ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Short Advanced Reading Comprehension Test 11 With MCQs and Answers

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21	**C**	22	**A**	23	**A**	24	**D**												

Explanations

1. As we understand from the passage, the Amazon River _____.
✓ **A) is the second-longest river on the Earth**
The passage says that **next to the Nile, it is the longest river in the world**. Only the Nile is longer, so the Amazon is the **second-longest** river. Not 'has a surface full of animals': the snakes, eels and piranhas live **under** the surface, and the life on the surface is the people in their raft houses.

2. The passage most likely appeared in _____.
✓ **B) a travel guidebook**
The passage gives interesting facts about a great river, its jungles, its dangerous animals and the villages built on rafts. This kind of colourful description for visitors and general readers fits a **travel guidebook**. Not 'a chapter about marine species': **marine** means 'of the sea', and the passage is about a river and the people who live along it.

3. In this passage, the purpose of the author is _____.
✓ **C) to inform the reader about the Amazon River and its surrounding ecosystem**
The author gives facts about the river itself: its size, its length and its course. He also describes what lives in and around it: the jungle, the animals under the water and the people in raft villages. That is the Amazon River and its **surrounding ecosystem**. Not 'to compare the rivers in the world': the Nile, the Mississippi and the Yangtze are mentioned only once, to show how big the Amazon is.

4. The passage is about _____.
✓ **D) Australia's past status as a British colony and its present independent status**
The passage moves from the past, when there were **six separate colonies** ruled by the British, to the present: **Today, Australia is an independent country**, though it is still in the Commonwealth. So it covers both its past colonial status and its present independence. Not 'the six colonies united...': that is only one detail of the story, not the whole topic.

5. As stated in the passage, the queen _____.
✓ **E) has no political power in Australia**
The passage says **the queen doesn't rule Australia**, because Australians **vote for their own lawmakers**. Her title is symbolic, so she has no political power there. Not 'chooses the members of Parliament House': the passage says the voters choose them.

6. As we infer from the passage, Australia _____.
✓ **A) is not ruled by the British monarchy anymore**
The passage says Australia is now **an independent country** and that **the queen doesn't rule Australia**. From this we can infer that the British monarchy no longer governs it. Not 'has been under British rule since 1901': 1901 is when the colonies united, and the country is independent today.

7. The main idea of the passage is that _____.
✓ **A) Shakespeare's foremost role in English literature has been recognized all over the world**
The passage opens by calling Shakespeare's works **the best ever produced**. It then shows how he is honoured: by the growing festival in his hometown and by festivals **in other parts of the world**, in the USA and Canada. So his leading place in literature is recognised worldwide. Not 'Stratford-upon-Avon... attracts many tourists': that is true, but it is only one part of the passage.

8. According to the passage, _____.
✓ **C) the Shakespeare festival held in Stratford-upon-Avon continues for seventy days**
The passage says the festival at Stratford-upon-Avon **now lasts for ten weeks**, and ten weeks × 7 days = **seventy days**. Not 'the Shakespeare Memorial was built just after... Hamlet': the passage says it was built **more than two hundred years after Shakespeare died**.

9. We infer from the passage that _____.
✓ **D) Shakespeare festivals attract many people in England, the United States, and Canada**
The passage says **big audiences** watch the plays in Stratford-upon-Avon, and that the festival grew from one week to ten because it **became so popular**. It also mentions yearly festivals in Connecticut (USA) and Ontario (Canada), so we can infer that these festivals draw many people in all three countries. Not 'the number... has been decreasing': the growth of the festival suggests the opposite.

10. The author of the passage seeks primarily to _____.

✓ C) identify two schools of thought among American Renaissance writers regarding the democratic ideal

The passage contrasts two camps. Emerson and Whitman were optimistic about the democratic ideal, while **other American Renaissance writers were less sanguine**. Hawthorne thought the dream led to **moral anarchy**, and Melville called it **unrealizable**. Identifying these two schools of thought is the author's main aim. Not 'point out how Emerson's democratic idealism was mirrored…': only Whitman mirrors it, while Hawthorne and Melville challenge it.

11. Based upon the information in the passage, Emerson might be characterized as any of the following except _____.

✓ E) a novelist

In an EXCEPT question, eliminate every role the passage supports. Emerson articulated **transcendental assumptions**, so he is a transcendentalist. He is one of the American Renaissance writers (**Other American Renaissance writers were less sanguine than Emerson**). He gave an **address**, so he is a public speaker. He **prophesied** a revolution in the national consciousness and a perfect democracy, so he is a political prophet. Nothing says he wrote novels: the novels mentioned (**The Scarlet Letter**, **Pierre**) are by Hawthorne and Melville.

12. With which of the following statements about Melville and Hawthorne would the author most likely agree?

✓ D) Both men believed the idealists to be misguided.

Hawthorne concluded that antinomian 'heroics' lead to **moral anarchy**, and Melville saw **misguided assumptions of democratic idealism** and called the dream **unrealizable**. So both believed the idealists were **misguided**, even though, as the last sentence says, they sympathised with the ideal. Not 'They agreed as to what the dream would ultimately lead to': Hawthorne predicted moral anarchy, while Melville simply thought it could never be achieved.

