ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Short Advanced Reading Comprehension Test 21 With MCQs and Answers

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Explanations

1. **As it is pointed out in the passage, most British towns have no underground railway system _____.**
✓ D) because there is not sufficient public money available for such a project
The passage says there are plans for underground railways, but 'they have little hope of making any progress with them **so long as public expenditure is restricted**'. In other words, there is **not enough public money**. Not 'private means of transport': the passage never gives car ownership as the reason.

2. **We can understand from the passage that _____.**
✓ C) the north of Britain suffers less from traffic problems than the south does
The last sentence says **the north has better public transport than the south**, with cheaper, regular buses, better roads and fewer cars. This means the north has **fewer traffic problems**. Not the London option: London is only listed with other cities, and the passage does not say which system is the most developed.

3. **According to the author, underground railways are a brilliant means of transport since _____.**
✓ B) they do not pollute the streets of a city with noise and petrol fumes
The first sentence links the **traffic congestion, noise and polluting fumes** in British towns with the lack of railways **going underground** through the centre. The writer therefore values underground railways because they keep noise and fumes off the streets. The passage says nothing about them being cheap. In fact, it says money is the problem.

4. England is famous for its gardens, and most people like gardening. This is most likely one reason why so many people prefer to live in houses rather than in flats. Mainly in suburban areas, it is possible to pass row after row of ordinary small houses, each one with its neatly kept patch of grass surrounded by a great variety of flowers and shrubs. Enthusiasts of gardening get a great deal of helpful advice from the television and magazines.

The passage stresses that because many English people are fond of gardening, _____.
✓ B) houses are more popular than flats
After saying most people like gardening, the passage adds: 'This is most likely one reason why so many people **prefer to live in houses rather than in flats**.' Houses usually have gardens and flats do not.

5. **The passage emphasizes that people interested in gardening _____.**
✓ E) are supplied with information and guidance by both television and the press
The last sentence says gardening enthusiasts 'get a great deal of helpful advice from **the television and magazines**'. Magazines are part of **the press**. Not 'very little encouragement from the media': the passage says the opposite.

6. **The passage is related to _____.**
✓ D) the enthusiasm of people in England for gardens and gardening
Every sentence is about how much the English love gardens: England is famous for them, people choose houses for them, and enthusiasts get advice from the media. The main topic is the **enthusiasm of people in England for gardens and gardening**. The other options pick out small details or ideas that are not in the passage, such as problems or new varieties.

7. Public libraries, maintained by the local authorities, are well developed and progressive, and everywhere allow people to borrow books without charge. The books in the lending section are always kept on open shelves, and library staff are very helpful in getting books on request from other libraries through the exchange system. Most libraries report an increase in borrowing over the past few years, so television does not seem to have stopped people from reading as it was feared that it would.

It is explained in the passage that any book that is not available in one library _____.
✓ B) can be brought from another
The passage says library staff are 'very helpful in **getting books on request from other libraries** through the exchange system'. So a book missing from one library **can be brought from another**.

8. **As emphasized in the passage, people nowadays _____.**
✓ B) are using public libraries more than they used to
The last sentence says 'Most libraries report **an increase in borrowing** over the past few years'. People are therefore **using public libraries more than they used to**. Television has not stopped them reading.

9. The passage gives us the impression that public libraries _____.
✓ C) are working extremely efficiently at present
The libraries are described as **well developed and progressive**. They lend books free, keep books on open shelves, have helpful staff and use an exchange system. Borrowing is also rising. All this shows they are **working extremely efficiently**. Not the funding option: the passage says they are **maintained by the local authorities**.

10. It is revealed in the passage that the term "Fahrenheit" _____.
✓ E) derives from the name of a German scientist
The passage says the scale 'was invented by the German scientist Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit', so the term **derives from** (comes from) his name. Not the 32° and 90° option: these are only the freezing point and an example of a hot day, not the limits of the scale.

11. It is conveyed in the passage that in the long run, the Celsius system _____.
✓ D) will replace the Fahrenheit system one day
Two clues point the same way. 'Most people over twenty-five' know Fahrenheit, and Celsius 'is being used more and more'. So in the long run Celsius is expected to **replace** the Fahrenheit system. Not 'fall into disuse': that is happening to Fahrenheit, not Celsius.

12. The passage talks about _____.
✓ A) two different systems of measuring the temperature
The passage explains the Fahrenheit scale and its origin. It then describes how **the centigrade (Celsius) system** is replacing it, and notes that forecasts show **both scales**. Its topic is therefore **two different systems** of measuring temperature. It does not argue that one is better.

