ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Reading Comprehension Passage 01 MCQ Test With Answers – RURAL WORLD NOW AN URBAN ONE

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1	**C**	2	**B**	3	**A**	4	**B**	5	**D**										

Explanations

1. ***In 1950, Shanghai***
✓ C) had a population of no less than five million.
Paragraph 1 says that in 1950 Shanghai was the only Third World city with **a full five million** people, so it had **no less than five million**. It was not the only such city in the whole world, because the passage talks only about Third World cities.

2. ***By the year 2005,***
✓ B) conditions will be much worse in the Third World than they are today.
The passage predicts **no less than forty-five supercities** in the poorer half of the world by 2005, and paragraph 4 says life in such cities is **compressed and miserable**. So conditions in the Third World will be **much worse** than today. Not 'forty-five supercities in the world': the passage says **at least** forty-five, and only in the poorer half of the world.

3. ***By 2005, Mexico City will***
✓ A) be just ahead of, and closely followed by, Sao Paulo.
Paragraph 3 says Mexico City will reach **twenty-six million** by 2005 and Sao Paulo will be **right behind** at twenty-four million. So Mexico City will be just ahead of Sao Paulo. Not 'between Tokyo and Sao Paulo', because Mexico City is already **ahead of Tokyo**.

4. ***Life in such metropolitan areas***
✓ B) cannot be argued to lead to much happiness.
Paragraph 4 describes life in these huge cities as **compressed and miserable**, so it clearly does not bring much happiness. Not 'compressed into a single square mile': the passage only says up to two to three hundred thousand people live in **every** square mile.

5. ***The closing statement means:***
✓ D) Zero population growth is obviously desirable from the viewpoint of the urbanologist quoted in the passage.
The urbanologist warns that, **before zero population growth is achieved**, cities could become like **insect colonies**. This warning shows that he sees zero population growth as **desirable**. Not the option about 'one hundred years, whatever the conditions': he says stabilization is **virtually a century away**, which is an estimate, not a fixed rule.

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