ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Short Advanced Reading Comprehension Test 4 With MCQs and Answers

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Explanations

1. **If the author has a good breakfast and enough sleep, _____.**
✓ E) he can spend his day actively doing many things
The last sentence says that with **a good breakfast and enough sleep** the author can **go through a whole day with enough energy and alertness to do many things**. So he can spend his day actively doing many things. The other options (speed, flexibility, endurance, making a living) are not mentioned in the passage.

2. **The author says that he cannot carry out his daily activities properly _____.**
✓ A) if he has slept excessively or insufficiently
The passage says: **If I have too much or too little sleep, I don't look forward to the day and am not enthusiastic about doing things.** 'Excessively or insufficiently' means 'too much or too little'. Balance, creativity and judging himself are never mentioned.

3. **According to the author, people performing their daily activities without being exhausted _____.**
✓ D) can be considered physically fit
The first sentence defines the term: **Physical fitness is having ample energy and the ability to fulfil daily activities without being exhausted.** So people who can do their daily activities without getting exhausted **can be considered physically fit**.

4. Another common argument in divorce is that the two individuals involved may have unlike ideas of what they want from their marriage. Most couples face the problem: one wants children but the other doesn't. One divorced woman feels that the biggest problem in marriages is that in the beginning, both people ignore the small problems and they end up turning into even larger problems as they are ignored. Communication is the key to making any marriage work.

   One of the common arguments in divorce in which the two individuals are involved is _____.
   ✓ B) whether to have children or not
   The passage says couples may want different things from their marriage, and gives the example **one wants children but the other doesn't**. So one common argument is **whether to have children or not**. The other options are about adjusting after divorce or about children's needs, which this passage does not discuss.

5. **According to a divorced woman, the most significant problem is ignoring small problems _____.**
✓ D) that become larger in the end
The divorced woman says both people **ignore the small problems and they end up turning into even larger problems**. The relative clause **that become larger in the end** completes the sentence and matches this idea. The other options do not fit the sentence grammatically, and they talk about children or pain, which she does not mention.

6. **According to the author, couples that want to continue their marriage _____.**
✓ A) should understand each other by communicating
The final sentence says: **Communication is the key to making any marriage work.** So couples who want their marriage to last **should understand each other by communicating**. Not 'ought to stay together for children's sake', because the passage never mentions this.

7. **Some people indicate that female scientists whose number is growing _____.**
✓ D) may take love more seriously than male scientists
The passage says: **Others point to the growing number of women scientists and suggest that they may be more willing than their male colleagues to take love seriously.** The modal **may** shows a possibility, not an obligation. The other options (experiments, problems being impossible) are not mentioned.

8. **One of the reasons why the research about love has become deeper is _____.**
✓ A) because of AIDS which has been spreading
The passage gives the spread of AIDS as one explanation: **Some cite the spreading threat of AIDS; with casual sex carrying mortal risks, it seems important to know more about a force that binds couples faithfully together.** Not 'as the idea of love is an invention of the mind', because the passage concludes the opposite: love **is bred into our biology**.

9. In spite of the past belief that love was all in the head, _____.
✓ E) science now accepts that love is real and part of our biology
In spite of introduces a contrast. The old idea was that love was only in the head, but the passage ends: **science seems to have come around to a view that... romance is real. It is not merely a conceit; it is bred into our biology.** So science now accepts that love is real and biological. Not 'it doesn't imply that love is just a false emotion', because this does not create a logical contrast with the past belief.

10. It is clearly understood from the paragraph that in a Capitalist economic system, _____.
✓ C) there is competition among the powers of the market
The passage says the system **allows the powers of market forces to operate** and that firms compete to **win custom**. Firms that fail **go out of business**. This describes competition in the market. Not 'only the consumer has the power to dictate the goods', because the passage never says **only** the consumer has power.

11. According to the paragraph, producers that are always seeking the highest profit _____.
✓ E) lead to innovation and greater quality and variety beneficial to consumers
Because producers seek the highest profit, **they must try to please the consumer**, and **this leads to innovation and greater quality and variety**. Not 'can be more profitable and wealthy', because the passage says only firms that produce the right goods make a profit, not every profit-seeking producer.

