ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Paragraph Completion Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 2

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Explanations

1. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*
✓ C) Hence, you can always find any department you like in a mall
The sentence before the gap says shops and services are now **in one place** at the mall. The gap draws the conclusion with **Hence**: you can find any department you want there. This leads naturally to the next sentence about busy householders saving time. Not **In a way, shopping malls have changed United States culture**: it is a general comment that breaks the link between 'in one place' and 'save time'.

2. In 1585, Sir Walter Raleigh tried to start the first English settlement in North America. _____. Many settlers became sick and others died of hunger or in battles with the Native Americans. When another ship came from England a few years later, the newcomers found that all the settlers were dead.
✓ B) However, the settlement was not successful
The verb **tried** suggests the attempt failed, and the next sentences describe sickness, hunger and death. **However** introduces this contrast: the settlement **was not successful**. Not **The settlement had grown**, which contradicts the rest of the paragraph.

3. Anthropologists used to believe that romantic love was invented by Europeans in the Middle Ages. By romantic love, they mean an intense attraction and longing to be with the loved person. _____. Others thought that it may have existed in some other cultures but only among the rich and privileged. Now, however, most anthropologists agree that romantic love has probably always existed among humans.
✓ E) Some anthropologists believed that this kind of love spread from the west to other cultures only recently
The paragraph reports what anthropologists used to believe, and the sentence after the gap begins **Others thought…**. So the gap needs the first half of a **Some… Others…** pair: **Some anthropologists believed** that this kind of love spread from the West only recently. The other options do not report earlier beliefs of anthropologists.

4. _____. There are a number of reasons for this fear. One reason is that the patient cannot see what the dentist is doing. Another reason is that the patient, who is lying back, may feel very helpless. Social factors may also increase a person's fear. People may be influenced by the general belief that dentists are scary.
✓ B) Many people are afraid of going to the dentist
The gap is the topic sentence, and the next sentence refers to **this fear**. Only **Many people are afraid of going to the dentist** introduces a fear for the rest of the paragraph to explain. The other options talk about brushing teeth, personal opinions or regular check-ups, not fear.

5. Are you sometimes a little tired and sleepy in the early afternoon? If so, you are not the only one. Many people feel this way after lunch. They may think that eating lunch is the cause of their sleepiness. Or, in summer, they may think it is the heat. _____. At that time, about eight hours after you wake up, your body temperature goes down. This is what makes you slow down and feel sleepy.
✓ A) However, the real reason lies inside their bodies
Before the gap, the text gives the causes people believe in: lunch or the heat. **However** introduces the real cause, and the next sentences explain it: body temperature drops about eight hours after waking. Not **Therefore, lunch is alleged to be the sole reason…**, which repeats the mistaken idea instead of correcting it.

6. The use of electric automobiles in the future will help reduce air pollution. This was the conclusion of a recent study by experts of a large area in the northeastern United States. The area is highly urban and includes the cities of New York and Boston. At present, the air quality is poor. However, the use of electric cars could improve the situation. By the year 2015, there will be about 3.3 million electric cars on the road in the Northeast. _____.
✓ B) According to the study, this will mean 20–50% less pollution
The paragraph reports a study which concluded that electric cars **will help reduce air pollution**. The final sentence gives the result predicted by that study: **According to the study**, the 3.3 million cars will mean less pollution. The other options predict more pollution or worse air, which contradicts the study.

7. _____. Dishes of uncooked fish, called sushi or sashimi, are prepared at most Japanese restaurants. Japanese cooks use many kinds of fish or shellfish for their dishes. Whatever kind of fish they use, however, it must always be very fresh. To prove that the fish is fresh, some restaurants will even serve fish that is still alive.

✔ C) The Japanese love to eat raw fish

The gap is the topic sentence. The rest of the paragraph is about **uncooked** fish (sushi, sashimi) in Japanese restaurants, and **raw** means uncooked. So **The Japanese love to eat raw fish** introduces the topic. The other options are about other people or cooked fish.

