ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Reading Comprehension MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 03

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Explanations

1. **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
The passage says **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 happen within ten years. Not **the majority of scientists thought it could be done**: the passage says the opposite.

2. **The 10,000 pounds prize offered by the Daily Mail in 1913 _____.**
✓ D) was received even earlier than some enthusiasts expected
A few enthusiasts thought the flight might be possible **ten years later**, but **a pilot received the prize just six years later**. So the prize was won earlier than they expected. Not **was won ten years later**: that was only the enthusiasts' guess, and they **were wrong**.

3. **The passage points out that _____.**
✓ A) before the Atlantic could be crossed by plane many factors had to be considered
The passage lists many problems: the **design of the aeroplane**, the **skill and courage** of the pilot and navigator, and the **weather conditions**. So many factors had to be considered before the crossing. The other options (the prize's value, the day's weather, the Daily Mail's opinion) are not mentioned.

4. It is a mistake to assume that “educational” programs on television are likely to be boring. In fact, as long as these programs 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 programs 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 in their natural environment, e.g. **a TV programme about African wildlife**. In the passage it appears in a list of nature topics, next to **environmental problems** and **the world at the bottom of the sea**.

5. **Some people seem to think that _____.**
✓ C) educational programs on television are of little interest
The passage begins: **It is a mistake to assume that "educational" programs on television are likely to be boring.** This shows that some people think these programs are of little interest. The other options are not mentioned in the passage.

6. **In the passage, it is emphasized that a good educational program _____.**
✓ E) is one which is made creatively and contains a great deal of interesting material
The passage says educational programs attract people **as long as these programs are made in a rich and creative manner**. So a good program is made creatively and has interesting content. Not **environmental problems**: this is only one example of a topic, not the main point.

7. 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 passage says tea is now **the most popular, and also the cheapest, of all drinks** and that **just about everyone drinks tea**. In the past it was **very expensive** and kept locked up. Not **tea is regarded as a luxury**: that was true in the past, not today.

8. **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 and drunk only in the evenings, while **everyone drank beer** at breakfast. Today **just about everyone drinks tea**. So tea has become much more popular over the years. Not **have always regarded tea as better than beer**: the passage says **this has not always been the case**.

9. **In the passage, it is explained that _____.**
✓ A) in England today people have different habits of tea drinking
The passage explains that **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**: drinking beer at breakfast was a habit of the past, not of today.

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

11. Elizabeth's friendship with Jane _____.
✓ A) went back to their university years
The passage says that **while at the university, they had shared a flat together**, so their friendship began in their university years. Not **lasted only for two years**: they shared a flat for two years, but Jane is now coming to visit, so the friendship continued.

12. 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 had not seen each other for 15 years, so she is worried they might not recognize each other. The passage says nothing about parking problems or Jane changing her mind.

13. There was silence. Neither Mr Mayne nor Mr Bridge spoke. Mr Mayne looked across at Mr Bridge and waited. Both wanted the other to speak. Neither spoke. It was as if each felt that whoever spoke first would lose. Presently they rose together and said, "Well, I must be going." Then they nodded slightly to each other and did indeed go. So they agreed to separate, but on both sides, there was regret, for each was deeply convinced that they could have formed a business partnership that would have given them fame and wealth.

Mr Mayne and Mr Bridge scarcely spoke to each other because _____.
✓ D) each wanted the other to start
The passage says **both wanted the other to speak** and each felt that **whoever spoke first would lose**. So each was waiting for the other to start. Not **they didn't want to work together**: both later felt regret, because they believed a partnership would have been successful.

14. When Mr Mayne and Mr Bridge met, they _____.
✓ C) were both sure that they could have been successful partners in business
The last sentence says **each was deeply convinced that they could have formed a business partnership that would have given them fame and wealth**. So both believed they could have been successful business partners. Not **found they had nothing to say**: they stayed silent because each wanted the other to speak first.

15. When Mr Mayne and Mr Bridge separated, _____.
✓ D) both were feeling disappointed
The passage says that when they separated, **on both sides, there was regret**. Regret means feeling sad or disappointed about what did not happen, so both were disappointed. Not **they both seemed relieved**: they felt sorry, not happy, to leave.

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