ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Rational or Rationale Quiz: 20 Questions with Answers

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Explanations

1. It was a calm, ___ decision, made after weeks of thought.
✔ **B) rational**
Before the noun decision we need the adjective rational, meaning sensible.

2. Can you explain the ___ behind the new timetable?
✔ **B) rationale**
The rationale behind something is the reasons for it, so we need the noun.

3. Try to think ___ and not panic.
✔ **D) rationally**
After the verb think we need the adverb rationally.

4. She knows the spiders here are harmless, so her fear of them is ___.
✔ **C) irrational**
The spiders are harmless, so the fear is not based on reason: it is irrational.

5. The ___ for closing the road was to keep pupils safe.
✔ **C) rationale**
The rationale for something is the reason for it. It is a noun, with a final e.

6. In maths, numbers such as 3/4 and −5 are called ___ numbers, because they can be written as fractions.
✔ **D) rational**
In maths, a rational number can be written as a fraction. Irrational numbers, such as π, cannot.

7. After losing the match, he tried to ___ it by blaming the wind.
✔ **B) rationalise**
To rationalise is to give reasons that sound good but are not the real ones. American English spells it rationalize.

8. Humans are often described as ___ beings, able to think things through.
✔ **C) rational**
Before the noun beings we need the adjective rational.

9. The report sets out a clear ___ for the extra funding.
✔ **B) rationale**
After a clear and before for, we need a noun: the reasons, so rationale.

10. The number π cannot be written as a fraction, so it is ___.
✔ **A) irrational**
A number that cannot be written as a fraction of two whole numbers is irrational.

11. Let's look at the problem calmly and ___.
✔ **A) rationally**
Calmly is an adverb, and the word and joins it to another adverb: rationally.

12. To save money, the company ___ its delivery routes and closed two depots.
✔ **C) rationalised**
In business, to rationalise is to make something more efficient. We need the past form, rationalised.

13. Each team must write a short ___ for its project.
✔ **A) rationale**
A short rationale is a short explanation of the reasons. Rational is an adjective and cannot be the thing you write.

14. Is it ___ to spend all your savings on one holiday?
✔ **A) rational**
After is it, we need an adjective: is it sensible? So rational.

15. The ___ for both decisions are explained at the end of the report.
✔ **D) rationales**
The verb are and both decisions tell us we need a plural noun: rationales.

16. There must be some ___ explanation for the strange noise in the attic.
✔ **A) rational**
A rational explanation is a sensible, logical one. Before the noun explanation we need the adjective.

17. The ___ is that smaller classes give each pupil more time with the teacher.
✔ **C) rationale**
The rationale is that ... introduces the reason for a plan. It is the noun, with a final e.

18. The shop sells good shoes at a very ___ price.
✔ **D) reasonable**
A fair, acceptable price is a reasonable price. Rational is about clear, logical thinking, not about prices.

19. The ___ of the factory led to two hundred job losses.
✔ **B) rationalisation**
Rationalisation is the noun from rationalise: making a business more efficient, often by cutting staff.

20. In maths, to ___ the denominator means to remove a square root from the bottom of a fraction.
✔ **B) rationalise**
After to we need a verb. Rationalise the denominator is a maths phrase. American English spells it rationalize.