8. Where there are people, there are almost always mice or rats. This is true in all parts of the world. These animals can be a real problem. They eat or damage supplies of food. _____. Finally, they can carry many types of diseases to humans and other animals. Therefore, you should keep your home free of mice and rats.

✔ E) They can also damage clothes and furniture in the home

The paragraph lists the problems mice and rats cause: they damage food, they **also** damage clothes and furniture, and **Finally** they carry diseases. The word **also** shows the gap is the second item in the list. Not **Eventually, they may wear out your accessories**: **Eventually** does not introduce a list item, and 'accessories' is vague.

9. On a narrow avenue in New York City's “Little Italy” section in the early 1970s, hundreds of men, women, and children stood in long lines, wearing traditional Italian parade costumes. Many carried musical instruments. Crowds of spectators stood behind ropes, with an occasional police officer present to keep them from rushing forward. _____. Director Francis Ford Coppola was filming a scene for The Godfather.

✔ A) Yet, this was no ordinary New York ethnic festival

The scene first looks like a normal Italian street festival, but the last sentence reveals it was a film set. **Yet, this was no ordinary New York ethnic festival** creates the contrast and prepares the surprise. The other options do not link the parade description to the film shoot.

10. There are several ways to locate and record important information as you read. Underlining the material on a page is quickest, but taking notes makes you reorganize the reading material into an easily understood form. Outlining helps you record the structure of the ideas in your reading. Summarizing helps you to grasp the meaning of what you read most fully and to restate that meaning in a concise way. _____.

✔ A) Each of these study techniques helps you understand the material better the first time you read it

The paragraph describes four techniques: underlining, note-taking, outlining and summarizing. The final sentence sums them all up with **Each of these study techniques**. Not **Hence, underlining the most important ideas…**, which returns to only one technique instead of concluding the list.

11. Today, farmers in most of the industrialized countries grow cash crops. This means that they usually grow large amounts of only a few crops, such as soya, wheat, or corn. They sell these crops and use the money to buy what they need for their families and their farms. _____. Most farmers used to grow lots of different kinds of crops. They sometimes sold some of the crops when there was extra.

✔ C) In the past, farming was quite different

The first part describes farming **today**; the sentences after the gap use **used to** and the past simple. The gap must introduce this change of time: **In the past, farming was quite different**. Not **They didn't grow soya in those days**: it is too narrow, and **those days** has no time reference before it.

12. _____. In the United States, it is the most expensive health problem in the workplace. In all, it costs people up to $60 billion in medical expenses and lost working time. Back pain is bad for business as well. It is the cause of 40 percent of all lost workdays. That means a total of about 93 million sick days a year in the United States. Doctors now believe that exercise is the best treatment for back pain. For this reason, some companies have started special exercise programs for employees.

✔ D) Four out of five people suffer from back pain at some time in their working lives

The gap is the topic sentence, and **it** in the next sentence must refer to a health problem. The whole paragraph is about **back pain**, so the answer is **Four out of five people suffer from back pain…**. The other options are about cancer, fatigue or exercise in general.

13. The tendency to help others begins quite early. Many children become sensitive to other people's emotional states at a very young age. As they grow older, children's efforts at helping become more elaborate. Their helping behaviours often follow the examples set by those around them and are usually supported and encouraged by the norms communicated through the child's reference groups. In our culture, these norms result in praise and other rewards for helpfulness and scolding for selfishness. _____.

✔ E) Eventually, just as they internalize, or adopt, other social norms, most children come to believe that it is good to be helpful

The paragraph follows how helping develops in children: early sensitivity, more elaborate help as they grow, then praise and scolding from social norms. The last stage is introduced by **Eventually**: children **internalize** (take as their own) the norm that helping is good. The other options are about adults, definitions or the clarity of need, so they do not continue this development.

14. The first step in reading for specific information is to look for the main idea. _____. In a longer work, you add up the main ideas of the various paragraphs in order to figure out the main idea of the whole selection. But the main idea does not give you all the information you need. Facts and details may appear within the paragraphs you read and help develop the main ideas of the paragraphs.

