ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Reading Passages Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 2

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Explanations

1. **The passage mainly discusses _____.**
✓ E) the advantages of using wood in the colonies
The passage begins by saying the colonists enjoyed a great advantage: a **plentiful supply of wood**. It then lists how wood was used for buildings, fuel and industrial compounds, so it is mainly about **the advantages of using wood in the colonies**. Not the negative effects, because the passage describes wood only as a benefit and **a foundation of the economy**. Charcoal and tannic acid are only examples of industrial compounds, not the main topic.

2. **According to the passage, by the end of the colonial era, the price of wood in eastern cities _____.**
✓ B) was slightly higher than in previous years
The passage says that **by the end of the colonial era, the price of wood had risen slightly in eastern cities**, so it **was slightly higher than in previous years**. Not **rose quickly since wood was becoming scarce**, because the passage stresses that wood was **still extremely abundant**. The passage never compares the price with Britain.

3. **It's implied in the passage that houses in Britain during the period mentioned in the passage were _____.**
✓ A) usually built from materials other than wood
The passage says American buildings **were made of wood to a degree unknown in Britain**. This implies that British houses were **usually built from materials other than wood**. The passage says nothing about the size, cost or imported materials of British houses.

4. **It is stated in the passage that one of the features that made smartphones different from the standard mobile phones was that _____.**
✓ B) smartphones were capable of running a wider range of software applications than a standard mobile phone
The second sentence says: **What set them apart from standard mobile phones was their ability to download and run a broad range of third-party software applications.** Not the option about combining a hand-held computer with a phone's connectivity, because the passage says this about smartphones, not about standard mobile phones.

5. **One may infer from the passage that smartphones seemed to _____.**
✓ E) prove useless in practice contrary to expectations in theory
The passage contrasts theory and practice: **In theory** users had many applications, but **in practice** the novelty **soon wore off**, and smartphones became little more than **executive toys**. So they **proved useless in practice, contrary to expectations in theory**. Not **greatly improve their users' productivity**, because the last sentence says they did **little to improve anyone's productivity**.

6. **It can be inferred from the passage that certain features of smartphones _____.**
✓ C) didn't appeal to everybody
The passage says that viewing Excel spreadsheets or editing Word documents on smartphones was **only for die-hard enthusiasts**. From this we can infer that these features **didn't appeal to everybody**. Not **helped the users enhance their productivity**, because the passage says the opposite.

7. **The passage is mainly concerned with _____.**
✓ D) the rapid increase in the number of the children's museums worldwide
The key phrase is **A global boom in children's museums**. The rest of the passage gives examples of this boom, such as museums **breaking ground** and **expanding** from Boston to Dubai. So the main topic is the **rapid increase in the number of children's museums worldwide**. The architects, the locations and the educators' praise are only supporting details.

8. **It is implied in the passage that the children's museums _____.**
✓ D) are being designed by highly skilled architects so that they will not damage nature
The passage says the museums are **hiring world-class architects to design eco-friendly landmarks**. **Eco-friendly** means not harmful to the environment, so the buildings are designed by skilled architects so that they will not damage nature. Not **don't help the children and their parents learn anything**, because the museums are designed so that parents and children can learn.

9. It may be inferred from the passage that the children's museums _____.
✓ A) are being planned on the basis of modern approaches to childhood development and interactive learning
The first sentence links the boom to **current ideas about childhood development and interactive learning**. So the museums are planned on the basis of these **modern approaches**. Not **were being built in the corners of insecure streets**: the passage mentions **a dwindling number of safe street corners** only as one reason why such museums are needed.

10. According to the passage, in Australia, _____.
✓ C) there's the possibility of catching a disease transmitted by animals
The passage says catching an animal-borne disease in Australia is **not as far-fetched as it may sound**, and that **new diseases carried by animals** have recently appeared there. So there is **the possibility of catching a disease transmitted by animals**. Not **bats are the only threat**: bats were involved in the recent cases, but the passage never says they are the only danger.

11. It may be inferred from the passage that _____.
✓ C) bats spread disease easily partly because they often share roosts with other species of bats on their journeys
The passage says bats **often share a convivial roost with other species of bats on their way so it is only too easy for them to spread a disease**. Sharing roosts with other bats on long journeys is one reason the disease spreads easily. Not **the possible danger coming from bats is always taken seriously**, because people **are convinced of their harmlessness**.

12. According to the passage, one of the reasons why the danger of bats spreading disease to human beings is even greater is that _____.
✓ E) people are not afraid of them because they suppose that they're benign
The last sentence says **The danger is accentuated because people are convinced of their harmlessness**. **Accentuated** means made greater, and **benign** means harmless. Because people are not afraid of bats, the risk to them increases. Not **bats cannot travel long distances**, because the passage says they can fly **up to 200 kilometres in a single journey**.