12. The expansion of the economy and greater prosperity are probable _____.
✓ B) by introducing suitable goods and services for the benefit of consumers by the firms
The passage explains that **the firms that produce the correct goods and services will win custom and make a profit**, and **this will result in the expansion of the economy and greater prosperity**. So growth comes from firms offering suitable goods and services to consumers. Not 'since the consumer has all the power', because the passage does not say that consumers have all the power.

13. Pollution is the introduction of harmful substances or products into the environment. It is a major problem in America as well as the world. Pollution not only damages the environment but damages us also. It has caused many problems ranging from lung cancer to the greenhouse effect. It is all among us but we continue to live in our own filth.

According to the author, human beings _____.
✓ D) have been living in an environment that they themselves have contaminated
The last sentence says: **It is all among us but we continue to live in our own filth.** This means people live in the environment they have polluted themselves. Not 'are not really related to vital environmental problems', because the passage says pollution **damages us also**.

14. We cause environmental pollution _____.
✓ E) by releasing harmful substances or products into the environment
The first sentence defines pollution: **the introduction of harmful substances or products into the environment**. 'Releasing' is a synonym of 'introducing' here. The other options describe effects of pollution on plants and fish, not how we cause it.

15. Polluting the environment has many effects on our lives _____.
✓ A) including our health
The passage says pollution **damages us also** and causes problems **ranging from lung cancer to the greenhouse effect**. Lung cancer is a health problem, so the effects include **our health**. The other options describe ways of polluting, not effects on our lives.

16. Since the available jobs which women can get usually require education, _____.
✓ C) uneducated women are often forced to live on the streets
The passage says these women have **no education**, because they have not had the chance to get **the education that it takes nowadays to get a job**. As a result, **they are forced to live on the streets**. Not 'their families can provide help for them', because the passage says **they have no family to help them**.

17. Many of the homeless women that got divorced or left home _____.
✓ A) don't have families to support them
The last sentence says about these women: **They have no family to help them and they are left with no other choice.** So they don't have families to support them. Mental problems, illegal immigration and struggling to stay warm are not mentioned in the passage.

18. Many people have become homeless _____.
✓ E) because of either unemployment or the rise in the cost of housing
The passage names economic problems such as **being laid off from work** or **the rise in the cost of housing**. **Being laid off** means losing your job, which is unemployment. Not 'because they get kicked out of their homes and are ashamed to go to their families', because the passage does not mention this.

19. It can be inferred from the paragraph that _____.
✓ C) the reason for people's stress and suicides is not doing what makes them happy
The last sentence is a second conditional: **If people did what makes them happy, they wouldn't be so stressed out and there wouldn't be as many suicides.** From this we can infer that not doing what makes them happy causes stress. The other options (animals, plants, nutrition, the mind) are not discussed in the paragraph.

20. Aristotle thinks that living a virtuous life _____.
✓ A) is the key to achieving true happiness
Aristotle **declared that there is only one way to achieve true happiness and that is by living a virtuous life**. So a virtuous life is the key to true happiness. The other options do not complete the sentence logically and are not in the paragraph.

21. It is clear from the paragraph that _____.
✓ D) Thomas Aquinas was greatly influenced by Aristotle's work
The paragraph says: **One of the greatest Catholic philosophers, Thomas Aquinas, based much of his work on Aristotle.** So Aquinas was influenced by Aristotle. Not 'Aristotle explains the qualities of plants, animals, and humans', because the paragraph only talks about ethics and happiness.

22. In accordance with the paragraph, it may be said that _____.
✓ D) oil spills usually kill all animals that get caught in them
The last sentence says: **Any animals caught in the oil typically do not survive.** 'Typically' means 'usually', so oil spills usually kill all animals caught in them. Not the option about fur and body temperature, because although it may be true in general, this paragraph does not mention it.

23. Oil spills not only kill sea birds _____.
✓ E) but also seals and sea lions
The paired structure **not only... but also** needs **but also** in the second part. The paragraph says oil washing ashore **where seals and sea lions breed also harms these animals**. The other options do not complete the structure and are about cleaning oil, which the paragraph does not discuss.

24. When birds land on oil-covered seas, _____.
✓ A) they die of either starvation or oil poisoning
Birds that land on oily water may **become trapped in the oil and die of starvation**. Those that escape often swallow the oil while cleaning their feathers, **leading to death within a few days**. So they die of either starvation or oil poisoning. The options about burning or pumping oil describe clean-up methods, which are not in the paragraph.

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