13. The conclusion reached by the psychiatric investigator is based on which one of the following assumptions?

✓ B) High levels of anxiety did not cause the subjects in the chronic-abuser group to become chronic abusers.

The study shows only a correlation: chronic abusers are more anxious. To conclude that chronic abuse **caused** the anxiety, the investigator must assume the causation does not run the other way. In other words, high anxiety did not make people become chronic abusers. Not 'High levels of anxiety caused some subjects to be chronic abusers': that is the reverse explanation, which would weaken the conclusion, not support it.

14. Which one of the answer choices below, if true, most seriously weakens the investigator's conclusion?

✓ E) High levels of anxiety caused some subjects to be chronic abusers.

The investigator claims that chronic abuse **caused** higher anxiety. The most damaging alternative is **reverse causation**: if high anxiety **caused** some subjects to become chronic abusers, the same correlation is explained without the investigator's conclusion. Not 'anxiety… caused some to restrict their abusive behaviour': that would make anxious people sporadic abusers, which does not fit the findings and does not undermine the conclusion.

15. This paragraph originally appeared in _____.

✓ A) a scientific review

The paragraph objectively summarises a study: the number of subjects, how they were grouped, the findings and a **report… published in the Journal of Medicine**. This factual summary of research fits a **scientific review**. Not 'an encyclopaedia entry': encyclopaedias give general background on a topic, not an account of one researcher's study and claim.

16. The first time the writer said, "Happy New Year!" was around January 1st. According to the list, the latest possible date for the second time was _____.

✓ C) February 20th

The second greeting was **slightly more than a month ago**, before March 17th, so it was for the Chinese New Year. The list says this falls **between January 21st and February 20th**, so the latest possible date is February 20th. Not 'the middle of March': that is less than a month before March 17th, and no New Year in the list falls then.

17. The author will say "Happy New Year" around March 21st to some _____ friends.

✓ B) Persian (Iranian)

The list says **March 21st** is New Year's Day on the **traditional Persian calendar**, and 'in about four days' from March 17th is March 21st. So these are his **Persian (Iranian)** friends. Not 'Muslim': the Islamic New Year is listed for mid-July.

18. Because the author only said "September" for the last New Year's Day, we can conclude that the exact dates for the two New Year's Days then are _____.

✓ A) probably different

For two different calendars (Eastern Orthodox and Jewish), the writer gives only the month, **September**, and adds **usually** for the Jewish one. If both New Years fell on the same day, he could simply have given that one date. So the exact dates are **probably different**. Not 'probably the same': giving only the month suggests the days vary, not that they match.

19. Shoppers enter the emporium, which is on the ground floor, through the original 15-foot doors. You can eat a sandwich inside while sitting on a wooden seat at an umbrella-covered table, or you can buy meats and cheeses by the pound for a picnic on the beach. There is also a wide selection of Texas foods, beers, chocolates, books, baskets, and speciality coffees and teas. A wine room features Texas, U.S., and international wines.

In the passage, what does the word "emporium" mean?
✓ A) Store
An **emporium** is a large shop that sells many different kinds of goods. The passage calls the people who go in **shoppers** and lists things you can **buy**: meats, cheeses, foods, books, wines. So it means a **store**. Not 'mall': a mall is a building with many separate shops, but this emporium is one shop on the ground floor.

20. What can you purchase at the emporium?
✓ C) Meats and cheeses
The passage says **you can buy meats and cheeses by the pound** for a picnic. The doors, seats and floor are parts of the building, not things for sale. Not 'Anything you want': the passage lists only certain goods.

21. This passage most likely appeared in _____.
✓ C) a traveller's guide
The passage speaks directly to the reader (**you can eat…**, **you can buy…**) and tells visitors what they can see and buy in a shop near the beach. This is typical of a **traveller's guide**. Not 'a history book': apart from mentioning the original doors, it says nothing about the past.

22. According to the passage, Kinsey's work was _____.
✓ A) original
The passage calls Kinsey's study **ground-breaking**: it **tore aside the curtain of silence** and **laid the groundwork** for later ideas. In other words, it was new and **original**. Not 'scientific' or 'well researched': the last sentence says new allegations are **casting doubt on his scientific methods**.

23. From the information presented in the passage, how is Kinsey seen today in America?
✓ A) Regarded with suspicion.
The last part of the passage says **his post-war glory has faded** and **Kinsey's star is on the wane**. It adds that new allegations are **casting doubt** on his methods and even his character. So today he is **regarded with suspicion**. Not 'As a well-known scientist': he is well known, but the passage stresses that his reputation and methods are now being questioned.

24. This passage most likely appeared in _____.
✓ D) a psychology book
The passage discusses a researcher of human behaviour, compares him with **Sigmund Freud** and looks at the influence of his studies on sexual values and sex education. This fits a **psychology book**. Not 'a literature anthology': anthologies collect stories and poems, not discussions of scientific research.

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