ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Short Advanced Reading Comprehension Test 22 With MCQs and Answers

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Explanations

1. The discovery attained after the increasingly better understanding of counterinsurgency is _____.
✓ **A) that the driving force behind both internal and some international conflicts is political**
The second sentence states the discovery: **the political dominance of internal wars is also to be found in some international conflicts**. So politics is the driving force in internal wars and in some international ones. Not **insurgencies are sometimes against other nations**: the passage never says this. The discovery is applied to **other** forms of conflict, not to internal wars, so the 'applicable to internal wars' option is also wrong.

2. According to the paragraph, _____.
✓ **B) some examples of recent history provide proof for the discovery that some international conflicts are also politically motivated**
The passage says the evidence for the discovery is empirical and that **some of the examples of recent history are illustrative**, with the Libya bombing as one example. So recent history gives proof that some international conflicts are also politically motivated. Not the 'psychological purposes only' option: the mission was conducted **for political and psychological purposes**.

3. The message intended to be delivered by the bombardment was _____.
✓ **C) that the U.S. would no longer tolerate state-supported terrorism and would punish it**
The bombing **delivered a loud message that state-sponsored terrorism would not go unpunished**. In other words, the U.S. would no longer tolerate it. Not the option about attacking **any target**: the rules of engagement were strict and there were to be **no attacks on targets of opportunity**. The passage also never says the message actually made states stop supporting terrorism.

4. The distinction between philosophy and propaganda is that _____.
✓ **C) while philosophy teaches us to doubtfully judge even matters seeming to be obviously true, propaganda tries to get us to accept even unreasonable things as true**
The first two sentences contrast the two. Philosophy teaches us to **feel uncertain** even about things that seem **self-evident**. Propaganda teaches us to **accept as self-evident** things about which we should suspend judgement or feel doubt. So philosophy makes us doubt even obvious truths, while propaganda gets us to accept doubtful things as true. Not the option saying propaganda teaches us to accept **plausible** matters: the point is that propaganda makes us accept **doubtful** matters without question.

5. It can be inferred from the statements of the propagandist that _____.
✓ **B) everything is either good or bad and there is no middle way between the bad and the good**
The passage says **there are no greys** in the propagandist's picture of the world: **everything is either diabolically black or celestially white**. So for him everything is either good or bad, with no middle way. All the other options describe an open-minded person, but he is **consistently dogmatic** and never admits he may be wrong.

6. According to the propagandist, when a rival becomes intolerable, _____.
✓ **D) he ought to be done away with**
The last sentence says opponents who **become too much of a nuisance** should be **liquidated**, which means killed or got rid of. **Do away with** someone means the same. Not 'he can be argued with': the propagandist says opponents should not be argued with but attacked and shouted down.

7. The passage from which this paragraph is taken is about _____.
✓ **E) systems in the body**
The paragraph begins **As for the nervous system** and refers to the muscular system **in the previous paragraph**. This shows the whole passage deals with several systems in the body, one after another. Not **the nervous system**: that is the topic of this paragraph only, not of the whole passage.

8. The paragraph that follows this one is possibly about _____.
✓ B) the way messages are carried along the nerves
The last sentence points forward: **How the conduction of messages is carried out along these natural wires is illustrated below**. The 'natural wires' are the nerves, so the next paragraph shows how messages travel along the nerves.

9. It is revealed in the passage that _____.
✓ A) the efficient function of the muscular system depends on the effectiveness of the nervous system
The passage says that without the nervous system **the muscular system would not work properly**, because nerves **direct muscular movements**. So the muscular system depends on the nervous system. The other options contradict the text: nerves also direct language learning, and the controlling units are in the brain.

10. If the negative charges and the positive ones are added, _____.
✓ A) the total number of all the charges in an atom can be found
Negative and positive charges are the only charged parts of the atom, so adding them gives the total number of charges. Not **the weight of the atom**: the passage says weight is found by adding **the neutral particles and the positive charges**, not the negative ones.

11. If a neutral particle flies out of the centre of an atom, _____.
✓ D) the atom loses its balance
The passage says that when a neutral particle is **disconnected from the centre, the atom loses its stability**. **Loses its balance** means the same as loses its stability. The other options are not mentioned in the passage.

12. According to the passage, it wouldn't be right to say that _____.
✓ C) the balance is lost when the atom is pressed
The passage says the atom loses its stability when a neutral particle is disconnected from the centre. It never says this happens when the atom is pressed, so that statement would be wrong. All the other options agree with the text. Atoms are invisibly small. Negative charges are on rings after a considerable amount of space. Positive and negative charges are the same in number, so a total of 50 means 25 are negative. Nuclear energy comes from a consecutive reaction.

