ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Short Advanced Reading Comprehension Test 1 With MCQs and Answers

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Explanations

1. **It is clear from the passage that meat and vegetarian diets have similar benefits _____.**
✓ B) only if very low-fat meat is eaten
The passage says some people think low-fat meat makes the two diets equal, and then adds: **This is true only if one eats only very low-fat meat.** So the benefits are similar **only if very low-fat meat is eaten**. Dairy products, misleading terms and diet variations are never mentioned.

2. **It has been alleged that vegetarians do not only benefit from not eating meat; in fact, _____.**
✓ E) they also benefit from not using tobacco and excessive alcohol while getting more exercise
The passage says the lack of meat is not necessarily the main benefit. Vegetarians **tend not to use tobacco and excessive alcohol** and **tend to get more exercise**. The phrase **in fact** introduces this extra information. Not the option starting with **but**: **but** cannot follow **in fact,** grammatically. Blood pressure is never mentioned.

3. **In the past, it was claimed that the nutrients found in meat products weren't found in a vegetarian diet, _____.**
✓ A) but research today has proved this wrong
The passage says that a decade ago people believed a vegetarian diet lacked the nutrients in meat. **Today though, through research and nutritional science,** it has been proven that a correct vegetarian diet contains them all. The contrast word **but** links the old belief to the new research. The other options cover cancer, advantages and drawbacks, which the passage does not discuss.

4. **Even though people with social anxiety want very much to be social with everybody else, _____.**
✓ E) they cannot achieve it because of a lack of self-confidence
Even though needs a contrasting result. The passage says their **anxiety about not doing well in public is strong and hinders their best efforts**, so they cannot manage to be social because they lack confidence. The passage gives no information about what everyone feels, and it does not say what patients must first understand.

5. **For someone with a social phobia, attending a business meeting or going to a company party may be highly nerve-wracking and intimidating _____.**
✓ D) since a social phobia is a fear of social situations and of interaction with other people
The passage defines social phobia as a fear of being judged by others. It says sufferers are **afraid about many social situations**. A meeting or a party is a social situation, so it is frightening **since a social phobia is a fear of social situations**. Not **because they do not want to be social**: the passage says they **want very much to be social**.

6. **People with a social phobia are nervous, anxious, and afraid about many social situations _____.**
✓ D) since they are afraid of being criticized or evaluated by other people
The first sentence of the passage defines social phobia as **the constant fear of being criticized or evaluated by other people**. This fear is the reason sufferers are nervous in social situations. Not **because they are sure they are making a fool of themselves**: the passage speaks of anxiety about not doing well, not of certainty.

7. **In spite of the fact that many people in society find today's talk show issues interesting, _____.**
✓ B) there are many people who find the older issues much more interesting and charming
In spite of the fact that needs a contrasting main clause. The last sentence of the passage gives it: many people argue that today's issues are **not as interesting or captivating as the older issues**. So there are many people who find the older issues more interesting. The options about anger, anxiety and not knowing what to expect come from a different text and are not mentioned here.

8. **Talk shows that were considered to be ridiculous beforehand _____.**
✓ A) are recognized and adored by many people today
The first sentence of the passage contrasts the past with the present. A few years ago talk shows were seen as **ridiculous**, but now they are **recognized and adored by many people**. The other options are either ungrammatical after the subject or talk about question framing, which the passage does not mention.

9. The most likely reason why talk shows are recognized and adored by many people in society is that _____.
✓ D) talk shows now have more interesting and captivating topics
The second sentence of the passage gives the reason directly: **the shows now have more interesting and captivating topics**. Guests' anger, ratings and the framing of questions are never mentioned.

10. At the beginning of the 20th century, when the idea of Social Darwinism came onto the scene _____.
✓ B) , nationalism was corrupted and twisted by those who wanted to exploit it
The last sentence of the passage says that at the beginning of the 20th century, Social Darwinism **corrupted** nationalism and **permitted nationalism to be twisted by those who would exploit it**. Not **but overall it had a positive effect**: the author's positive view is about the earlier spread of nationalism, not about the period of Social Darwinism.

11. It can be concluded from the paragraph that _____.
✓ C) other ideologies of the time did not propose self-sacrifice for the good of others
The passage says: **Contrary to the other ideologies of the time, nationalism proposed self-sacrifice for the good of others.** So we can conclude that the other ideologies did not propose it. The options about evolution, adaptation and Charles Darwin are not discussed in this paragraph, even though Social Darwinism is mentioned.

12. It is obvious from the passage that nationalism, which helped to unite people with a common history and culture, _____.
✓ E) gave people a sense of being
The gap needs a verb phrase to finish the sentence about nationalism. The passage says nationalism **instilled pride and confidence among nations and gave people a sense of being**. The other options are not complete verb phrases, and they come from a text about evolution.

