ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Reading Comprehension Multiple Choice Questions Exercise 2

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Explanations

1. On the day of the recital, the music teacher ____.
✓ **A) advised the writer to put cabbages in the room where he practised and play for them**
The passage says: **my piano teacher told me to place several cabbages in the room where I practised**, and the writer then played to an audience of cabbages. The text never says the teacher was nervous or impatient, or that the teacher told him not to look at the audience.

2. The writer stopped feeling nervous ____.
✓ **E) when he found he couldn't see the audience**
He was still very nervous before the recital. On stage he **couldn't see anyone** in the dark audience, and **as I sat down to play, my hands relaxed**. Not **when the audience began to applaud**: the applause came at the end, after he had already relaxed.

3. In the passage, it is explained that ____.
✓ **C) the writer finally began to relax just before he began his recital**
The writer relaxed **as I sat down to play**, which is just before he began his pieces. Not **the room was so cold**: his hands **felt like ice** because he was nervous, not because the room was cold.

4. As it is pointed out in the passage, mountaineering is a sport ____.
✓ **A) in which nobody wins and nobody loses**
The first sentence says mountaineering **is a sport without winners and without losers**, so nobody wins and nobody loses. Not **can be enjoyed anywhere**: the writer says you should go to **a really good mountain country**.

5. When climbing, one must ____.
✓ **B) be careful to check that new holds are safe before leaving old ones**
One of the three things that matter is: **don't leave the holds you have until you have tested new ones**. In other words, check that a new hold is safe before you let go of the old one. Not **never look back**: the passage tells you to **look up frequently**, but it never says you should not look back.

6. The passage emphasises the fact that ____.
✓ **D) one climber should always help another**
The last rule in the passage is: **do all you can to help those climbing with you**, so climbers should always help one another. Not **the techniques of climbing are of great importance**: the writer says technique matters very little.

7. It is suggested in the passage that the modern child ____.
✓ **B) suffers from boredom in spite of all the toys**
The last sentence says that **the boredom of having everything ready-made** gives modern children a constant desire for something new. So modern children get bored even though they have so many toys. Not **is well able to amuse himself**: that describes the Victorian child, who **made his own fun**.

8. According to the passage, ____.
✓ **C) home-made toys give more pleasure than ready-made ones**
The passage contrasts the Victorian child, who **made his own fun** from cheap materials, with the modern child, who gets bored by ready-made toys. This suggests that home-made toys give more pleasure. Not **there was a constant desire for something new**: the passage gives this desire to modern children (**leads**, present tense), not to children in the past.

9. The passage emphasizes ____.
✓ **E) the difference between a Victorian childhood and a present-day one**
The whole passage compares two periods: the simple toys of **the Victorian era** and the huge variety of toys **nowadays**. So its main point is the difference between a Victorian childhood and a present-day one. Not **how lucky the modern child is**: the writer stresses the modern child's boredom, not his luck.

10. When the Daily Mail offered a prize in 1913 for flying across the Atlantic, ____.
✓ **D) almost no one believed it was possible to do this within the next ten years**
Most people were not impressed, most scientists said it could not be done, and only **a very few enthusiasts** thought it might be possible ten years later. So almost no one believed it could be done within ten years. Not **the majority of scientists thought it could be done**: the passage says they thought it could **not** be done.

11. The £10,000 prize offered by the Daily Mail in 1913 ____.
✓ **D) was received even earlier than some enthusiasts expected**
The enthusiasts expected a successful flight ten years later, but **a pilot received the prize just six years later**. So the prize was won earlier than even they expected. Not **was won ten years later**: ten years was only the enthusiasts' guess.

12. The passage points out that _____.
✓ A) before the Atlantic could be crossed by plane, many factors had to be considered
The passage says **the problems involved were many and far-ranging**. It lists the design of the aeroplane, the skill and courage of the pilot and navigator, and the weather. Not **weather conditions were favourable**: the passage only says the weather **had to be taken into consideration**.

13. It is a mistake to assume that "educational" programmes on television are likely to be boring. In fact, as long as these programmes are made in a rich and creative manner, there is no doubt that they can and do draw the attention of people, especially young people. Perhaps some of the best examples of successful educational programmes are those which deal, for instance, with ancient historical sites, environmental problems, wildlife, geography, or the strange world at the bottom of the sea.

In the passage, the term "wildlife" _____.
✓ B) refers to animals, birds and other living beings in nature
Wildlife means animals, birds and other living things that live freely in nature, for example *a TV programme about African wildlife*. In the passage, wildlife is one of the topics of successful educational programmes, together with geography and the sea bottom.

14. Some people seem to think that _____.
✓ C) educational programmes on television are of little interest
The passage begins: **It is a mistake to assume that "educational" programmes on television are likely to be boring.** So some people think these programmes are boring, or of little interest. The writer disagrees with them.

15. In the passage, it is emphasized that a good educational programme _____.

✓ E) is one that is made creatively and contains a great deal of interesting material
The writer says these programmes attract people **as long as these programmes are made in a rich and creative manner**. So a good programme is made creatively and contains interesting material. Not **can contribute a great deal to people's awareness of environmental problems**: environmental problems are only one example of a topic, not the main point.

16. Nowadays, in England, tea is quite the most popular and also the cheapest of all drinks. People drink their tea in different ways. Some like it with sugar, some without. Some drink it with milk, some with lemon; yet, one way or another, just about everyone drinks tea. This, however, has not always been the case. During the last century, when tea was very expensive, it was kept locked up and the lady of the house had the key. Tea drinking then was quite a ceremony, reserved for the evenings. At breakfast, everyone drank beer!

Compared with the past, in England today _____.
✓ C) tea is very cheap and commonly available
The first sentence says tea is now **the most popular and also the cheapest of all drinks**, and **just about everyone drinks tea**. Not **tea is regarded as a luxury**: that was true in the past, when tea was expensive and kept locked up.

17. It is obvious from the passage that _____.
✓ B) over the years, the popularity of tea in England has increased tremendously
In the past, tea was expensive, kept locked up and drunk only in the evenings. Today **just about everyone drinks tea**. This shows that tea has become far more popular over the years. Not **like tea, beer also is an extremely popular drink**: beer is only mentioned as a breakfast drink of the past.

18. In the passage, it is explained that _____.
✓ A) in England today people have different habits of tea drinking
The passage says **People drink their tea in different ways**: with or without sugar, with milk or with lemon. Not **at breakfast, English people also like to drink beer**: the beer at breakfast belongs to the past (**everyone drank beer**), not to today.

19. The first thing Elizabeth noticed about Jane when they met at the station was _____.
✓ D) her smile that had not changed
The last sentence says Jane was smiling **with the old, unforgettable smile, quite unchanged**. So the first thing Elizabeth noticed was that Jane's smile had not changed. Not **that she had not forgotten how to smile**: the point is that the smile was the same as before, not that she still knew how to smile.

20. Elizabeth's friendship with Jane _____.
✓ A) went back to their university years
The two women **shared a flat together for 2 years** while at the university, so their friendship goes back to their university years. Not **lasted only for two years**: they are still friends, because Jane is coming to stay for the weekend.

21. Elizabeth is worried _____.
✓ E) in case, after a separation of so many years, they may both fail to recognize each other
Elizabeth asks herself: **Will we even be able to recognize each other after all these years?** They have not seen each other for 15 years. Not the option about Jane's husband: Elizabeth's worry is about the two women recognizing each other, not about him.