ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Short Advanced Reading Comprehension Test 24 With MCQs and Answers

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Explanations

1. **What has been lost is _____.**
✓ B) the battle for freedom from fear
The writer mentions Roosevelt's 'Four Freedoms', one of which was **freedom from fear**, and then says **'That battle has been lost.'** So what has been lost is the battle for freedom from fear. Not **World War II**: America fought that war; it is the battle for freedom from fear that the writer says is lost today.

2. **In many American cities, _____.**
✓ D) only during daylight is it possible to talk of real freedom to be out
The passage says the US 'is now a land of **real freedom only during daylight**', so people feel safe to be out only in the daytime. Not the first option, which reverses this: the writer says people feel free only in daylight, not after dark.

3. **Tourists are more in danger as _____.**
✓ E) they lack Americans' instinctive awareness of which parts of cities are more dangerous
The passage says Americans instinctively avoid large sections of cities, 'using mental maps in our heads that are unavailable to tourists'. These are not real maps. They are an instinctive knowledge of which areas are dangerous, and tourists lack it. Not the options about actual maps: the **mental maps** exist only in people's heads.

4. **It is stressed in the passage that _____.**
✓ C) political ideology is not valued by those struggling against starvation, ignorance and disease unless it affects their economic deprivation positively
The first sentence says such people **value political ideology only to the extent that it affects their own desperate condition**. In other words, ideology matters to them only if it improves their situation. The other options misstate the passage: coca is grown by Latin American peasants, not North Americans, and North America is the market.

5. **Coca farmers deny any responsibility for probable bad results of this trade _____.**
✓ E) with a gesture suggesting they do not care about them
The last sentence says 'The consequences, they say **with a shrug**, are a North American problem.' A **shrug** (raising the shoulders) shows that someone does not care. Not **saying reluctantly**: a shrug shows indifference, not reluctance.

6. **A stable amount of money earnable by the production of coca is regarded by Latin Americans in miserable conditions as _____.**
✓ B) the only way for saving their children from dying of hunger
Peasants see coca income as their **salvation**. Many argue it is better to send cocaine north 'than to allow their own children to **starve**', and they have **few alternatives**. So they see it as the only way to save their children from hunger. Not **salvation from ignorance and disease**: the passage links coca income to food and money, not to these problems.

7. **_____ is not estimated to cause an economic recession.**
✓ C) Environmental betterment
The causes of economic stagnation listed are weak commodity prices, a shortage of investment capital, debt, **ecological decay**, poor infrastructure, population pressure and a lack of technology. **Environmental betterment** (improvement) is the opposite of ecological decay, so it is not given as a cause.

8. **What characterises Third World countries is _____.**
✓ E) both economic and political inconsistency
The passage describes both **economic stagnation** and **stifled political reform**, and the last sentence sums this up as 'Uneven economic development and stifled political reform'. Only the answer combining economic and political problems covers the whole description. The single options (economic, political, technological) each give only part of the picture.

9. **In the process of democratisation, administrative irregularities will be experienced on account of _____.**
✓ D) the involvement of the military and religious groups in politics
The passage says democratisation 'will experience **fits and starts** as **sectarian, military involvement in politics**... will hinder political reforms'. **Sectarian** refers to religious groups, so the involvement of the military and religious groups is the cause. Not **economic sectors**: 'sectarian' has nothing to do with sectors of the economy.

10. The major idea expressed in the passage is _____.
✓ D) despite their obvious dissimilarities in length, the essay and the paragraph are structurally similar
The first sentence states the main idea: 'Although they are obviously different in length, the paragraph and the essay have **structural similarities**.' The rest of the passage gives examples of these similarities. The first option is only one of those details, not the main idea.

11. It would be wrong to say _____.
✓ C) in an essay, each paragraph is written independently of the introductory paragraph
The passage says the body paragraphs of an essay **expand and support the ideas presented in the introductory paragraph**. So they are not written independently of it, and this is the false statement. All the other options agree with the passage.

12. In a good paragraph, _____.
✓ D) any sentence written after the introductory sentence should be relevant to it
The passage says 'the sentences in the body of a paragraph **develop its introductory sentence**', which is controlled by the topic sentence. So every following sentence must be relevant to it. The other options are either unsupported or contradict this.

