ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Short Advanced Reading Comprehension Test 25 With MCQs and Answers

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21	**E**	22	**E**	23	**D**	24	**A**												

Explanations

1. **The major idea of the passage is _____.**
✓ D) building close personal relationships with people that you stay with in an enclosed area for a long time can seriously damage human emotions
The passage says long periods in small, closed spaces are a severe hazard to emotions. That is why the instructors told submariners to avoid close relationships and keep only superficial friendships. Not the last option: the passage actually recommends superficial relations.

2. **It is stated in the passage that _____.**
✓ C) the careful selection of the submariners for the special mission was done considering psychological findings of those living in small areas for a long time
The first two sentences link the careful choice of the crew to research on people who stay in small, closed spaces for a long time. So the selection was based on psychological findings. Not the option about close friendships: the psychologists advised the opposite.

3. **The Soviet naval instructors gave each crewman careful counselling since _____.**
✓ E) they were supposed to refrain from emotional intimacy for the success of the mission
The instructors told each submariner to avoid close personal relationships and keep only superficial friendships, so that they could control their emotions during the long mission. Not **no friendship was to be allowed**: superficial friendships were allowed.

4. **The author is of the opinion that _____.**
✓ C) the U.S. military is regarded as responsible for maintaining not only the freedom and security of the U.S. but also those of many other nations with which it has defence agreements
The first two sentences say the U.S. is seen as responsible for the liberty and security of most of the world, and that this responsibility is tied to many bilateral and multilateral defence treaties. The other options exaggerate (**all of the nations**, **cannot be challenged**) or give reasons the passage does not state.

5. **All the following statements are true except that _____.**
✓ D) almost four million men and women soldiers can be mobilised in case of a war the U.S. might wage against any country
The passage says the forces are manned by **over** four million men and women, not **almost** four million, and it says nothing about a war against any country. So this statement is not true. The other statements match the passage: treaties and responsibility for security, connections all over the world, the most advanced weapons, and opposition from antiwar groups.

6. **Multilateral treaties are _____.**
✓ D) those regarding more than two groups or nations
Multi- means 'many', so a **multilateral** treaty is between more than two countries or groups. A treaty between two sides is **bilateral**, a word also used in the passage.

7. **The biggest problem which causes most deaths and casualties during earthquakes is _____.**
✓ A) most buildings are not durable enough to survive earthquakes
The passage opens by saying most earthquake deaths are caused by collapsing pillars, walls, bridges and other constructions, so the main problem is buildings that are not strong enough. Not the option about transporting the injured: that is only one example from the 1992 quake.

8. **In spite of the existence of technology to design durable buildings to survive quakes intact, _____.**
✓ C) there is no legal force requiring builders to do so
Sentence 2 says: 'Despite the existence of technology ... there are no laws to force builders to use it.' **In spite of** introduces a contrast, and the answer completes it: no law makes builders use the technology.

9. **Hospitals and police stations _____.**
✓ A) are mentioned as examples of buildings to be constructed with highly technical specifications
The passage gives fire stations, hospitals and police stations as examples of buildings that 'must be constructed with special consideration' so they stay undamaged in an earthquake. The passage talks about earthquakes, not hurricanes.

10. Albert accepted his friend's suggestion of going into the hills, _____.
✓ B) though he was unwilling to do what he suggested doing
The passage says Albert 'was reluctant' but went along because he was afraid of being laughed at. **Reluctant** means unwilling, so he went even though he did not want to. Not **even though the boys poked fun at him**: he was only afraid that they might laugh at him.

11. The music from the church bell, mingled with the birdsong, _____.
✓ D) was so impressive as to inspire Albert to prevent his friends from killing the birds
When the bell rang, Albert felt it was 'a voice from heaven' and shooed the birds away so that his friends could not shoot them. **So impressive as to** means 'impressive enough to'. Not the option about the bell scaring the birds: Albert himself shooed them away.