13. We learn from the passage that long-term weather forecasts into the next century may seem strange because _____.
✓ C) weathermen cannot even forecast next month's weather accurately
The first sentence contains the contrast. Forecasts **for a month ahead are only a little better than guesswork**, yet weathermen make **long-term forecasts into the next century with growing confidence**. This seems strange because they **cannot even forecast next month's weather accurately**. Not **we cannot know the consequences of our present activities**, because the passage says the outcome is **alarmingly clear**.

14. As it is stated in the passage, scientists say that the dominant trend in the world's climate in the coming decades will be a predictable result of _____.
✓ E) man's activities
The second sentence says the dominant climate trend **will, scientists say, be a predictable result of man's activities**. The **gigantic experiment in planetary engineering** is a metaphor for these human activities, which began with the industrial revolution. It does not refer to real scientific experiments. Not **clever long-term forecasts**, because forecasts predict the climate; they do not cause it.

15. One may infer from the passage that a warmer climate _____.
✓ E) may even cause war in the long term
The last sentence says a warmer climate **could bring many hazards**, ending with **civil unrest and even war**. So it **may even cause war**. Not **may lead to an increase in food production**, because the passage warns of **disruptions of crops** and **famine**. The option about carbon dioxide is not supported, because the passage never mentions carbon dioxide or the greenhouse effect.

16. We learn from the passage that Humphrey Bogart's screen name was unusual in the great days of Hollywood because _____.
✓ B) it was his own name
Studios usually invented new names for their stars, but Bogart **kept his own**. This made his screen name unusual, because **it was his own name**. Not **Humphrey is a lower-class name**: the passage says the name had **upper-class associations**. The surname sounded **Dutch or German**, not Spanish.

17. We understand from the passage that considering his name, Humphrey Bogart _____.
✓ A) didn't go after the general tendency which most of the other stars followed
The passage says Bogart **bucked the trend**, which means he did not do what most others did. Most stars accepted invented names, but he **kept his own**. So he **didn't go after the general tendency**. Not **thought it was inappropriate to maintain his own name**, because he did keep it.

18. It's understood from the passage that _____.
✓ D) the image-makers of big studios were trying very hard to think of suitable names for stars
The passage says **the image-makers at the big studios racked their brains to invent names**. **Rack your brains** means to think very hard, so they were trying very hard to find suitable names for stars. Not the option saying all other stars were born with unattractive names: the passage refers only to some stars, and the word **all** is too strong.

19. It is clearly stated in the passage that Madge Sharp _____.
✓ A) made her first record later in her life than most singers
The first sentence says most great singing stars are established **long before they get to 35**, but Madge Sharp is 35 and **this is her first record**. So she made her first record later in life than most singers. Not **wanted to wait till she was experienced**: she says **I wish I had started in the profession earlier**.

20. It is understood from the passage that Madge Sharp _____.
✓ C) probably gained most of her experience by singing in a church choir for a long time
Madge says **The only singing I did for years was in our church choir**. She also says she now has **experience and maturity**, so this experience probably came mostly from the choir. Not **was always supported by her family**: her parents **would never let** her go to concerts or sing with a band.

21. It can be concluded from the passage that _____.
✓ D) Madge Sharp's first record doesn't include even one new song
The passage says **All the songs may be old** and calls them **classics**. From this we can conclude that her first record does not include a single new song. The other options are not supported by the passage; for example, it never says she had no dream of singing as a child. In fact, she says **I've always wanted to be a blues singer**.

22. As is mentioned in the passage, acupuncture _____.
✓ C) is a curative aid received by some of the women in the USA to have a baby
The passage describes women in Texas receiving acupuncture, **all working towards the same goal - to get pregnant**. So acupuncture is used as a treatment by some women in the USA to help them have a baby. Not **a treatment process of at least one week**: the **week-long** period was the retreat, not the acupuncture itself.

23. We understand from the passage that _____.
✓ E) in the USA, about 64% of females had not been seeking medical assistance to have a baby
The passage says Heidi Schell **was among the 36% of females in the United States who had been seeking medical assistance to have a baby**. So the other 64% (100% − 36%) had not been seeking such help. Not the option about Heidi getting pregnant through acupuncture, because the passage never says whether the treatment worked.

24. It is implied in the passage that _____.
✓ B) the chances of Heidi Schell's having a baby through IVF were very low
The last sentence says her **chances of conceiving via IVF were a decidedly slim 10%**. **Slim** chances are very small chances, so her prospects through IVF were very low. Not **most of the women ... tried high-tech treatments**, because the passage says only **1% of women** tried them.

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