ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Short Advanced Reading Comprehension Test 14 With MCQs and Answers

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Explanations

1. **Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?**
   ✓ **B) The Effects of the Ice Age**
   The whole passage describes what the Ice Age did to the Earth: buried landscapes, scarred land, falling temperatures, land pressed down by ice and lower sea levels. So the best title is **The Effects of the Ice Age**. Not **The Frigid Strongholds of the North**, because the northern strongholds are only mentioned once as the source of the ice; they are not the main topic.

2. **In the passage, the glaciers are compared to _____.**
   ✓ **D) a hand**
   The first sentence describes the ice as **relentlessly probing fingers**, so the glaciers are pictured as a **hand** reaching out and grabbing the land. Not **a kingdom**: the word **strongholds** describes where the ice came from, not the glaciers themselves.

3. **According to the passage, before the Ice Age, the continental shelf was _____.**
   ✓ **A) submerged in water**
   The passage says so much water went into the glaciers that sea levels fell and **large areas of the continental shelf became dry land**. If the shelf became dry land during the Ice Age, it must have been **under water** before. Not **higher until depressed by the ice**: the passage says land surfaces were pressed down, but it does not say this about the continental shelf.

4. **Which of the following is not true?**
   ✓ **A) Only a third of those aboard perished.**
   The survivors were **less than a third** of the people on board, so more than two-thirds died. The statement that **only a third perished** is therefore false. All the other statements appear in the passage: the Carpathia rescued the survivors, the ship sank near Newfoundland, it was travelling fast and it was called "unsinkable".

5. **Which of the following did not contribute to the large death toll?**
   ✓ **D) Carpathia**
   The **Carpathia** was the ship that came and **rescued the survivors**, so it reduced the number of deaths. The passage names the other causes: speed (the ship could not avoid the iceberg), the fire, panic, and lifeboats for only 950 of 3,500 passengers.

6. **For how many days was the Virginia at sea before sinking?**
   ✓ **A) 2**
   The passage says the ship was **only two days at sea** and enjoyed **only two days of sailing** on its maiden voyage. Not 4: that number refers to the **four hours** before the Carpathia arrived.

7. **What is the main topic of this passage?**
   ✓ **D) Derivation and uses of magnesium**
   The passage first explains where magnesium comes from (rocks, brines, and now seawater) and then lists its uses (aircraft, industry, insulation, inks, medicines, toothpastes). So its topic is the **derivation** (= origin, how it is obtained) **and uses of magnesium**. Not **Uses of seawater**, because seawater is only one source of the metal; the passage is about the metal itself.

8. **According to the passage, magnesium was first obtained from _____.**
   ✓ **A) rocks found on land**
   The passage says magnesium **originally** came **only from brines or from the treatment of … rocks such as dolomite**, of which whole mountain ranges are made. So it first came from **rocks found on land**. Not **great amounts of ocean water**: that is the modern method, introduced later.

9. **According to the passage, which of the following was a direct consequence of the new methods of obtaining magnesium?**
   ✓ **B) Increased airplane production.**
   The passage says that **magnesium from the sea made possible the wartime growth of the aviation industry**, because every airplane contained about half a ton of it. So **increased airplane production** was a direct result of the new extraction method. Insulation, inks and medicines are described as long-standing or other uses, not as results of the new method. Coal is never mentioned in the passage.

10. When echo sounding was developed to allow ships while underway to record the depth of the bottom, probably no one suspected that it would also provide a means of learning something about deep life. But operators of the new instruments soon discovered that the sound waves, directed downward from the ship like a beam of light, were reflected back from any solid object they met. Answering echoes were returned from intermediate depths, presumably from schools of fish, whales, or submarines; then a second echo was received from the bottom.

What did the operators send down into the water?
✓ D) Sound waves
The passage says **the sound waves, directed downward from the ship** were reflected back from solid objects. Not **beams of light**: the sound waves are only compared to a beam of light (**like a beam of light**).

11. Which of the following enterprises would most likely be interested in using the instruments mentioned?
✓ B) Commercial fishing businesses
The echoes from middle depths came **presumably from schools of fish**. An instrument that can find groups of fish would be very useful to **commercial fishing businesses**. Not **sound recording studios**: they record sound, but they have no use for measuring depths or finding fish.