✔ A) In a one-paragraph selection, you gather all the sentences to find the main idea

The sentence after the gap begins **In a longer work**, which implies a contrast with a short text. The gap therefore explains how to find the main idea **in a one-paragraph selection**. Not **To make the best use of these facts and details…**: facts and details are only mentioned at the end of the paragraph.

15. To read well, you need a strong vocabulary. To build a strong vocabulary, you need to read well. These sentences are a paradox. _____. Together, they state the challenge facing anyone trying to improve reading skills. In order to read confidently, you have to know many words. Yet the best way to expand your knowledge of words is to read often. As you improve your skills in one, you improve your skills in the other.

✔ B) That is, they seem to express opposite points but, nevertheless, are both true

The gap explains the word **paradox**: two statements that **seem to express opposite points** but are both true. **That is** introduces this explanation, and the next sentence continues with **Together, they state…**, where **they** means the two sentences. The other options leave 'paradox' unexplained.

16. The amount of time people spend researching, checking prices, visiting stores, and seeking advice from friends tends to rise in proportion to the value of the product they're thinking of buying. _____. So why are some people now walking into car showrooms and ordering a vehicle without even asking for a test drive? Or turning up at an electrical store and pointing out the washing machine they want without seeking advice from a sales assistant? Welcome to a new style of shopping shaped by the Internet.

✔ C) A new car is one of the biggest purchases people make, and buyers typically spend four to six weeks mulling over their choices

The first sentence says people spend more time researching expensive products. The gap gives an example: a new car is a big purchase, and buyers **typically spend four to six weeks** deciding. The next sentence, **So why are some people now… ordering a vehicle without even asking for a test drive?**, contrasts with exactly this example. Not **Some companies are already adjusting… to these trends**: no trends have been described yet, so **these trends** has nothing to refer to.

17. The sheer number of vehicles on the roads of Western countries hugely lessened the appeal of driving. _____. Meanwhile, the country's road network has expanded by nowhere near as much. With increased traffic density has come tougher speed regulations. Motorists with what was described jauntily in the 1960s as a "brisk" driving style are increasingly feeling the heavy hand of the law closing over their driving licences.

✔ E) In Britain, traffic density has grown by over 70% during the past couple of decades

The sentence after the gap refers to **the country's road network** and says it **has expanded by nowhere near as much**. So the gap must name a country and give a growth figure to compare with: **In Britain, traffic density has grown by over 70%…**. The next sentence also repeats the phrase **traffic density**. Not **But the interest in driving has been decreasing…**: it names no country and gives no figure to compare.

18. Dogs acting as guides for the blind are now a familiar sight in most cities. _____. In 1982 an innovative programme was established to provide deaf adults with dogs to alert them to sounds in the home such as the doorbell, alarm clock, telephone or smoke alarm. Instead of barking, they use a paw to gain attention and then lead the deaf person to the sound source.

✔ C) Less familiar are "Hearing Dogs For Deaf People" but in Britain more than 600 such animals exist

The first sentence says guide dogs for the blind are a **familiar** sight. The gap continues the comparison with **Less familiar are** hearing dogs. The rest of the paragraph then describes the hearing-dog programme. Options about the programme's cost or value cannot come before the programme has been introduced.

19. Running out of exotic places to visit or more extreme thrills for an even bigger adrenaline rush? _____. When it arrives, space tourism will offer the ultimate in bragging rights. If things go as planned, flights into suborbital space ought to be more or less routine within three years—at least for those ready to stump up the $200,000 fare. But despite the price, the jostling to be at the front of the queue has already begun.

✔ D) For those who can afford it, a wholly new travel experience is coming up over the horizon

The opening question addresses people who are bored with ordinary travel. The gap answers it: **a wholly new travel experience is coming up over the horizon**. **When it arrives** in the next sentence refers to this coming experience, space tourism. The technical options about the spacecraft do not answer the opening question.

