ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Short Advanced Reading Comprehension Test 18 With MCQs and Answers

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1	**C**	2	**B**	3	**D**	4	**E**	5	**D**	6	**D**	7	**A**	8	**E**	9	**A**	10	**A**
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21	**E**	22	**B**	23	**A**	24	**C**												

Explanations

1. **The questions with which the author begins this passage _____.**
✓ C) clearly show that he is uncertain about the present position of the United States in the world
The passage opens with two opposing questions: is the USA **a nation in decline**, or is it **undergoing adaptation and renewal**? Asking both without choosing one shows that the author is **uncertain** about the country's present position. The options about 'full trust', 'invincible' or 'confidence' are wrong because the questions express doubt, not confidence. They are also clearly linked to the argument that follows about decline theorists.

2. **In his work "Rise and Fall of the Great Powers", Paul Kennedy _____.**
✓ B) argues that the great powers in the past declined because of the drain on resources for military security
The passage says that great powers devote **an increasing share of their resources to military security**, and this leads to neglect of technology and economic decline. This pattern is called **imperial overstretch**. Not the option about the British Empire ignoring technology: neglect of innovation is only one step in a general pattern, and the passage never says this alone caused the British Empire to collapse.

3. **According to the passage, the question of the current role of the United States _____.**
✓ D) has triggered off a great deal of discussion throughout society
The passage says the books on this subject **have sparked a wide-ranging public debate**. In other words, the question has **triggered off a great deal of discussion throughout society**. Not the option about Kennedy's 'most plausible explanation': the passage calls his book one of the **best-known** and does not judge it the most convincing.

4. **Since land is very precious, it is important that _____.**
✓ E) it does not remain out of use for long
The passage says that because land is so expensive, **the time during which such an expensive commodity is out of use must be reduced to a minimum**. So the land should **not remain out of use for long**. Not 'building costs be reduced to a minimum': the passage says the **time** must be reduced to a minimum, not the costs.

5. **One advantage of using prefabricated parts is that _____.**
✓ D) buildings can be constructed much faster
The passage calls the advantage of prefabrication **twofold**: **it is quicker** and **it does away with uncertainty**. Speed comes from preparing the parts in a factory beforehand, so buildings can be put up much faster. Cost, the number of skilled workers, the amount of land needed and experiment are not mentioned as advantages.

6. **When a building is built from standard parts that have been well-tested, _____.**
✓ D) one knows in advance that the result will be satisfactory
The last sentence says prefabrication **does away with uncertainty** because the building uses standard parts whose **behaviour is known and has been tested**. So one knows **in advance** that the result will be satisfactory. The first option says the opposite: that one is still unsure.

7. **One can understand from the passage that _____.**
✓ A) computers have become an indispensable part of our life
The passage lists many fields that rely on computers: banking, police records, industry, satellites, communications and weather forecasting. This wide use shows that computers have become **indispensable** (impossible to do without). Not the weather option: the passage says forecasts are made **with increasing accuracy**.

8. **The author implies that _____.**
✓ E) the use of robots, directed by computers, is becoming widespread in the industry
The passage says computer-controlled machines **are taking over work, previously done by humans** in car manufacturing, weaving and **other industries**. This implies that robots directed by computers are becoming **widespread** in industry. Not the space option: satellites are only one of many uses, and the passage never calls them the principal one.

9. **The passage is not related to _____.**
✓ A) how computers are produced
The passage covers storing information, use by the police (crime detection), robotics in industry and communications. It says nothing about **how computers are produced**, so this is the topic the passage is not related to.

10. What is mainly mentioned in the passage?
✓ A) How education beyond high school should be arranged.
The whole passage discusses **where and how education beyond high school should be arranged**: locally where possible, but some kinds of training can only be given in a few large centres. Board and lodging come up only as one reason for local arrangement, so they are not the main topic.

11. According to the author, all public education beyond high school cannot be arranged locally because _____.
✓ C) certain types of education would be too costly to maintain
The author says some professional training needs large hospitals, libraries and laboratories. Providing such centres everywhere **would be not merely uneconomical, but impossible**. So certain types of education would be **too costly to maintain** in every locality. Not 'hospital services cannot be secured': hospitals are just one example of the facilities needed, not the reason in itself.

12. The author implies that _____.
✓ B) there is no way a student can receive adequate clinical education in a small hospital
The passage says it is **literally impossible** to give adequate instruction in clinical medicine **except in cities of sufficient size to support large hospitals**. This implies that a small hospital cannot provide adequate clinical education. The option about research centres in small towns contradicts the last sentence of the passage.

