ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Prepositions And Phrasal Verbs Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 10

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Explanations

1. Scientists are studying the birth and growth of thunderstorms to discover what causes the difference between showers that enable crops to _____ and violent storms that cause floods and erosion.
✔ **C) grow**
Gentle showers help plants, the opposite of **violent storms that cause floods**. So the crops must **grow**. **Wither**, **parch** and **decay** describe crops dying or drying out. **Multiply** is not used for crops getting bigger.

2. Low levels of hormones can cause a laundry list of health problems _____ fatigue, weight gain, and joint pain.
✔ **E) including**
Including introduces examples from a larger group. **Fatigue, weight gain, and joint pain** are examples from the **laundry list** (long list) of health problems. **Excluding** means the opposite, leaving these out.

3. In training, it is suggested that an instructor not lay a burden on an individual beyond his _____.
✔ **B) limit**
Beyond his limit means more than a person can manage. A good instructor should not give a learner more than he can handle. **Bearable** is an adjective, so it cannot follow **his** here.

4. Since the Song group is going to make a (an) _____ recording in the stadium tomorrow, almost everyone is thought to be there.
✔ **D) live**
A **live recording** (pronounced /laɪv/) is made while the performance is really happening in front of an audience. **Alive** cannot come before a noun. **Life** is a noun, not an adjective.

5. Alice Tyson has Xeroderma Pigmentosum, which means exposure _____ sunlight increases her risk _____ getting cancer or going blind.
✔ **E) to / of**
These are fixed prepositions: **exposure to** something and **the risk of** doing something. Example: **exposure to the sun**, **the risk of getting ill**.

6. It is claimed that there is a (an) _____ for every problem in a democracy.
✔ **B) remedy**
A **remedy** is a way of solving or curing a problem. The sentence uses the common pattern **a remedy for a problem**. **Obstacle** means a difficulty, not a solution. **Solute** is a chemistry term for a substance dissolved in a liquid.

7. The police put the _____ for the accident _____ the driver of the car.
✔ **B) blame / on**
The fixed phrase is **put the blame on someone**, meaning to say that someone is responsible for something bad. **Responsibility** would need **put the responsibility on**, not **for**. **Accuse** and **charge** are verbs and cannot follow **the**.

8. Many things around us have begun to change so quickly that we can't _____ them easily.
✔ **E) keep up with**
Keep up with means to move or progress at the same speed as something. The clue is **change so quickly**. Example: **It's hard to keep up with new technology. Look forward to** means to wait happily for something, which doesn't fit.

9. Mary is always seeing her doctor, for she doesn't care _____ her health at all.
✔ **B) about**
Care about something means to think it is important and pay attention to it. Mary doesn't care about her health, so she keeps getting ill and has to see her doctor. **Care of** and **care in** are not correct patterns.

10. With the 1969 film The Learning Tree, Gordon Parks proved what a truly _____ artist he was: he not only directed the film and composed its musical score, but also adapted its screenplay from his own novel.
✔ **B) protean**
Protean means versatile, able to do many different things or take many forms. The colon introduces the proof: Parks directed the film, composed its score and wrote its screenplay. **Lauded** (praised) does not match the evidence of many different skills. **Complacent**, **clairvoyant** and **harried** are unrelated.

11. The actor's _____ decline in popularity was as striking and unexpected as his meteoric rise to prominence had been.
✔ **C) precipitous**
Precipitous means very steep and sudden, like a fall from a cliff. It pairs with **meteoric rise**, and the decline was **striking and unexpected**. **Gradual** and **inevitable** contradict **unexpected**. A **negligible** decline would not be **striking**.

12. In denying the convicted felon's request for a retrial, the judge explained that the evidence demonstrating the man's guilt was _____.
✔ **C) incontrovertible**
Incontrovertible means impossible to argue against or deny. The judge refused a retrial because the proof of guilt was beyond doubt. **Exculpatory** evidence shows that someone is innocent, which would support a retrial. **Debatable** has the same problem.

13. Although Rolf is usually quite _____, he was so angered by the salesman's rude remarks that he insisted on complaining to the manager.
✔ **B) timorous**
Although signals a contrast with his bold complaint, so Rolf must usually be fearful and shy. **Timorous** means exactly this: timid and easily frightened. **Plucky** and **valiant** mean brave. **Irascible** and **cantankerous** mean bad-tempered. None of these contrasts with his complaining.