12. For what purpose was the instrument originally designed?
✓ A) Recording ocean depths
The first sentence says echo sounding was developed **to record the depth of the bottom**. Finding sea life was a later discovery that **no one suspected**. Not **Detecting submarines**: submarines are mentioned only as a possible source of the echoes.

13. We infer from the passage that _____.
✓ A) the Moors were living in Granada, Spain when Columbus sailed for America
The Spanish attacked the Moors at the Alhambra in 1492, **the same year that Columbus sailed for America**. So we can infer that the Moors were still living in Granada then. Not **after the Spanish conquest, the Alhambra was restored**: the passage says it **began to crumble**, and no one did much to save it until Irving's book.

14. The Moors built the Alhambra _____.
✓ D) as a palace at the foot of Mulhacén
The passage says the Moors built a palace behind the fortress walls, and that the Alhambra stands **at the foot of the Mulhacén**. Not **as a tomb for their king Alhambra**: **Alhambra** is not a person; it is an Arabic word meaning **the red**.

15. The author states that _____.
✓ B) the Alhambra would be a ruin now if Irving hadn't written his book
The passage says no one did much to preserve the Alhambra until Irving came, and that **his book stirred people to save the Alhambra from becoming a ruin**. So without the book it would probably be a ruin today. Not **the Alhambra has never been restored**: people did save it after reading Irving's book.

16. The author portrays _____.
✓ B) floating markets as a tradition in Bangkok
The author explains that floating markets started long ago, when there were only a few roads, and that **many people in Thailand still shop at floating markets** today. This **portrays** them as a long-standing **tradition** in Bangkok. Not 'places selling food only': the merchants also sell charcoal, medicines, clothing and souvenirs.

17. This passage most likely appeared in _____.
✓ A) a travel magazine
The passage speaks directly to a visitor (**If you go shopping in Bangkok…**) and describes an interesting local attraction. This style is typical of a **travel magazine**. Not **a history book**: only one sentence is about the past.

18. According to the passage, _____.
✓ C) Thai people needed floating markets because they didn't have enough roads
The passage says floating markets started **because long ago there were only a few roads**, so people had to travel by boat. Not **the merchants … serve as teaching and medical staff**: they deliver mail and take children to school; they do not teach or work as doctors.

19. Based on the two passages, the most important feature of the Radburn layout is the _____.
✓ B) separation of car and pedestrian traffic
Both definitions stress that the layout **separates pedestrians from cars** (definition a) and list **the separation of pedestrian and car traffic** first among its main features (definition b). Not **building of houses so that they face the street**: definition b says houses face **open space and gardens**, with car access at the rear.

20. Which information appears in both definitions?
✓ C) The plan made use of cul-de-sacs.
Definition a mentions **service cul-de-sacs**, and definition b lists **cul-de-sacs** among the main features. So of these options, this is the only information found in both. Clarence Stein and the underground passages appear only in definition a. The wide use in Britain appears only in definition b.

21. As it is used in the first definition, the word "surface" means _____.
✓ D) at the level of the ground
In **underground passages or surface walks**, **surface** is contrasted with **underground**. So **surface walks** are paths **at the level of the ground**, not below it. Not **the part of something that you can see**: that is the noun meaning, and here **surface** describes the walks.

22. Which of the following counties is not included in the tour?
✓ B) Cornwall
The advertisement names four counties: **Devon, Dorset, Hampshire, and Essex**. **Cornwall** is not on the list, so it is not included in the tour.

23. How many people can go on this tour?
✓ D) a limited number
The last sentence says **Enrolment is limited**, so only **a limited number** of people can join; no exact number is given. Not **10**: that number is the length of the tour (**ten romantic days**), not the number of people.

24. What can we infer about this area of southern England?

✓ A) The region has lots of vegetation.

The advertisement describes **the lush countryside** and **fields**. **Lush** means full of healthy green plants, so the region has lots of **vegetation**. Not **The land is flat**: the text mentions **hiking the glorious hills**.

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