13. Among all the countries in the world, it is those in Africa _____.
✓ B) that are most threatened by food shortages
The passage says food production per person has fallen in **55 (mainly African) countries**, and about 30 mostly African countries **can expect serious problems**. So African countries are the ones **most threatened by food shortages**. Nothing is said about drastic population measures or reduced poverty there.

14. It is discussed in the passage that _____.
✓ B) with the exception of African countries, the global production of food is adequate and likely to continue
Globally, **food production has kept ahead of population growth**, but it has fallen per person in mainly African countries, and **these trends will carry on**. That matches the idea that, except for Africa, food production is adequate and likely to stay so. Not the climate option: the passage says a warmer, wetter earth may produce **more** food, not that it causes the problems.

15. According to the passage, it is anticipated that _____.
✓ E) unless serious measures are taken, the poor countries of the world will be faced with famine
The passage warns that many countries **can expect serious problems unless they reduce population growth and give higher priority to agriculture**, and that food **will still be inadequate for many poorer countries**. This points to famine unless serious measures are taken. Not 'the present situation will soon improve': the passage says the current trends **will carry on**.

16. As can be concluded from the passage, psychology _____.
✓ C) is not concerned with the mind alone, but also with human personality and behaviour
The passage says psychology's area **has broadened** and **now covers the study of human personality and behaviour**, because the mind cannot be isolated from the body. So it is not concerned with the mind alone. Not 'has always been confined to the study of the mind': the passage says this was only the original, literal meaning.

17. In the passage, attention is drawn to the fact that _____.
✓ B) psychologists are basically scientists
The last sentence stresses this point: **It is important to realize that psychologists are first and foremost trained as scientists rather than as medical experts**. So psychologists are **basically scientists**. The option about body and mind is the opposite of the passage, which says the mind cannot be **totally isolated from the body**.

18. It is implied in the passage that _____.
✓ C) as a branch of science, psychology is no longer to be understood in its literal sense
The passage begins **Psychology is literally the study of the mind**, but says its area has broadened to include personality, behaviour and even animal studies. This implies that the word should **no longer be understood in its literal sense**. Not 'human behaviour alone': psychologists also study the mind, personality and animals.

19. In the passage, it is discussed that the reasons behind the aid given to underdeveloped countries _____.
✓ B) are varied in purpose and in effect
The passage says aid **takes many forms**, is **given for several reasons**, and is **not always beneficial**. So the reasons are **varied in purpose and in effect**. Not 'invariably involve humanitarian principles': the passage says the motives of donors **are not always humanitarian**.

20. One concludes from the passage that what is generally referred to as "aid" _____.
✓ D) does not necessarily benefit the recipient country
The passage states: **Nor is aid always beneficial to the recipient country**. It may be wasted or make the government relax its efforts. So aid **does not necessarily** benefit the recipient. Not 'can really be regarded as a waste of resources': the passage says it **may** be wasted, not that it is a waste in general.

21. According to the passage, unless they receive aid, underdeveloped countries _____.
✓ E) cannot provide money and human resources for development
The passage says these countries **need aid to provide finance for development projects** and **the trained human power and technical knowledge they lack**. Without aid, they cannot provide the money and human resources needed for development. Military coups and lost prestige are not mentioned as results of having no aid.

22. Nigeria is heavily dependent on the export of crude oil to finance industrial development. 90% of Nigeria's exports by value are crude oil. At current production rates, known reserves are only sufficient until the end of the century. Industrialization was boosted after 1973 - following the fourfold increase in oil prices. In the early 1980s prices fell, and Nigeria lost important income. Oil production peaked when it reached 112 million tonnes in 1974.

It is said in the passage that the sharp rise in oil prices in 1973 _____.
✓ B) contributed greatly to industrial development in Nigeria
The passage says **Industrialization was boosted after 1973 - following the fourfold increase in oil prices**. So the price rise **contributed greatly to industrial development** in Nigeria. Not 'a high oil revenue into the late 1980s': prices fell in the early 1980s, and the country lost important income.

23. **It is concluded from the passage that only a fraction of Nigeria's exports _____.**
✓ A) are goods other than crude oil
The passage says **90% of Nigeria's exports by value are crude oil**. This leaves only about 10%, a small fraction, for **goods other than crude oil**. Not 'were oil-related': oil makes up the great majority of exports, not a fraction.

24. **According to the passage, as long as the current rate of oil production is maintained, _____.**
✓ C) Nigeria is likely to have no oil reserves left by the year 2000
The passage states: **At current production rates, known reserves are only sufficient until the end of the century**. This means Nigeria is likely to have **no oil reserves left by the year 2000**. Not 'will continue to enjoy large revenues': income already fell in the early 1980s, and the reserves are running out.

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