ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Short Advanced Reading Comprehension Test 40 With MCQs and Answers

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Explanations

1. **Of all the countries in the world, it is those in Africa _____.**
✓ B) that are most threatened by food shortages
Paragraph 1 says food production per person has fallen in 55 **mainly African** countries, and that about 30 countries, **most of them African**, can expect **serious problems** unless they act. So African countries are the ones **most threatened by food shortages**. Not 'environmentally most at a disadvantage': the passage talks about food and population, not about African environments being worse.

2. **It is argued in the passage that _____.**
✓ C) apart from some, mainly African, countries, global food production is adequate and likely to remain so
Paragraph 1 says food production has **kept ahead of population growth globally** but has fallen per person in 55 mainly African countries, and that **these trends will continue**. So global production is adequate apart from those countries. Not 'changes in world climate are increasing the problems': paragraph 2 says a warmer, wetter earth is **likely to be capable of producing more food**.

3. **According to the passage, it is anticipated that _____.**
✓ E) unless serious measures are taken, the poor countries of the world will be faced with famine
The passage says about 30 countries **can expect serious problems unless** they reduce population growth and give priority to agriculture. It adds that even with more food, the amounts **will still be inadequate for many poorer countries**. So without serious measures, poor countries will face food shortages. The other options describe an improvement, which the passage does not predict.

4. **As can be inferred from the passage, psychology _____.**
✓ C) is not concerned with the mind alone but also with human personality and behaviour
The passage says psychology is **literally** the study of the mind, but its area **has broadened**: it **now includes the study of human personality and behaviour**. So it is not concerned with the mind alone. Not 'a branch of medicine': psychologists are trained **as scientists rather than as medical experts**.

5. **In the passage, attention is drawn to the fact that _____.**
✓ B) psychologists are basically scientists
Paragraph 2 stresses this point: **It is important to realize that psychologists are first and foremost trained as scientists**. **First and foremost** means 'basically, above all'. Not the option about medical purposes: the passage says psychologists do not necessarily take much interest in abnormalities of the brain.

6. **It is pointed out in the passage that _____.**
✓ C) as a branch of science, psychology is no longer to be understood in its literal sense
The passage says psychology is **literally** the study of the mind, but its area **has broadened** to include personality and behaviour. So the word should no longer be understood in its **literal sense** only. Not 'the study of human behaviour alone': the passage adds behaviour to the study of the mind and does not replace it.

7. **In the passage, it is argued that the reasons behind the aid given to underdeveloped countries _____.**
✓ B) are varied in purpose and in effect
The passage opens with **Aid ... takes many forms and is given for many reasons**. It then shows that the effects vary too: aid may help development, but it may also be wasted. So the reasons are **varied in purpose and in effect**. Not the humanitarian option: the passage says **the motives of the donor are not always humanitarian**.

8. **One infers from the passage that what is generally referred to as aid _____.**
✓ D) does not necessarily benefit the recipient country
Paragraph 2 states that **aid is not always beneficial to the recipient country**: it may be wasted or make the government relax its own efforts. So aid **does not necessarily** benefit the country receiving it. Not 'a waste of resources': the passage says aid **may** be wasted, not that it always is.

9. According to the passage, unless they receive aid, underdeveloped countries _____.
✓ E) cannot provide money and human resources for development
Paragraph 1 says underdeveloped countries **need aid to finance development projects** and to provide **the trained manpower and technical knowledge they lack**. So without aid they cannot supply the money and the skilled people (human resources) that development needs. The other options, such as military coups or lost prestige, are not mentioned as results of receiving no aid.

10. The first stated goal of the UN was _____.
✓ D) to prevent a third world war
The first aim named in the Charter is **to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime** has caused suffering. 'Twice' refers to the two world wars, so the goal is to prevent another (a third) world war. Not the option about justice and international agreements: that aim comes later, in paragraph 2.

11. Under its Charter, the UN guarantees _____.
✓ E) respect for human rights
The Charter aims to **reaffirm faith in fundamental rights**, **in the dignity and worth of the human person** and **in the equal rights of men and women**, so it commits the UN to respect for human rights. Not 'never to use arms': armed force may be used **in the common interest** (**save** here means 'except'). Free economic aid to every country is not mentioned.

12. The word "succeeding" in the passage can best be replaced by _____.
✓ D) following
Here **succeeding** means 'coming after', so **succeeding generations** are the **following** generations, the people of the future. Not **successful**: it looks similar, but it comes from 'succeed' meaning 'do well', not 'come next'.

