ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Prepositions And Phrasal Verbs Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 2

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Explanations

1. From now on, I will _____ all my time and energy to the solution of this particular problem because everybody is passionately interested in it.
✔ **E) devote**
Devote something **to** something means to give all of it (time, energy, money) to one purpose: **She devoted her life to teaching.** The preposition **to** after the gap is the clue. **Attain** (reach a goal) and **adopt** (take up an idea) don't take 'time and energy to'.

2. Each computer produced is _____ before it's passed for sale in the manufacturing period. If any fault is noticed, that computer is put aside.
✔ **D) examined**
To **examine** something is to look at it carefully to check its condition. The second sentence says faulty computers are put aside, so every computer is checked before sale. **Eliminated** and **destroyed** would mean no computer is ever sold.

3. A dishwasher is an important labour-saving _____ for a busy household.
✔ **C) device**
A **device** is a machine or tool made for a particular job, and **labour-saving device** is a fixed collocation: **A washing machine is a labour-saving device.** **Instrument** is used for precise tools (**musical/surgical instrument**), and **engine** is the part of a vehicle that makes it move.

4. A / An _____ parent may spoil a child by creating an artificial atmosphere of leniency.
✔ **E) indulgent**
An **indulgent** parent lets a child have or do whatever they want, so the child is spoilt. The clues are **spoil** and **leniency** (being too soft about rules). **Mean** and **aggressive** describe the opposite, a harsh parent.

5. We suffered many casualties during the unexpected _____ of the enemy troops.
✔ **A) onslaught**
An **onslaught** is a sudden, fierce attack: **the onslaught of the enemy troops**. The words **casualties** (people killed or hurt) and **unexpected** support this meaning. Not **ordeal**: an ordeal is a very unpleasant experience that you suffer, not an attack carried out by the enemy.

6. I spoke to her, but she was too _____ to hear what I said.
✔ **B) preoccupied**
Preoccupied means thinking so much about something else that you don't notice what is happening around you: **He was too preoccupied with his problems to listen.** The pattern **too + adjective + to** shows she couldn't hear. **Attentive** means the opposite, listening carefully.

7. Gemmy studied the report _____ because she knew she would have to answer the questions on it.
✔ **C) thoroughly**
Thoroughly means carefully and completely, paying attention to every detail. She had to answer questions on the report, so she read it in detail. **Finally** and **eventually** only say when she studied it, not how.

8. The police thought that the evidence would give them the _____ to guess where the robbers were.
✔ **A) opportunity**
Give someone the opportunity to do something means make it possible for them to do it. The evidence would make it possible for the police to work out where the robbers were. **Interpretation** is an explanation of meaning and doesn't fit **give them the ___ to guess**.

9. Despite his being a teenager, he acts as _____ as an adult.
✔ **D) maturely**
Maturely means in a sensible, grown-up way. **Despite** shows a contrast: although he is only a teenager, he behaves like an adult. **Childishly** and **naively** would not create a contrast with 'teenager'.

10. The inspector _____ from the suspect's anxious behaviour that he was hiding something.
✔ **B) concluded**
Conclude something from something means to decide that something is true after looking at the evidence. The inspector used the suspect's nervous behaviour as evidence. **Concealed** means hid, which is what the suspect did, not the inspector.

11. Do not attempt to increase your stature by _____ the efforts of your opponents.
✔ **A) decrying**
To **decry** something is to criticise it strongly and say it is worthless: **Critics decried the new law.** The advice is not to make yourself look bigger (**increase your stature**) by belittling your opponents. **Deducing** means working something out from evidence.

12. He was _____ in his determination to punish the wrongdoer and he never gave up this rigid manner.
✔ **C) adamant**
Adamant means firmly refusing to change your opinion or decision. The clues are **never gave up** and **rigid manner**. **Flexible** and **easy-going** mean the opposite, and **indifferent** means not caring.

13. _____ researchers always pay attention to details when they carry out research.
✔ **D) Conscientious**
Conscientious means careful and hard-working, wanting to do a job well and correctly. Paying attention to details describes exactly this quality. **Clever** and **intellectual** describe intelligence, not carefulness.

14. I'm afraid that this border raid is the _____ to more serious attacks.
✔ **A) prelude**
A **prelude to** something is an event that comes before a more important one and introduces it: **The talks were a prelude to a peace deal.** The raid is expected to come before more serious attacks. **End** would say the opposite.

15. When his boss was shouting at him, Tim opened his mouth to speak _____ but got no further.
✔ **C) angrily**
Angrily describes how Tim wanted to speak: his boss was shouting at him, so he wanted to answer back in anger, but he didn't manage to say anything. **Tolerantly** (patiently accepting) doesn't fit someone who is being shouted at and wants to reply.

16. I really don't understand why speaking in front of the public _____ me so much.
✔ **D) bothers**
Bother means to worry or upset someone: **Does the noise bother you?** Public speaking makes the speaker nervous. **Rises** is intransitive and can't take an object like **me**.

17. She began to take archaeology _____ only when she left college.
✔ **A) seriously**
Take something seriously is a fixed phrase meaning to treat it as important and give it real attention. She became truly interested in archaeology only after college. **Carefully** and **strictly** don't combine with **take** in this sense.

18. Since Mrs Dawson parked her car _____ yesterday, she was fined £10.
✔ **D) illegally**
Illegally means against the law. **Since** here means **because**: she was fined because she parked where it was not allowed. **Previously** adds nothing to **yesterday** and doesn't explain the fine.

19. The book that I had been reading had a rather _____ end, unlike its great start.
✔ **C) disappointing**
Disappointing means not as good as you hoped. **Unlike its great start** shows a contrast, so the end was bad. **Striking** means impressive and would not contrast with a great start.

20. Just _____ my old telephone number and write down the new one, please.
✔ **D) cross out**
Cross out means to draw a line through a word or number to show it is wrong: **Cross out the mistakes.** You remove the old number and write the new one. **Look after** means take care of, and **stand for** means represent.

21. All of the people in our factory are fed up with the new manager as he is _____ making complaints.
✔ **E) invariably**
Invariably means always, every time. People are fed up because the manager complains constantly; the continuous form **is … making** also shows a repeated, annoying habit. **Possibly** would not explain why everyone is fed up.

22. Because of an attack by a shark, the beach was declared to be a danger _____.
✔ **E) zone**
A **danger zone** is an area where it is not safe to be. After the shark attack, the beach was officially called unsafe. The other words don't form a phrase with **danger**.

23. The twins are often _____ with each other.
✔ **B) confused**
Be confused with someone means people think you are that other person by mistake. Twins look alike, so people often mix them up. **Related** is true of twins but is not used with **with each other** in this way.

24. _____ as she was, she had no intention of waiting for 3 hours.
✔ **C) Patient**
The structure **Adjective + as + subject + verb** means **although**: **Patient as she was** = **Although she was patient**. Even a patient person would not wait three hours, so there is a contrast. **Stubborn** gives no contrast with refusing to wait.

25. The _____ baby was found in a box on the hospital stairs.
✔ **A) abandoned**
Abandoned means left alone by someone who should look after it: **an abandoned dog**. A baby left in a box on the stairs was abandoned. **Liar** is a noun, and the other adjectives don't describe a baby.