20. *(Question with a long text: see the questions PDF.)*

✔ A) Digital television has many advantages

The gap is the topic sentence. The paragraph lists benefits of digital TV: easier programme selection, more robust signals, no 'ghost' images and no 'snow'. So it opens with **Digital television has many advantages**. Not the option about **downsides**, which contradicts the content.

21. Today, there are many options for travel. The poor travel by bus or, rather, they used to. If you don't mind arriving in Peoria, Illinois, in the middle of the night at some crime-ridden downtown terminal, there is no cheaper way of criss-crossing America. Nowadays, the poor travel by air. Low-cost airlines are great for those on a tight budget. But in Europe and Asia, the premium way to travel today is by train. _____.

✔ B) No self-respecting businessman in Frankfurt, Paris or Osaka would dream of enduring the tedium of even first-class air travel if there were an express train available to get him to his destination more quickly

The last sentence says that in Europe and Asia the **premium** (top-quality) way to travel is by train. The gap supports this with an example: businessmen in **Frankfurt, Paris or Osaka** prefer express trains even to first-class flights. Not **Americans will have to put up with…**: it moves to America, not Europe and Asia.

22. _____. In fact we still find lightning thrilling and fascinating. It is now also an important area of research for scientists who are trying to uncover its secrets and are looking for ways to predict storms and protect people against lightning strikes.
✔ B) It's not surprising that people in the past were afraid of lightning and thought that it was a sign of anger from their gods
The second sentence says we **still** find lightning thrilling, so the first sentence must describe how people felt **in the past**. **People in the past were afraid of lightning** gives that link between past and present. The other options describe single events or ball lightning and do not connect with 'still'.

23. Over the past 5000 years, different civilisations and cultures across the world have created at least 700 different forms of writing. To our eyes, most of these scripts look quite distinct, and people who can read only one script cannot understand another. _____. Nearly all of them originated from just four sources: the ancient scripts of Egypt, Mesopotamia, China and Mexico.
✔ E) However, if the evolution of the world's writing systems is traced back through time, things become clear
Before the gap, the text says the scripts look very different from each other. **However** introduces the opposite idea: if you trace the scripts back through time, **things become clear**. The next sentence says what becomes clear: nearly all of them come from just four sources. Not **There is, however, still a lot of controversy about which of the four…**: the four scripts have not been mentioned yet.

24. Greed, desire, anguish and devotion all played a part in the development of the tulip from a wildflower of central Asia and the Caucasus to the worldwide phenomenon it is today. When merchants first brought it to the flower markets of Europe, it caused a sensation. Thousands of intensely competitive tulip growers' societies opened in England in the nineteenth century. _____. Holland was another setting for perhaps the most mysterious of the events. What might be called "Tulipmania" engulfed the country and has puzzled historians and economists ever since.
✔ C) There is no denying that the flower had an eventful history full of mystery and drama
The gap comes between the English tulip societies and Holland, **another setting** for **the most mysterious of the events**. It needs a general statement that the tulip's history was full of **mystery and drama**; this prepares the words 'events' and 'most mysterious'. Not **On the other hand the tulip became the ultimate status symbol**: **On the other hand** signals a contrast that is not there.

25. Two epic poems are attributed to Homer, the Iliad and the Odyssey. Ranked among the great works of Western literature, these two poems together constitute the prototype for all subsequent Western epic poetry. Scholars tried to analyse the two works by various tests, usually to show that they were strung together from older narrative poems. _____.
✔ A) Recent evidence suggests that the Iliad is the work of a single poet and the Odyssey belongs to a poet who lived slightly after the author of the Iliad
The last sentence describes an older view: scholars **tried** to show the poems were **strung together from older narrative poems**. The gap gives the newer view that answers it. **Recent evidence** suggests each poem is the work of **a single poet**. Not the option about a poet named Homer living before 700 BC: it does not respond to the idea that the poems were pieced together from older works.

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