ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Short Advanced Reading Comprehension Test 32 With MCQs and Answers

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Explanations

1. **"Hood" is a (an) _____.**
✓ E) covering for the head and neck, frequently fastened to a coat, etc. so that it can hang down at the back, or be detached, when not in use
The passage speaks of a **long hooded cloak**, so a **hood** here is part of a garment: a **covering for the head and neck**, often attached to a coat or cloak. Not the face-covering option, because that describes the **mask**, which is a separate item in the passage.

2. **The hood of the domino may have been inspired by _____.**
✓ A) former hoods worn by clergymen
The passage says the domino was **maybe derived from a kind of clerical hood**. **Clerical** means connected with priests or clergymen, so the hood may have copied **hoods worn by clergymen**. Italian Renaissance comedy is linked to the **half mask**, not the hood.

3. **"Men and women who wore dominos at masquerades and carnivals generally did so to remain incognito."**

"so" refers to _____.
✓ B) wore dominos with half masks
Did so replaces the verb phrase already used in the sentence: people **wore dominos**, which the passage says were generally worn with a half mask. They did this to stay **incognito** (unrecognised). Not "took part in masquerades and carnivals": that tells us where they wore them, not what **did so** replaces.

4. **The main thought of the text is _____.**
✓ E) the symptoms of depression and why women suffer more from it
The text does two things: it explains why women may be more affected by depression (greater sensitivity to stress, seasons and social rank), and it lists the **symptoms of depression**. Only the last option covers both. The other options each repeat a single detail, not the main idea.

5. **Which of the following is not an indication of depression?**
✓ C) Hallucination
The text lists **sleep disturbances** (lack of sleep), **feelings of worthlessness** (lack of self-esteem), **exhaustion** and **delusions** (false beliefs). **Hallucination** (seeing or hearing things that are not there) is not mentioned. Not "having false opinions and beliefs": that is what **delusions** means.

6. **In accordance with the text, _____.**
✓ B) a woman suffering from depression cannot focus her attention on anything for a long time
Difficulty concentrating is listed as a symptom, so a depressed woman finds it hard to focus her attention. Not the 20% option: the text says 20% of women in the **developed** world, not in the whole world.

7. Although the cheetah is considered an efficient hunter, only about half of its attempts to take prey are successful. The most common reason for this failure is early detection by the prey. Cheetahs do not take wind direction into account when stalking, and unlike hyenas, cheetahs do not attempt to single out handicapped or sick individuals.

We can conclude from the text that _____.
✓ A) efficiency in hunting may not mean killing all the prey an animal is after
The cheetah is **considered an efficient hunter**, yet only about half of its attempts succeed. So being efficient does not mean catching every animal it hunts. The other options are not supported. For example, the text says cheetahs do **not** single out sick animals; it does not say they make easy prey.

8. **According to the text, which of the following is not true?**
✓ E) It is impossible for prey to run away once a cheetah decides to hunt it.
The text says only about half of a cheetah's attempts succeed, mostly because of **early detection by the prey**. So prey often does escape, and the statement that escape is **impossible** is false. All the other statements repeat information given in the text.

9. **"Cheetahs do not take wind direction into account" implies that _____.**
✓ D) wind probably carries cheetahs' smell to their prey and so they easily become aware of cheetahs' presence
The sentence comes right after the point that most failures are due to **early detection by the prey**. A hunter that ignores the wind lets its scent blow towards the animals, so they notice it early and run away. Not "wind helps prey to escape more easily": this is too vague and does not explain how the wind helps.

10. Which of the following titles would be suitable for the text?
✓ A) Living with Disability
The text deals with the whole experience of disability: grief, the challenge of living with loss, the effect on the family, and the love that can still be found. **Living with Disability** covers all of this. Not "If You Become Disabled": the text also covers family members who are born or become handicapped.

11. Which of the following statements is correct?
✓ C) In some cases, the condition of the disabled person may get even more serious.
The text mentions cases where **the diagnosis means further disablement, or even death, is likely**. So the person's condition may get worse. Not the first option: the text says the **immediate family** also loses its previous life choices.

12. The author has used "previous life choices" for _____.
✓ E) people who become handicapped sometime later in their lives
A person can only lose **previous** life choices if they once lived without the disability. So the phrase refers to people who **become handicapped** later in life. People born handicapped never had such earlier choices.

