ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Prepositions And Phrasal Verbs Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 4

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Explanations

1. Punctual people always _____ being a little early for their appointments.
✔ **B) make a point of**
Make a point of doing something means to do it deliberately because you think it is important: **She makes a point of thanking everyone.** Punctual people choose to arrive early. Not **go through with**, which means to complete something difficult or unpleasant that you had planned.

2. He was taken to the police station and _____ with dangerous driving.
✔ **D) charged**
The police **charge** someone **with** a crime: they formally accuse them so the case can go to court. Not **accused**, which takes **of** (**accused of dangerous driving**), and **arrested** takes **for**.

3. One of the earlier philosophers accepted the belief that reality is eternal but also stated that it's made up of chance combinations of the four primal _____: fire, air, earth and water.
✔ **E) elements**
In ancient Greek philosophy, fire, air, earth and water were called the four **elements**: the basic substances everything was thought to be made of. The other options do not describe basic substances: **devices** are tools, **deceptions** are tricks, **concessions** are things given up in a deal, and **indications** are signs.

4. The jury found him "not guilty", so he was _____ cleared of the charges. Now, he is a free man.
✔ **A) completely**
A verdict of **not guilty** clears a person of all the charges, so he was **completely** cleared, and the sentence says he is now free. Not **partially**, which would mean some charges remained.

5. He has spent a large _____ of money on the repairs of his new house.
✔ **E) amount**
Money is uncountable, so we say **a large amount of money**. Not **number**, which is used with countable plurals: **a large number of coins**.

6. In the last World Cup, there were a lot of formidable _____ for the top, but next year I believe I will win a medal.
✔ **A) rivals**
Rivals are people competing against you for the same goal, here the top place. **Formidable rivals** are strong, hard-to-beat competitors. Not **antagonists**, which suggests hostility or an enemy, not sporting competition.

7. The main _____ for going to university is to get a good education.
✔ **C) reason**
The reason for doing something explains why you do it: **The main reason for going to university is…** Not **advantage**, which describes a benefit, and **advantage of** would be the natural phrase.

8. Since her childhood, she has suffered from a speech _____, and therefore she can't pronounce the sound "s" properly.
✔ **E) defect**
A **speech defect** is a physical or developmental problem that affects how someone speaks, such as being unable to pronounce certain sounds. Not **mistake** or **error**, which are single wrong actions, not a lasting condition.

9. Be careful! Don't break or open that bottle! It _____ poisonous gas!
✔ **D) contains**
Contain means to have something inside: the bottle **contains** poisonous gas, so breaking or opening it would let the gas out. Not **produces**, because a bottle holds the gas; it does not make it.

10. We can live without clothes, but food and drink are _____ to life.
✔ **B) essential**
Essential to life means absolutely necessary for staying alive. The contrast with **we can live without clothes** shows that food and drink are necessary. **Unnecessary** and **insignificant** mean the opposite.

11. Last Saturday, it was raining so _____ that we couldn't go out shopping.
✔ **E) heavily**
The usual collocation is **rain heavily**, meaning a lot of rain falls. Not **extremely**, which modifies adjectives and adverbs (**extremely heavy**), not the verb **rain** on its own.

12. All the people in my company are very honest; they _____ all the offers of bribes _____.
✔ **D) turn / down**
Turn down means to refuse or reject an offer: **turn all the offers down**. It is separable, so the object can go between **turn** and **down**. Honest people refuse bribes. Not **write off**, which means to treat something as lost or worthless.

13. The president remained _____ to his promises.
✔ **C) steadfast**
Steadfast means firm and loyal, not changing your position, so someone who **remained steadfast to his promises** kept them. Not **stable**, which describes a steady condition, not loyalty to promises. **Cordial** means friendly, and **stealthy** means secret and quiet.

14. It is a good idea to _____ a little money for your old age.
✔ **A) put by**
Put by means to save money for the future: **She puts a little by every month.** Not **live on**, which means to use money to pay for everyday needs.

15. Columbus wanted to go to India, but he _____ in America instead.
✔ **B) ended up**
End up means to finally arrive somewhere or in a situation you did not plan. Columbus planned to reach India but reached America instead. Not **held out**, which means to resist or last.

16. My sister's hair turned grey _____. She was only in her 30s.
✔ **C) prematurely**
Prematurely means earlier than normal. The clue **She was only in her 30s** shows that her hair went grey too early. **Turn grey prematurely** and **prematurely grey** are fixed collocations. Not **terminally**, which relates to a deadly illness.

17. Travellers without the correct documents are sometimes _____ at the border for a day or two before they are allowed entry.
✔ **D) detained**
Detain means to keep someone officially in a place and not let them leave, usually while their case is checked. Not **condemned**, which means strongly criticised or sentenced to punishment.

18. The farmers of this region have built their own canals to _____ the dry land.
✔ **E) irrigate**
Irrigate means to supply land with water through canals or pipes so crops can grow. The clue is the canals and the dry land. Not **irritate**, a similar-looking word meaning to annoy.

19. If our planning is successful, we may _____ the drawbacks.
✔ **A) eliminate**
Eliminate means to remove something completely, so good planning can **eliminate the drawbacks** (the disadvantages). Not **incur**, which means to bring something bad on yourself (**incur costs**), the opposite of the meaning here.

20. There are so many facts to support it that the validity of his theory is _____.
✔ **C) undeniable**
Undeniable means so clearly true that nobody can argue against it. The clue is that **so many facts support it**. **Doubtful** and **dubious** mean the opposite.

21. Her parents let her do anything she likes, so she's completely _____.
✔ **B) spoilt**
A **spoilt** (US **spoiled**) child has been allowed to do or have whatever they want, so they behave badly. **Injured**, **wounded** and **destroyed** describe physical damage, not character.

22. Tea is _____ grown in most parts of the Black Sea Region.
✔ **E) extensively**
Extensively means over a large area or to a great degree, which matches tea being grown **in most parts** of the region. Not **eventually**, which means 'in the end, after some time'.

23. She has been asked to _____ a report on our exports to India.
✔ **A) draw up**
Draw up means to prepare and write a document such as a report, contract or plan: **draw up a contract**. Not **deal in**, which means to buy and sell a type of goods.

24. The ministry declared that the movement of heavy loads would be _____ to the railways.
✔ **B) restricted**
Be restricted to means to be limited to only one thing, so heavy loads may travel only by rail. Only **restricted** fits the pattern **be ___ to**. **Cancelled** and **withdrawn** cannot be followed by **to** with this meaning, and **conflicted** is not used like this.

25. I really doubt if I can _____ that huge house with a swimming pool.
✔ **C) afford**
Afford means to have enough money to pay for something. A huge house with a swimming pool is expensive, so the speaker doubts he can pay for it. Not **bargain**, which means to argue about a price and is normally followed by **for** or **with**.

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