13. The utility of weapons of mass destruction for technologically undeveloped nations is limited as _____.
✓ B) they lack the technology to launch nuclear mass destructive missiles to a long distance
The passage says 'The **absence of long-range delivery systems** for weapons of mass destruction... **limits their utility for non-superpowers**.' So these nations cannot send such weapons over long distances. Not the third option: it is for terrorists, not non-superpowers, that this absence 'is not a factor'.

14. It can be concluded from the passage that _____.
✓ A) terrorists can possibly replace technologically complicated atomic explosions with less complex, deliberate atomic pollution
The passage says terrorists 'can **substitute** technologically simple, deliberate atomic pollution **for** technologically more complicated atomic weapons'. This is what the correct option restates. Not the 'warehouse' option: the passage talks about a warehouse-size nuclear **device** being acceptable, not a target.

15. The first option mentioned is nearly impossible due to the fact that _____.
✓ C) carefully taken anti-terrorist measures make it difficult to materialise
The first option is striking targets within Britain. The passage says this is difficult 'for various reasons, covering (= including) **meticulously prepared counterterrorist measures** enforced by government agencies'. Not the option about the government forcing agencies to work unwillingly: nothing like this is said.

16. The most appropriate conclusion to be drawn from the passage is that _____.
✓ E) even though the major industry of Israel in its early years was agriculture, it is commercially developed enough now
The passage says Israel **in its early years focused on agricultural production**, but manufacturing and high technology have now **surpassed agriculture**. Even the kibbutzim earn more from manufacturing. So the economy began with agriculture and is now commercially developed. Not the first option: the passage says Israel no longer concentrates mainly on agriculture, so this conditional makes no sense.

17. It seems that the most significant constituent of Israel's modern economy is _____.
✓ D) the arms industry
The passage says **one out of four Israeli workers** is employed directly or indirectly by the **arms industry**. This makes it the biggest single part of the modern economy. Not **agricultural production**: manufacturing has surpassed it. **Diamond mining** is wrong because Israel only cuts and polishes diamonds and has almost no natural resources.

18. The arms industry _____.
✓ A) employs twenty-five per cent of all Israeli workers
'One out of four Israeli workers' means **25 per cent**, and the passage says they are employed directly or indirectly by the **arms industry**. Not **has surpassed chemical manufacturing**: the passage does not compare these two.

19. Non-military research has been underfinanced _____.
✓ D) to prepare militarily for any threat that might be posed by other nations
The passage says that '**as a response to threats** that may be developed by other nations', military programmes take a large share of government funds. That is why non-military research gets so little. Not **for the sake of knowledge of man's world**: that is the aim of non-military research, not the reason it is underfinanced.

20. According to the passage, it is wrong to say that _____.
✓ B) non-military scientific research has to be abandoned since military ones also lead to technically valuable developments
The writer complains that non-military research is **pitifully underfinanced**. He never suggests it should be **abandoned**, so this statement is wrong. The other options agree with the passage: military research produces useful **by-products**, it gets priority because of possible threats, and non-military research is done **for the sake of knowledge of man's world**.

21. It is stressed in the passage that _____.
✓ E) the amount reserved for the maintenance of national security is surprisingly big
The passage stresses that military programmes absorb **a great share of government funds**. With the **growing appetite for military priorities**, few research funds are left that are not spent on national security. So the amount spent on security is very large. Options 1 and 4 say the opposite.

22. The device introduced by the English company Katcha Products ____.

✓ B) is for the non-brutal seizure of pests

The passage describes 'a **humane** and environmentally friendly way' to deal with spiders, flies and wasps, 'guaranteed **not to harm** the insect'. **Non-brutal seizure** means catching them without hurting them. Not **only for spiders**: it is also for flies and wasps. Not **merely for scientific research**: students and scientists are only extra users.

23. If the trap is taken from the ground without the handle being twisted, ____.

✓ C) the insect inside will be free again

It is **twisting the handle** that closes the shutter and traps the insect. If the trap is lifted without twisting, the shutter stays open and the insect can escape. Not **the shutter will remain unopened**: the shutter is open until the handle is twisted.

24. The device is invaluable for entomologists since ____.

✓ A) they want to seize insects intact in order that they can be examined later

The last sentence says entomologists can use the trap to **catch insects in the field for later examination**. Because the trap does not harm the insect, it stays **intact** (undamaged) for study. Not the option about killing insects: the trap is guaranteed not to harm them.

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