ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Paragraph Summarizing MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 2

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Explanations

1. People who have never been in an aeroplane usually think that flying must be fun. Perhaps it is, the first time you fly. But few people who have flown a lot really enjoy flying. Most of the time you are in the air, there is nothing to see but clouds, and waiting around in an airport is the most boring experience.
✓ A) Flying is not as interesting as people who haven't flown think.
The paragraph says people who have never flown think flying is fun, but frequent flyers find it boring: you see only clouds, and waiting at airports is dull. So flying is **not as interesting as non-flyers think**. Not 'Airports are very boring places': that is only one detail, not the main idea. The paragraph never mentions danger.

2. During recent years, there has been a great increase in population. As a result of this, many countries are facing serious difficulties. These include food shortages, housing problems, unemployment, pollution and similar social and economic difficulties.
✓ B) The rapid growth in population has caused very many problems.
The paragraph has one main idea: a large **increase in population** has caused many problems, such as food shortages, housing problems and unemployment. The paragraph does not compare countries or say that rich countries should help poor ones.

3. Paul is pleased that his company is sending him to the new factory near Houston. The pay will be better and the work more interesting. Also, several of his friends live there and he likes the climate.
✓ B) Paul is happy to be going to Houston for various reasons.
Paul is **pleased** about the move, and the paragraph gives several reasons: better pay, more interesting work, friends there and a climate he likes. Not 'making new friends': his friends already live in Houston.

4. Susan arrived at the library a few minutes before 12 o'clock. Jane had her coat on and was waiting for her friend on the steps of the library. So they left together, crossed the street and went to their favourite restaurant.
✓ C) Susan and Jane met at the library as arranged and then had lunch together.
Jane already had her coat on and was **waiting** for Susan, so the meeting was planned. Then they went to a restaurant together. Not 'Jane was surprised': she was expecting Susan.

5. I don't know any French myself, and so I don't know whether Jane's French is good or not. But I do know that she has spent the last two years in France. She was in Paris for 18 months and the remaining 6 months she spent at various places along the south coast. So she should know French well.
✓ B) Jane's French ought to be good as she has recently spent two years in France.
The writer cannot judge Jane's French because they do not speak the language. However, Jane has spent the last two years in France, so the writer assumes that her French should be good. Option B best summarises this inference. Option A is factually correct but mentions only supporting details rather than the main idea. Option D is incorrect because the writer does not know for certain how good Jane's French is.

6. If Jane is willing to organize the picnic, I should let her. The last picnic she organized was a great success. Just now, too, she has plenty of spare time, which most of us don't have. I don't think we'll find anyone as good as her.
✓ E) Jane seems to be the best person to organize the picnic.
The writer gives reasons why Jane should organize the picnic: her last picnic was a success, she has free time, and nobody else is as good. So she seems to be **the best person** for the job. Not 'Jane has so much free time that she wants to organize a picnic': free time is only one reason, and it is not why she wants to do it.

7. I know all the arguments about how important it is to advertise. I admit that the costs of advertising are quickly recovered in better sales. Yet I still think advertising is harmful because of the bad effect it has on children.
✓ A) Advertising helps sales, but children are badly affected by it.
The writer **admits** that advertising improves sales. The word **Yet** then introduces the main point: advertising has a bad effect on children. The correct option combines both ideas. Not option 264: the writer accepts that advertising helps sales and does not question it.

8. The story "Robinson Crusoe" was written by Daniel Defoe. This novel was based on the story of a real sailor who had been abandoned on a small island. Although the sailor Alexander Selkirk's adventures are not the same as those of Robinson Crusoe, there are some notable similarities.
✓ C) The story "Robinson Crusoe" by Daniel Defoe is a fictional account of the experiences of Alexander Selkirk.
The novel is **based on** a real sailor's story. However, Selkirk's adventures are **not the same** as Crusoe's, so the book is a **fictional** version of real events. Not 'Defoe wrote the story of Alexander Selkirk': that suggests a true life story, but the paragraph says the two stories differ.

9. Jane had had a terrible dream that night. She had dreamed that she was in a haunted house. The house was large and dark. It had broken stairs and windows. As she went through the house, she heard terrible noises and then she saw a white mist which turned into a strange animal in front of her. She screamed and then woke to find that she was safe in her own home.
✓ D) Jane was very frightened by the nightmare she had the other night in which she visited an old abandoned house and saw a ghost.
The whole paragraph describes a **nightmare**. In it, Jane was in a dark, broken, haunted house and saw a strange, ghost-like shape. She screamed and woke up safe at home. The other options treat the dream as real or add things the text doesn't say, such as screaming all night or a fear of the dark.

10. Many parents complain a great deal about the bad influences of television on the young. However, these are the same parents that don't seem to realize that what their children watch should be decided by them. It is the parents who are responsible for turning the program off if it isn't appropriate for their children.
✓ E) Parents should take the initiative to prevent their children from watching what they feel is not appropriate for them.
The main point comes after **However**: parents should decide what their children watch, and they are **responsible for** turning off unsuitable programs. So parents should take action themselves instead of just complaining. Not option 284: the paragraph is about what children watch, not how much.

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