13. Josper Fant became worried _____.
✓ D) as he had heard of people eating snakes but had never expected to eat one himself
Josper was **agitated** when he saw the snake go **into the stew-pot**, which meant he might have to eat it. The passage says **he had heard that people ate snakes but had never expected to do so himself**. Not the 'grill' option: Bolivar put the snake into a stew-pot. He was not worried about the belt either, because that is what he first assumed and it did not upset him.

14. It is inferred from the passage that _____.
✓ E) Bolivar and Augustus had probably tasted rattlesnake before that incident
Bolivar calmly cooks the snake, and Augustus **laughed** and lectured on **the culinary properties of a rattlesnake**. Both seem familiar with eating it, so we can infer they had probably tasted it before. Not the Josper option: the passage says he **had heard that people ate snakes**.

15. According to the passage, _____.
✓ B) Josper and his friends planned to punish Bolivar badly so that he would improve his manners
The other hands wanted to **hang Bolivar on the spot**, or at least **rope him and drag him through the prickly pear to improve his manners**. This is a harsh punishment meant to change his behaviour. The passage does not say they decided against punishing him, or that Augustus was their usual judge.

16. It can be concluded from the passage that _____.
✓ A) certain types of depression result from the malfunction of the emotional brain
The last sentence says that **in biological depressions, such brain areas begin to malfunction**. So certain types of depression go together with a malfunction of the emotional brain. Not the option 'must have been depressed': the passage never says that a loss of appetite or sexual interest always means depression.

17. The emotional brain _____.
✓ C) keeps a person psychologically and physically at ease
When the emotional brain **is functioning normally**, you sleep well, **feel rested**, have a normal appetite and are not **overwhelmed by intense feelings**. In short, **you feel normal**, at ease both physically and emotionally. Not 'all the brain structures': it is made of **a number of specific structures**.

18. Sleeplessness may occur _____.
✓ E) as a result of the emotional brain operating improperly
A good night's sleep is linked to the emotional brain **functioning normally**, and sleep cycles are among the functions it regulates. So when these areas **malfunction**, sleeplessness can result. The other options are either not mentioned or reverse the logic.

19. It will prove inconclusive to argue about whether women are weaker than men _____.
✓ B) unless we discuss it within the limits of a certain domain
The passage says these debates are meaningless because **stronger** may mean many things, and each sex can surpass the other in certain kinds of activities. So the argument leads nowhere unless we limit it to one particular domain, such as lifting weights or resisting disease. Not the heavy-work option: it gives only one side of the argument and does not explain why the debate is inconclusive.

20. It would be justifiable to argue that women are stronger than men only _____.
✓ D) when we consider women's performance in working properly under boringly routine conditions
Women's advantages include **the ability to work accurately under monotonous conditions**, and **on this kind of proof** it would be legitimate to say women are stronger. So the claim is justified only in such areas. Not the 'hands more skilfully though men outlive them' option: the passage says **women live longer than most men**.

21. It is stressed in the passage that _____.
✓ C) unless what we mean by "stronger" is clarified, there is no point in disputing over which sex is more powerful
The passage begins and ends with the same point. Debates are meaningless because **stronger** may mean many things, and the argument would not arise if the word were more sharply defined. Not 'men are stronger only in a few kinds of activities': the passage says each sex is better at certain activities, without saying that men's areas are few.

22. It is expressed in the passage that _____.
✓ E) prenatal modification of a baby's personality through the conduct of the pregnant mother seems most improbable
The passage asks whether the mother's conduct can **mould the unborn child's character**. It answers that what we know **makes all this seem utterly impossible**. Not the 'psychologically ill' option: an emotional shock affects the child's blood chemistry, but the passage does not say the baby will be born ill.

23. Even though the blood vessels of mother and child are indirectly connected, _____.
✓ C) some psychological conditions of mother pass to the child through chemical interchanges
The blood vessels **do not join directly**, but chemicals pass through their walls by **osmosis**. An **emotional shock to the mother** changes her blood chemistry, and this affects the child. Not the personality-traits option: the passage says talents like **poetic genius** cannot pass through the blood.

24. According to the passage, the present birth technology _____.
✓ A) still hasn't managed to implant desirable traits in a baby in the womb
The last sentence says **we cannot see how a liking for mathematics or poetic genius** could pass through the blood to the child. So there is still no known way to give an unborn baby desirable traits. The option **can imprint poetic genius** says the opposite. The other options (predicting sex, in vitro development, operations) are not mentioned at all.

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