13. In medieval England, _____.
✓ E) more people were engaged in agriculture than in industry
The passage says **by far the largest proportion** of people grew food, while those in trade and industry were **a comparatively small proportion**. So more people worked in agriculture than in industry. Not 'trade and industry were wholly unimportant': paragraph 2 says they were **not altogether insignificant**.

14. In the passage, the author emphasizes the _____.
✓ A) significance of industry and trade even in a mainly agricultural society
The author first describes medieval England as mainly agricultural. Then, with **This does not, however, mean...**, the author stresses that industry and trade were **not altogether insignificant** and helped shape the country's economic development. Not 'insignificance of industry and trade': the last sentence says exactly the opposite. The passage says nothing about the difficulty of growing food, about industry helping agriculture, or about England depending on commerce for growth.

15. One can say that economic life in medieval England _____.
✓ C) did not consist entirely of agriculture
Agriculture was the main source of income, but some people worked in trade and industry, and these activities were **not altogether insignificant**. So economic life **did not consist entirely of agriculture**. Not 'depended on agricultural activities only': the passage clearly mentions trade and industry.

16. When we go to the theatre, we expect to find some excitement on the stage. We also hope not to be bored by a lack of a good plot or movement. We want our play to be somewhat close to real life, with characters whom we can recognize as having a 'psychology' like our own. We want them to entertain us and convey ideas and information that we did not have before.

Good plot and movement _____.
✓ B) are among the elements we expect to find in a good play
The writer says **we also hope not to be bored by a lack of a good plot or movement**. In other words, a good plot and movement are things the audience expects in a play. Not 'can easily be found in every play': the passage only says we hope to find them.

17. To the author, _____.
✓ D) characters in a play must relate to real people
The writer says we want **characters whom we can recognize as having a 'psychology' like our own**, and a play **somewhat close to real life**. So the characters must relate to real people. Not 'nobody wants to see real life depicted': the passage says the opposite.

18. In the passage, the writer thinks that a play _____.
✓ E) must offer us new ideas and experiences
The last sentence says we want characters to **convey ideas and information that we did not have before**. So a play must offer us something new. Not 'contains a number of unusual characters': the writer wants characters we can **recognize** as being like ourselves.

19. One can understand from the passage that _____.
✓ E) most people can tolerate a moderate amount of coffee a day
Problems start with **more than three cups of coffee a day**, and **many people build up a certain tolerance** for caffeine. So most people can handle a moderate amount. Not 'the effects of caffeine are deadly': the passage lists unpleasant symptoms such as nervousness and insomnia, nothing deadly.

20. It is explained in the passage that _____.
✓ A) over a certain amount of caffeine has a harmful effect on our health
The passage says **more than three cups of coffee a day can cause unpleasant symptoms** such as nervousness and insomnia. So caffeine becomes harmful above a certain amount. Not 'the elderly are more sensitive than any other age group': the elderly are only one of several sensitive groups, and they are not compared with the others.

21. The author stresses _____.
✓ B) that certain people should be particularly careful about their daily caffeine intake
The author lists groups that are **particularly sensitive to the drug**: elderly people, children, pregnant women and people with heart disease, hypertension or emotional illness. So these people should be especially careful about how much caffeine they take. Not the option about old age in general: the elderly are only one of the groups, and the point is caffeine, not health in general.

22. The criminal justice system has three differently organized parts: the police, the courts, and corrections. Each has separate tasks. However, these parts are by no means independent of each other. The courts must deal with those whom the police arrest; the business of corrections is to reform those delivered to it by the courts. However, it is not certain whether convicts can actually be reformed in this way.

The writer _____.
✓ E) is doubtful whether the justice system can reform criminals
The last sentence shows the writer's doubt: **it is not certain whether convicts can actually be reformed in this way**. Not 'does not refer to the organization of the criminal justice system': the passage opens by describing its three parts.

23. The passage is mainly about _____.
✓ C) the institutional structure and functions of the criminal justice system
The passage describes the three parts of the system (**the police, the courts, and corrections**), their separate tasks, and how they depend on each other. This is its structure and functions. Not 'the co-operation between the police and the courts': that is only one detail, and corrections are also discussed.

24. It is understood that the parts of the criminal justice system _____.
✓ A) have individually specified but interrelated duties
The passage says **each has separate tasks**, yet the parts **are by no means independent of each other**. The courts deal with people the police arrest, and corrections deals with people sent by the courts. So their duties are individually specified but **interrelated** (connected). Not 'do not depend on one another at all': that is the opposite of **by no means independent**.

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