a parent can be very difficult at times. _____ Older children, on the other hand, don't want the assistance you offer them for anything.
✓ B) Younger children need assistance with everything.
On the other hand shows a contrast with **Older children**, so the gap must be about younger children. **Younger children need assistance with everything** is the exact opposite of older children who don't want help.

15. The storm had caused only minor damage to the vessel, and the crew and captain tried to reassure the passengers. _____ So it was decided to return the ship to port and cancel the excursion.
✓ E) However, the passengers were on their first trip and became frightened.
The damage was **only minor**, yet the ship returned to port. We need a reason despite the small damage. **However, the passengers… became frightened** gives it, and **However** marks the contrast. Not the option about flooded lower levels: that would contradict **minor damage**.

16. The large sheepdog was one of the happiest creatures on the farm. _____ He was like one of the family who faithfully performed his duties and in return was loved and cared for by everyone.
✓ C) His mother had died at his birth and the dog had been cared for by the farmer's family from then on.
The dog is **like one of the family** and **cared for by everyone**. The correct option explains why: **the dog had been cared for by the farmer's family** since his birth. Not **He hadn't been adopted… right after his birth**: it says the opposite.

17. "The Lady with the Lamp", better known as Florence Nightingale, was a young English woman who trained to be a nurse in Germany. _____ At the end of this time, she became accepted as the authority on nursing matters and became involved in establishing nursing schools that taught modern nursing.
✓ C) Her fame was founded when she changed the situation of nursing soldiers during the Crimean War.
The next sentence begins **At the end of this time**, so the gap must mention a period of time. **During the Crimean War** gives that period, and the war is what made her famous and accepted as **the authority on nursing matters**. The option about never working in a hospital is wrong: it contradicts her becoming the authority on nursing.

18. Loch Ness is well known as the lake in which a monster is said to live. _____ Many people have claimed to have seen this monster and some have even taken pictures that are not really clear enough to be good evidence for scientists.
✓ A) The lake is extremely deep and believed to be large enough to hide a huge animal in it.
The gap comes between **a monster is said to live** and **Many people have claimed to have seen this monster**. The correct option explains why the story seems possible: the lake is **deep** and **large enough to hide a huge animal**. Not the legend-for-tourists option: the text does not say the story is invented.

19. Early settlers in America were not injured or hurt by the native people of this land. _____ It was only after the native people had lost their lands and hunting grounds and had been driven onto poor land, where staying alive was difficult, that they began to fight the settlers.
✓ D) The first colonists were in fact aided by the Indians who lived in this area of the world.
The first sentence says the settlers were not hurt, and the last one says the fighting began only later. The gap should go further in the same positive direction. **The first colonists were in fact aided by the Indians** does this, and **in fact** adds a stronger point. Not the cowboys option: it is about fighting, which the text says came later.

20. The children had gotten dressed in their best clothes. The weather was sunny if not warm. _____ He finally got up and the children gave a cheerful yell and went running to the door.
✓ E) They had tried everything to get their father to take them out this Sunday, but they had been unsuccessful up till now.
The next sentence begins with **He finally got up**, so the gap must mention a man and something the children were waiting for. The correct option mentions **their father** and their efforts to get him to take them out, **unsuccessful up till now**. Not the option saying the father was **too ill to go anywhere**: it contradicts the happy ending.

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