13. The way that we look plays such a big role in our lives that _____.
✓ A) it determines the way others see us
The structure **such ... that** introduces a result. The passage says the way we look **determines the way others see us**. Not **we ourselves abuse our health and bodies**: harming our health is never mentioned.

14. It has been claimed by the author that _____.
✓ D) the quest for social acceptance becomes an obsession for many people
The author writes that the quest for social acceptance **becomes so real that the idea then becomes an obsession**. Not **men and women are obsessed with their weights**: the passage only says weight is a factor in appearance. The obsession it describes is with social acceptance.

15. According to the paragraph, the way we look determines _____.
✓ E) how we feel about ourselves
The passage says our looks determine how others see us, and **from that, it will then determine how we feel about ourselves**. The other options are ungrammatical after **determines**, or they are not mentioned in the passage.

16. Even though the United Kingdom became the richest and most powerful country in the world, _____.
✓ B) the gap between the rich and the poor increased after the Industrial Revolution
Even though signals a contrast with the country's wealth. The passage says some people became **unbelievably wealthy**, while others became **unbelievably poor**, and the poor were **even more oppressed**. In other words, the gap between rich and poor grew. Workers' rights, political candidates and reforms are not mentioned.

17. The most significant change of the nineteenth century was the Industrial Revolution, _____.
✓ E) which brought both good and evil in life
The passage says the Industrial Revolution was the most outstanding change. It adds: **Like everything in life, it brought good, but it brought evil as well.** The other options mention radical movements, estates and political actions, which are not in the passage.

18. It is easy to comprehend from the paragraph that the improvement of industry in the British Isles _____.
✓ B) caused social unrest as well
The first sentence of the passage describes the nineteenth century as a time of **great change and accompanying social unrest**. **Accompanying** means 'coming together with', so the industrial changes **caused social unrest as well**. The other options are ungrammatical or not mentioned.

19. Witnesses report many, many different shapes and sizes of UFOs, even shape-changing ones. The famous "Two bowls joined at the rim" shape is reported frequently, but reports of objects shaped like cigars, squares, balls, triangles, rings, and GUITARS are also common. Many of these reports are of objects from far away, but reports of close encounters also exist. Some of the most interesting sightings are reported on or near the ground. Often the person claims that the ship left a mark or something on the ground; this is called a "Trace Case".

According to the paragraph, _____.
✓ E) some of the most interesting sightings are reported on or near the ground
The passage says: **Some of the most interesting sightings are reported on or near the ground.** It does not say that most UFOs are seen near the ground. In fact, many reports are of objects far away. Studies of patterns, rural areas and reliable witnesses are not mentioned.

20. According to the paragraph, although many of the reported UFOs were seen from far away, _____.
✓ A) there were also reports of close encounters
The passage says: **Many of these reports are of objects from far away, but reports of close encounters also exist.** The connector **although** links these two facts. The Air Force, threats to the United States and an Alien Brotherhood are not mentioned.

21. **Although there were many reports about different shapes and sizes of UFOs, _____.**
✓ C) the famous "two bowls joined at the rim" shape was reported frequently
The passage says: **The famous "Two bowls joined at the rim" shape is reported frequently.** Other shapes, such as cigars and triangles, are **also common**. The idea that all UFOs are just weather conditions is not in the passage, and the last option is not a complete clause.

22. In the 1600s, when tobacco was introduced by John Rolfe, tobacco suddenly became the major source of income for most of the colonists. The economic prosperity of the colonies was primarily dependent on the amount of tobacco produced. The growing of tobacco required a large amount of land, with a large stable workforce. The increased demand for a large, stable workforce combined with the availability of African slaves led to the use of slavery in the colonies.

It can be concluded that the economic prosperity of the colonies was primarily dependent on the amount of tobacco produced _____.
✓ A) and therefore on a large, stable workforce
The passage says prosperity depended on **the amount of tobacco produced**. It also says growing tobacco **required a large amount of land, with a large stable workforce**. So prosperity also depended on having that workforce. Runaway servants, soil nutrients and a shortage of labour are not mentioned.

23. **The growing of tobacco in the colonies _____.**
✓ C) required both a large amount of land and a large stable workforce
The passage states: **The growing of tobacco required a large amount of land, with a large stable workforce.** Not the option about a small amount of land and a few workers: that is the opposite of what the passage says. The other options mention traditions, skills or education, which are not in the passage, or they do not fit **the growing of tobacco** as the subject.

24. **It can be inferred from the paragraph that _____.**
✓ E) the need for a large, stable workforce to grow tobacco helped lead to the use of slavery in the colonies
The last sentence of the passage says the **increased demand for a large, stable workforce**, together with the availability of African slaves, **led to the use of slavery in the colonies**. So the labour needs of tobacco farming were one cause of slavery. Crop rotation, educating slaves and farming knowledge are not mentioned.

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