ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Reading Comprehension MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 12

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Explanations

1. People these days are paying more attention _____.
✓ **A) to their health**
The passage says that **health considerations** play a major part in food choices. People want to keep their **health, vitality, and proper weight**, so they are paying more attention to their health.

2. Five-course meals are _____.
✓ **A) not very practical for the modern family**
The passage says the **astronomical prices** of gourmet, five-course meals have made them **impractical for most families**. Not **easily prepared in limited time**: the passage says people have little time to cook, which works against such meals.

3. Modern families prefer _____.
✓ **A) low cost, fresh foods**
The passage says elaborate dishes are being replaced by **simple, low-cost foods**. It also says **fresh, low-cost, locally available ingredients** make more sense for families today. Not **gourmet foods**: these are described as too expensive.

4. The rose is the first thing that comes to mind for most people when they hear the word 'flower'. The rose has been known throughout the Northern Hemisphere as far back as literature records. The name for the rose is almost the same in every European language. However, Europeans are not the only people to have given this flower importance. Writers and poets of ancient civilisations such as the Persians and Chinese also praised the flower. Dried roses have even been found in Egyptian tombs.

The rose _____.
✓ **D) has been treasured by many different civilizations**
The passage says the rose was important to Europeans. It was also praised by Persian and Chinese writers, and dried roses were found in Egyptian tombs. So the rose has been **treasured by many different civilizations**. Not **has been written about on Egyptian tombs**: the passage says dried roses were **found in** tombs, not written about.

5. We know that ancient civilizations prized the rose because _____.
✓ **E) it is referred to in the earliest forms of literature**
The passage says the rose has been known **as far back as literature records**. So it appears in the earliest writing we have, which shows that ancient peoples valued it. The passage never mentions Persian gardens or paintings on tombs: it mentions **dried roses** found in Egyptian tombs.

6. The best TITLE for this passage is _____.
✓ **C) The Universal Flower**
The passage shows that the rose is known and loved almost everywhere and in every age. It names many countries, languages and ancient civilisations, so **The Universal Flower** covers the whole text. **Literature and Roses** and **The Ancients and the Rose** each describe only one part of it.

7. Good students usually have good study habits and know how to plan their time efficiently. Some find it helpful to draw up a five- or six-day programme each week and plan what they will do and when. Of course, one cannot always stick to such a plan; unexpected things often happen, but even the making of such a plan forces us to think about what we ought to do during the week, and this is the first step towards doing it.

A weekly study programme can be very useful _____.
✓ **D) even if one doesn't keep to it exactly**
The passage says **one cannot always stick to such a plan**, but **even the making of such a plan** makes us think about what we ought to do. So the plan is useful **even if one doesn't keep to it exactly**. Not **after good study habits have been established**: the passage never says the plan only helps after good habits are formed.

8. Good students _____.
✓ **C) owe their success to good study habits and careful planning of their time**
The first sentence says good students **have good study habits and know how to plan their time efficiently**. Their success comes from these habits and from careful planning.

9. One advantage of drawing up a work plan for the week is that _____.
✓ **D) it reminds us of what we have to do during the week**
The passage says making a plan **forces us to think about what we ought to do during the week**. In other words, it reminds us of our tasks. Not **unexpected problems can be avoided**: the passage says unexpected things often happen anyway.

10. The passage suggests that it is inadvisable for one to _____.
✓ **B) drink more than two cups of coffee a day**
Inadvisable means not a good idea. The passage says **more than two cups of coffee a day** can cause nervousness, stomach pain and insomnia. It does not say that all tea, coffee or cocoa should be avoided.

11. Caffeine and other similar stimulants ____.
✓ A) can produce certain unpleasant side effects if large doses are taken
The passage says caffeine in **reasonable amounts** may help people work better. However, **excessive quantities** cause unpleasant side effects. So the side effects come from large doses. Not **always have a negative effect**: small amounts can be helpful.

12. The passage points out that many people begin the day with two cups of coffee ____.
✓ B) because by doing so, they soon feel wide awake
The passage says people drink two cups of coffee **and the feelings of fatigue disappear**. In other words, they soon feel wide awake. The passage does not compare the caffeine in coffee and tea, and it does not mention alcohol.

13. It is obvious from the passage that the art of paper-making in Japan ____.
✓ E) has a long history
The passage says paper has been an art subject **for many hundreds of years**. It also says paper-making towns existed **a thousand years ago**. So the art clearly has a long history. Not **has disappeared**: such towns **still exist today**.

14. The passage emphasizes that approximately fifty per cent of the farming population in Japan ____.
✓ C) engages in a secondary occupation in the winter
The passage says **about half of Japan's farmers must supplement their incomes with winter jobs**. This means they have a second job, or **secondary occupation**, in winter. Not **plans to give up farming**: construction is only mentioned as a winter job.

15. It is suggested that paper-making ____.
✓ B) is still one of Japan's cottage industries
The last sentence says some farmers **continue to work in such cottage industries as paper-making**. So paper-making is still a cottage industry, which is small-scale work done at home. Not **encouraged the development of poetry**: the passage only says the paper was considered as important as the poem.

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