14. Scientists have discovered that our sense of smell is surprisingly _____, capable of distinguishing thousands of chemical odours.
✔ **D) keen**
A **keen** sense is sharp and sensitive. The clue is **capable of distinguishing thousands of chemical odours**. **Faulty** and **rigid** suggest weakness, which contradicts the clue.

15. The ballet stage is a bright, seemingly weightless world where gravity is continually being _____ by the dancers.
✔ **E) defied**
To **defy** gravity is to seem to resist or overcome it. The clue is the **seemingly weightless world** that dancers create. The other verbs do not collocate with **gravity** in this sense.

16. To Judith, travelling was _____; her sister, however, looked upon each trip as an interminable experience.
✔ **C) exhilarating**
However shows that Judith's view is the opposite of her sister's. The sister found trips **interminable** (endless and boring). So Judith found travelling **exhilarating**: very exciting and thrilling. **Tiring** and **monotonous** would agree with the sister, not contrast with her.

17. Many of the misconceptions about Queen Victoria were created by those who _____ her most; in their efforts to depict her as a model of all virtues, they lost sight of the real woman.
✔ **D) admired**
These people tried to depict Victoria as **a model of all virtues**, so they must have **admired** her greatly; their admiration led them to lose sight of the real woman. **Censured** (strongly criticised) and **ignored** contradict this. Not **impressed**: **those who impressed her** would mean that they made Victoria admire them, which is the wrong direction.

18. Stem cells may turn out to be a/an _____ alternative to animal testing.
✔ **D) promising**
Promising means likely to be successful or useful in the future. It fits the uncertainty in **may turn out to be**. Example: **a promising new treatment**. **Pensive** (thoughtful) and **luminous** (shining) do not describe an alternative.

19. The archaeologist enjoyed the _____ life she led while gathering artefacts; she never stayed at any one site long enough to get bored.
✔ **B) nomadic**
Nomadic means moving from place to place without settling. The clue is **she never stayed at any one site long enough to get bored**. **Rustic** means simple and country-like, and **stealthy** means secret and quiet.

20. Professor Chen believes that the universal character of art refutes the prevailing notion that art is a _____ of civilization, a cultural frill, a social veneer.
✔ **D) luxury**
The gap is restated by **a cultural frill, a social veneer**: something extra and unnecessary. A **luxury** is exactly that. Since art is universal, the professor argues it is essential, not a luxury. **Hallmark** (typical feature) does not match the idea of a frill.

21. The fact that MTV, the cable channel devoted primarily to music, provided extensive coverage of the 1992 presidential race demonstrates how _____ politics and popular music culture have become.
✔ **C) interrelated**
A music channel covering a presidential race shows that politics and pop culture have become **interrelated**: closely connected to each other. **Permeated** needs an object (**permeated by/with**), and **contradictory** gives the opposite idea.

22. Joe Louis was a (an) _____ fighter: he inspired fear in many of his opponents.
✔ **E) redoubtable**
Redoubtable means formidable, inspiring fear or respect. The colon explains it: **he inspired fear in many of his opponents**. **Impetuous** (acting rashly) and **serene** (calm) do not explain the fear.

23. According to the company spokesperson, the majority of the wrongful termination lawsuits filed against the company were frivolous, representing bogus claims made by _____ former employees hoping to strike it rich.
✔ **A) disgruntled**
Disgruntled means angry and dissatisfied, typically about how one has been treated. Employees who were fired and then filed bogus lawsuits fit this description, and **disgruntled former employees** is a very common collocation. **Contented** and **loyal** contradict the idea of filing false claims against the company.

24. The rumour was of the _____ variety, spreading slowly and almost imperceptibly until, finally, everyone seemed to have heard the story.
✔ **C) insidious**
Insidious describes something harmful that spreads gradually and unnoticed. The clue is **spreading slowly and almost imperceptibly**. **Manifest** (obvious) and **expeditious** (quick) contradict this. **Dilatory** means slow through delay or laziness and does not suggest hidden spreading.

25. Wynton Marsalis _____ as one of the great trumpeters of the late twentieth century, winning Grammy awards for both his jazz and classical works.
✔ **A) emerged**
Emerge as means to become known or recognised as something. Example: **She emerged as the clear winner. Settled** and **occurred** do not combine with **as one of the great trumpeters** in this meaning.