12. This story emphasizes that _____.
✓ C) an authentic person does what is right regardless of what others may think, even if they ridicule him
The passage opens with the main idea: 'Authentic people recognise the direction in which their lives are meant to go.' Albert first went along because he was **afraid of being laughed at**. When the bell rang, he did what he believed was right and shooed the birds away, **disregarding what his friends thought about him**. From then on, reverence for life mattered more than the fear of ridicule. So the story shows that an authentic person **does what is right regardless of what others may think**. Not the option about being careful not to be ridiculed: the story says the fear of being laughed at became less important to him, not something to worry about.

13. Researchers' untimely engagement in fine details of their topic _____.
✓ A) blocks their proper view of the subject as a whole and leads to redundant notes
The passage says students 'plunge into fine points before they see the topic as a whole' and take more notes than necessary. Starting with details too early stops them from seeing the whole subject and produces unnecessary (**redundant**) notes.

14. What renders writing a research paper more difficult is _____.
✓ C) students' disorganised way of approaching their topic, and their failure to check early whether enough material is available
The first sentence says students make the paper harder 'because of inefficient working habits': putting work off, not checking early whether there is enough material, and starting with details. Not the nature of writing itself: the task is difficult, but students make it **more** difficult.

15. _____ is among inefficient students' working habits.
✓ B) Delaying work on the given writing assignment until too late a time
The passage names postponing work 'until it is too late' as the first inefficient habit. Checking the library early and picking out only the relevant facts are what efficient students do.

16. The author's friend made a fire just in front of the car not only to prevent the car and them from freezing _____.
✓ E) but also to provide light for the fixing operation on the car
Not only ... but also is a fixed pair. The passage says Daniel built the fire to keep the car and them from freezing 'and to furnish light for the operation', that is, the wheel repair.

17. _____, it proved harder to drive out of the lane than it had been to drive in.
✓ C) Due to the dense woods and the field of vision obstructed by the snow
The passage gives two reasons: the timber was dense, so they could not turn around, and the whirling snow made visibility poor. **Due to** is followed by a noun phrase, as here.

18. The snow-laden trees that the writer hit _____.
✓ D) turned the car into a pile of moving snow
The small pines dumped their snow on the car, so 'the Plymouth was little more than a snowdrift on wheels', a moving pile of snow. Not **in ruins**: the car was covered in snow, not destroyed.

19. An examination of a tiny spot of the skin with a microscope of strong magnifying power shows _____.
✓ B) sensory activities are more complicated than can be explained as the stimulation of certain sensory endings
The microscope shows that 'the matter is not so simple': many interwoven fibres are involved, not one special ending per spot. The first option repeats the old assumption that the passage challenges.

20. It is almost impossible to stimulate a single fibre separately _____.
✓ A) because fibre branches interweave with others from those nearby and many coexist at any given skin spot
The passage says 'the intermingling of the fibre branches and the great number of different endings at any one skin spot' make it difficult to stimulate one fibre selectively.

21. It is understood from the passage that _____.
✓ E) the common assumption about how the skin senses cold, heat, pain and touch is too simple
The passage starts with the common assumption that each skin spot has one specialised ending for cold, heat, pain or touch, and then shows it is too simple: sensations come from the activation of many different fibres at once. Not the option about a single receptor producing sensations alone: the last sentence says the opposite.

22. The country is badly influenced by alcohol _____.
✓ E) because of the heavy death toll resulting from the harmful effect of the substance on the individual and others
The passage says alcohol causes or is associated with 200,000 deaths a year through disease, crashes, fires, falls and other injuries, harming both drinkers and other people. The other options are not stated or give only a small part of the picture.

23. Drunk driving is mainly responsible for the huge number of deaths and injuries, ____.

✓ D) which usually occur among the young as they are more prone to drink and drive recklessly

The passage says many of these deaths and injuries 'occur among the young' and that alcohol-impaired driving is the leading cause of death and injury among people under 25. **Which** refers back to the deaths and injuries.

24. The economic damage of alcoholism is enhanced ____.

✓ A) when the drunkard sleeps with his cigarette not put out and goes to work drunk

The costs in the passage include house fires started by drinkers who doze off with unextinguished cigarettes, and lost work time from drinking on the job. Not the treatment of diseases: the passage does not mention its cost.

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