13. It is pointed out in the passage that both Britain and Argentina _____.
✓ B) regard the Falklands as their own territory
The islands 'have been **a British territory** since 1833', and 'Argentina has long alleged that these islands ... **belong to them**'. So each country **regards the islands as its own territory**. Not the 'Malvinas' option: only Argentina uses that name.

14. It is clearly indicated in the passage that the Falklands War _____.
✓ E) broke out after the islands were invaded by Argentina
The passage says Argentina '**occupied the islands** in April 1982' and that the war then lasted until British forces **won them back**. The war therefore **broke out after** Argentina invaded. Not 'largely ignored': the passage says it had **a massive impact** on Britain.

15. One may infer from the passage that even today, Britain's hold over the Falkland Islands _____.
✓ D) is felt by some people to be a continuation of the British imperial rule
The last sentences say the war 'is **still controversial**' and that '**some people** see it as a restoration of Britain's old imperial power'. From this we can infer that some people feel British control of the islands **continues imperial rule**. The key words are 'some people'. Option 367490 is too strong because it says 'everyone'.

16. Cutting off the horns of calves and their castration _____.
✓ C) leave them in a period of distress that lasts a few days and sometimes results in death
The passage says 'freshly worked calves' (dehorned and castrated) go through a period of stress lasting 'a few days or up to a week'. With larger calves, this stress can end in death: 'the following day you find him dead'. Not the blood-loss option: small calves 'don't lose much blood', and the passage never says calves fall unconscious.

17. Small calves suffer less severe pain and are healed in a shorter time _____.
✓ A) because the operation which removes the horns and makes them steers is less complicated and painful
Small calves' horns are small and 'the surgery that removes them is **not radical**'. 'The same holds true of their castration' (making them **steers**), so they lose little blood and suffer little shock. The simpler, less painful operation is the cause. Not 'merely because they don't suffer much shock': little shock is a **result** of the simpler surgery, and **merely** wrongly makes it the only reason.

18. Larger calves are more susceptible to stress than smaller ones _____.
✓ E) so they recover from the operations later, and more unexpected deaths occur in them
The passage says 'The **healing process takes longer** with larger calves, and they are the ones **most vulnerable to stress**'. It then describes a large calf that is stiff and sore one day and dead the next. So larger calves recover later and suffer more unexpected deaths. Not option 367505: the calf does not 'look pretty fine'; it is walking slowly or lying off by itself.

19. Rough terrain makes much of the land uncultivable _____.
✓ D) so intensive cultivation has become characteristic of Japan, which uses every bit of land, even the hillsides
The passage explains that **little of Japan's land is flat and suitable for agriculture**. As a result, the Japanese make intensive use of the limited arable land available to them. The statement that **terraced hillsides make use of every available square foot of arable land** directly supports the correct answer. The other options either introduce information not mentioned in the passage or contradict it. For example, the passage describes Japanese homes as **small and built very close together**, not as colossal buildings located far apart.

20. Before the Meiji restoration of 1868, _____.
✓ B) the lords were very strict about their subjects not leaving their own village
The passage says each feudal lord 'sought to **restrain his subjects from moving** from one village to the next'. He feared a neighbour could gather enough peasants to grow a surplus and raise an army. Not the bridges option: bridges were **avoided** because they made it easier to move between villages.

21. If traditional homes were built of heavy materials, _____.
✓ C) there would be a greater loss of lives and money after a natural disaster
Homes are built of **light materials** so that a falling house 'will not crush its occupants' and 'can be quickly and inexpensively rebuilt'. With heavy materials, the opposite would happen: **more deaths and higher costs** after a disaster. The second conditional (**If … were …, there would be …**) describes this imagined situation. Not 'earthquakes couldn't knock them down': the passage never says heavy houses resist earthquakes better.

22. It is inferred from the passage that _____.
✓ A) French has fallen into disuse in Vietnam
'Hardly any of its people want to learn French', and France's priority is just 'to keep the language from **becoming extinct**'. Together these show that French has largely **fallen into disuse** in Vietnam. Not 'the lingua franca is no more used': the passage says the lingua franca, **English**, is very much used in Vietnam. 'No one … can speak French' is too strong, because hardly any is not none.

23. In Vietnam, the number of students learning English _____.
✓ C) is about ten times the number of those learning French
The passage says 'students learning English **outnumber** those studying French by **roughly 10 to 1**'. There are therefore about **ten times** as many English learners. Not 'smaller than': **outnumber** means 'are more than'.

24. Vietnam _____.
✓ E) was a colony of France before
The passage calls France Vietnam's '**former colonial master**', so Vietnam **was once a colony of France**. Not 'hostile politics': the passage only says the Vietnamese do not admire French as much as the French do, and that few want to learn it. That is about language, not politics. 'Is ruled by France' is wrong because of the word **former**.

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