ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Paragraph Completion MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 1

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Explanations

1. Every year, 100 million holiday-makers go to the Mediterranean. With one-third of the world's tourist trade, it is the most popular of all the holiday areas; yet, it is also the most polluted. _____
✓ A) Therefore, the tourist industry here is in great danger.
The paragraph says the Mediterranean is very popular but also very polluted. The missing sentence gives the result of this: pollution puts tourism in danger, so **Therefore** fits. The other options talk about housing, economic policies or hotels, which have nothing to do with pollution.

2. Veronica Moss is a small British firm which makes wedding dresses. It is now expanding into European markets. _____ This will only be possible if sufficient, highly skilled workers can be recruited.
✓ E) However, to be successful, it needs to increase its production.
The firm is expanding, and the next sentence says **This will only be possible if** enough skilled workers can be found. **This** must refer to something that needs more workers: increasing production. Not the advertising campaign, because a successful campaign does not depend on recruiting skilled workers.

3. When people are ill they frequently seek medical help. _____ When they feel they are not well, they either go to a quiet place and rest or look for the kind of herbs and plants they feel will do them good.
✓ B) Animals, on the other hand, are their own doctors.
The first sentence is about people, and the last sentence describes something different: resting and looking for helpful plants. The missing sentence must introduce this contrast, and **on the other hand** does exactly that: animals treat themselves. Not 'In the case of animals, medical care is even more essential', because the paragraph shows animals don't seek medical help.

4. It is surprising how little is known, even today, about memory. This is largely due to the fact that we have no way of watching the memory function. _____ Hopefully, with the advances in high technology, the secrets of the mechanism of the memory will soon be revealed.
✓ D) Still, a great deal of research on the subject is being carried out.
The paragraph says we know little about memory, but it ends hopefully: the secrets will soon be revealed. The missing sentence links the two ideas, and **Still** shows the contrast: we know little, but a lot of **research** is being done. The other options do not connect to the idea of studying memory.

5. _____ Many came willingly, to find a better life; some were forced to come, as slaves or to be used as cheap labor; some were driven from their homelands for political reasons and some fled from war.
✓ B) The history of the United States is filled with accounts of people who came here from all over the world for several reasons.
The paragraph lists different reasons why people came: a better life, slavery, politics, war. The opening sentence must introduce this topic, and only this option talks about people who **came here from all over the world for several reasons**. The other options are about tribes, Africa, farming or pollution.

6. A well-written essay should be unified; _____ The first requirement for unity is that the main idea should be clear. The second requirement is that there are no unrelated parts.
✓ C) that is, everything in it should be related to the main idea.
The paragraph explains what **unified** means. **That is** introduces an explanation of the word before it: everything should be related to the main idea. This also matches the rest of the paragraph about a clear main idea and no unrelated parts.

7. In China, the style of decoration of these bowls developed through the years. Early examples had narrow bands of geometric designs _____ Often, those designs included stylized dragons, birds and snakes.
✓ A) while later ones had complex patterns covering the entire vessel.
The first sentence says the decoration **developed through the years**, so we expect a contrast between early and later bowls. **Early examples** had narrow bands, **while later ones** had complex patterns, and the last sentence then describes those patterns (dragons, birds, snakes). Not 'because the Chinese worshipped animals': simple geometric bands are not animal designs, so the reason makes no sense.

8. _____ Until a program is prepared and stored in the computer's memory, the computer "knows" absolutely nothing, not even how to accept or reject data. Even the most sophisticated computer must be told what to do.
✓ E) Like all machines, a computer needs to be directed and controlled if it is to perform a task successfully.
The paragraph explains that a computer knows nothing until it is given a program and **must be told what to do**. The opening sentence must state this main idea: a computer **needs to be directed and controlled**. The other options are true facts about computers, but they are not what the paragraph is about.

9. There is something more to bringing up children than feeding them well, housing them healthily and washing them regularly. The emotional development of children depends greatly on the actions of their parents. _____ The adult may need social security but for the child, family security is of even greater importance.
✔ B) Children need the security of a peaceful family life.
The last sentence says **family security** is very important for a child. The missing sentence must lead to this idea: children need **the security of a peaceful family life**. Options saying family life has little effect or children learn little from parents contradict the paragraph.

10. Getting through a day without being touched by the press would be difficult. We have daily morning and evening newspapers and weekly news magazines. _____ What we eat, what we buy, what we do, what we think is influenced by the press.
✔ A) The power of the press upon us is really enormous.
The paragraph shows that the press is everywhere and that it influences **what we eat, what we buy, what we do, what we think**. The missing sentence states this main idea: **the power of the press upon us is really enormous**. Not 'not so important as some people think', because that contradicts the last sentence.

11. A green leaf is a factory in which a plant manufactures its own food. _____ In this case the raw materials are water and carbon dioxide, which is obtained from the air. The sun provides the energy.
✔ A) As in all factories, raw materials and energy are essential.
The leaf is compared to a **factory**. The next sentences say **In this case the raw materials are** water and carbon dioxide, and **the sun provides the energy**, so the missing sentence must first say that factories need **raw materials and energy**. Not 'This process is called photosynthesis': it does not mention raw materials, so **In this case the raw materials** would have nothing to refer back to.

12. Man has been polluting the Earth from the time he lit his first fire and washed his clothes in the river. _____ This is no longer true. The increase in population and the spread of industry have changed all this.
✔ B) At first, the Earth could handle this problem because there was plenty of space, fresh air and water.
The sentence after the gap says **This is no longer true**, so the missing sentence must describe a situation in the past that has now changed. **At first** the Earth could handle pollution because there was plenty of space, air and water; now population and industry have changed this. The other options describe present-day pollution, not something that is **no longer true**.

13. Napoleon was a very famous general. He also did a great deal to bring law and order back to his country. _____ People remember how he was defeated in the Russian campaign and how he died on the island of St. Helena.
✔ E) But somehow it is his failures that he is known for.
The first sentences describe Napoleon's successes, and the last sentence describes his defeat and death. The missing sentence must turn from success to failure, and **But** shows this contrast: he is known for his **failures**. Not 'The people of France regarded him as a traitor', because nothing in the paragraph supports this.

14. Sometimes it's good to get away after a long busy week and relax. As often as I can, I spend a quiet weekend with my aunt who lives on the coast. _____ I always come back rested and ready to work again.
✔ B) There, the air is clean and it is always quiet and peaceful.
The writer goes to the aunt's house to relax and always comes back **rested**. So the missing sentence must describe a relaxing place: **the air is clean and it is always quiet and peaceful**. Options about a crowded house or working in a hotel do not match coming back rested.

15. Smoking can be an expensive habit. _____ Since smoke has a bad smell, smokers often find that their clothes need to be cleaned more frequently, and this too is expensive.
✔ D) The price of cigarettes or tobacco is not the only expense smokers incur.
The paragraph is about money: smoking is **expensive**, and cleaning clothes is also an expense (**this too is expensive**). The missing sentence must introduce other costs: the price of cigarettes **is not the only expense**. Not 'It is also hazardous to your health', because the paragraph is about cost, not health.

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