13. The passage is about _____.
✓ E) the weakening of the economy starting from the 1980s in Libya
The passage first describes the comfortable **palmy days** of the '70s and '80s. It then explains how this **largesse was being trimmed back in the late '80s** and how sanctions brought **harder times** and a falling dinar. So the main topic is the economy getting weaker from the 1980s. Not the dinar option: the dinar **started to slide**, so it was not always stable.

14. Which of the following may have happened when the economy started to decline?
✓ D) Government salaries were frozen.
Almost everyone was on the **government payroll**, and the government's generosity was being **trimmed back**. A likely result is that **government salaries were frozen**. The other options describe better times (falling prices, new free housing), which goes against the **harder times** in the passage.

15. Which of the following statements is not correct?
✓ D) Only the people working for the government benefited from the national revenue between 1970 and 1980.
Almost the entire working population was on the government payroll, and **the vast bulk of the population** lived comfortably with free housing, water and electricity. So the benefits were not limited to government workers. The other statements match the passage, e.g. sanctions were **not savage enough to cause misery on the scale of circumstances in Iraq**.

16. The common cold is more usually seen in _____.
✓ D) small children
Pre-school children average from 6 to 12 colds a year, more than any other group. Not "parents with small children": they have about 6 colds a year, which is more than other adults but fewer than the children.

17. According to the passage, artificial immunization against the common cold is unlikely to be available soon because _____.
✓ A) the common cold is not caused by one specific virus
The passage says: **Since so many viruses cause the common cold**, it is unlikely that artificial immunization will be probable for some time. The reason is the large number of different viruses (50 to 60 rhinoviruses and others), not a single one. Not "people will now and then come into contact with others who have the common cold": the passage mentions contact with small children only to explain why older people catch fewer colds, not to explain why there is no vaccine.

18. "The disease is also more prevalent among certain age groups" means that _____.
✓ A) certain age groups are likely to suffer from the disease more frequently
Prevalent means common or widespread. So people in certain age groups get colds **more often**, as the figures that follow show. The sentence says nothing about how serious, mild or long-lasting a cold is.

19. Commercial art galleries _____.
✓ A) had come into existence even before art criticism became a profession
The passage says art criticism **has been a distinct profession just since the 19th century** and that it **grew from** commercial art galleries and newspapers. Something can only grow from institutions that already exist, so the galleries existed before criticism became a profession. Not the French Academy option: the passage says galleries appeared **when the French Academy was no longer able to handle all the work**, not that the Academy founded them.

20. Which of the following is not correct?
✓ C) We can infer that art critics have never been as specialized as experts of other kinds of art.
The passage only says criticism **differs from** expertise and other kinds of art scholarship. It does not compare how specialised critics and experts are, so this inference is not supported. The other statements are supported: critics **call on specialists** to date a work, and **knowledge of artistic tradition is established by art history**.

21. According to the passage, which of the following is not directly engaged in art criticism?
✓ D) X-ray specialists
Newspapers publish criticism, and the passage says **museums and patrons ... are also engaged in criticism**. **X-ray specialists** only help: the critic **may call on** them to date a work or analyse its materials. They support criticism but do not do it themselves.

22. Secularization, as it has developed since the Middle Ages, has consisted in substituting for supernatural and theological explanations, natural and reasonable ones. This change is one of the most profound affecting mankind and forms the basis of modern democratic government and of our scientific-technological age. In a society based on the divine right of kings, there could be no genuinely democratic government in the modern sense. Democracy is built on the idea that the individual has a right to judge political issues for himself.

According to the passage, with the rise of democracy _____.
✓ E) the traditional concept of the "divine right of kings" has vanished
The passage says that **in a society based on the divine right of kings, there could be no genuinely democratic government**. So the two cannot exist together, and as democracy rose, the old idea of kings ruling by God's will disappeared. Not the first option: secularization replaced supernatural explanations with **natural and reasonable** ones, not technological ones.

23. It is argued that the process of secularization _____.
✓ C) has led to systems of democratic government
The passage states that secularization **forms the basis of modern democratic government**. Not "goes back to pre-medieval times": the passage says it has developed **since the Middle Ages**.

24. In the development of modern society, _____.
✓ D) the impact of secularization has been of fundamental importance
Secularization is called **one of the most profound** changes affecting mankind, and the basis of both modern democracy and the scientific-technological age. So its impact has been **fundamental**. Not the technology option: technology is described as a result of secularization, not as the ultimate aim of society.

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