ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Short Advanced Reading Comprehension Test 5 With MCQs and Answers

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Explanations

1. **According to the author, parents are powerful enough _____.**
✓ A) to control what their children can watch on TV
The first sentence says that **parents have power over what their children watch**, so they can **control** their children's TV viewing. The passage does not mention banning 'worthless' shows, stopping violence on television itself or violence at school.

2. **According to one of the recommendations of scientists, _____.**
✓ C) parents ought to limit their children's TV watching hours
The first recommendation in the passage is to **reduce the number of hours of TV** that children watch, which means parents ought to **limit** their viewing time. The other options are general comments that the passage never makes.

3. **In the case of their children's watching violent acts on TV, scientists advise _____.**
✓ D) parents to discuss it with their children by explaining that this kind of behaviour is not favourable
The passage advises parents to **discuss** a violent act with their children and to tell them that **this kind of behaviour is not good**. The pattern is **advise someone to do something**, and only this option fits it after **advise**.

4. **If a parent is able to communicate and is an active listener with the child, _____.**
✓ E) they will be able to overcome difficulties together
The last sentences say that this support makes the relationship secure. **As a result, they will be able to work out any problem together.** To **work out** a problem means to **overcome** a difficulty. The homeschooling options do not come from this passage.

5. **According to the author, the support which should be provided to the child is essentially _____.**
✓ C) communicative
The passage says a parent must **communicate and be an active listener**, and then calls this **this kind of support**. The support is therefore **communicative**. Morals are mentioned too, but only as something children learn, not as the support itself.

6. **If parents find out that there are ineffective teachers not meeting the teaching standards, _____.**
✓ A) they should tell the school authorities, as this gives a better chance of finding a solution
The passage says parents **should voice the problem to the school authorities as there is a better chance of finding a solution**. The other options, about income and the roles of mothers and fathers, are not in the passage.

7. **According to the author, it is usual for an athlete to make mistakes _____.**
✓ C) because they are human beings just like us
Right after mentioning athletes' mistakes, the author says **They are only human just like the rest of us**. Making mistakes is normal because athletes are **human beings** like everyone else.

8. **Why has the media been interested in the bad things and mistakes which athletes make?**
✓ D) Because such news is rare and the public has always been interested in it.
The author says the media cares only about **a hot topic**. News about good deeds like charity donations soon becomes boring, so bad news and mistakes are the rare, exciting stories people want. Not 'the truth does not mean anything to them': the passage never says the media lies.

9. **Why doesn't the public find the news about all of the charities to which an athlete has donated money interesting?**
✓ A) Because such occasions are so common that they consider such matters very ordinary.
The author says news about charity donations **would be interesting at first, but you would get tired of it afterwards**. Such stories are so common that people find them **ordinary** and boring.

10. The air does get a bit warmer after the middle of March. But it is always covered in dampness that no furnace in the world can hope to dry. Of course, the season fools us by granting one or two nice days so we can get out and proclaim that winter has finally left. The following day brings the beginning of at least two or three weeks of sub-freezing weather. Even after the temperature reaches the freezing mark, that sluggish low pressure over the Gulf of Maine arrives to give us perpetually depressing grey days.

Even though it is March, the spring season, _____.
✓ A) you can see only one or two nice days
The passage says the season grants **only one or two nice days**, and then at least two or three weeks of sub-freezing weather follow. Not the furnace option: the passage says **no furnace in the world** can dry the dampness. Not 'the air never gets any warmer': the passage says the air **does get a bit warmer**.

11. The author tries to point out _____.
✓ B) how people are fooled by the season
The central idea is that **the season fools us**. A few nice days make us believe winter is over, and then freezing, grey weather returns. The grey days are only one detail that supports this point.

12. The way the season fools us is that _____.
✓ C) two or three weeks of freezing weather arrive after one or two nice days
The season grants **one or two nice days** so we think winter has gone. **The following day brings** at least **two or three weeks of sub-freezing weather**. That is the trick.

13. Not nearly as many teens would have guns if they didn't get the money from selling drugs. So, if we can stop the selling of drugs, fewer people will have money to buy guns and there will be less violence. We can at the same time blame our parents for violence. When parents buy a gun and put it away, their kids could get hold of it and bring it to school. This is why parents ought to lock away their weapons not just stick them in a drawer or on the top shelf of a closet.

According to the author, many teenagers would scarcely have guns _____.
✓ A) unless they got money from selling drugs
The first sentence says **Not nearly as many teens would have guns if they didn't get the money from selling drugs**. **Would scarcely have guns unless…** expresses the same condition.

14. Our parents are blamed for having a share in causing violence _____.
✓ B) because they do not keep their weapons out of their children's reach
The passage says parents sometimes just put a gun in a drawer or on a shelf, where their kids **could get hold of it**. That is why parents **ought to lock away their weapons**. The idiom for this is **keep something out of someone's reach**.

15. It is obvious from the paragraph that _____.
✓ C) it is possible to reduce violence by stopping drug sales
The author argues that **if we can stop the selling of drugs, fewer people will have money to buy guns and there will be less violence**. The passage never says violence in schools is increasing, so the other options are not supported.

16. If you feel obliged to drink despite the negative effects, _____.
✓ E) you are a compulsive drinker
The passage defines **the compulsive drinker** as someone who **drinks because they have to, in spite of the adverse effects**. Feeling **obliged** to drink despite the negative effects matches this definition.

17. It has been revealed in the paragraph that _____.
✓ A) an alcoholic influences both himself and his family
The second sentence says alcoholism **not only affects the alcoholic but also their family and friends**. The other options, such as emotional instability or family history, are not mentioned in this paragraph.

18. Those who drink just for joy are _____.
✓ A) casual or social drinkers
The passage says **the casual or social drinker** drinks **for pleasure and only on occasion**. Drinking **for joy** means drinking for pleasure.

19. Generally speaking, people hate war and want to avoid it at all costs. It is believed that a large part of why America went to Vietnam was for monetary reasons. Companies have to make all of the ships, helicopters, airplanes, and supplies. As a result, jobs are created and the economy is stimulated, but the U.S. government never tells that to the public. It is very probable that these were hidden reasons for the Vietnam War, but the government simply turned it into an issue of freedom.

According to the passage, it is believed that the US government _____.
✓ C) wanted to profit from the Vietnam War
The passage says **It is believed that a large part of why America went to Vietnam was for monetary reasons**, so the government wanted to **profit** from the war. Not 'told the public about the economic reasons': the passage says the government **never tells that to the public** and turned the war into an issue of freedom.

20. America's going to the Vietnam War was for monetary reasons, that is _____.
✓ A) jobs would be available and the economy would become active during the war
That is introduces an explanation. The passage explains the monetary reasons this way: companies make ships, helicopters and supplies, so **jobs are created and the economy is stimulated**.

21. The U.S. government turned the Vietnam issue into an issue of freedom _____.
✓ E) but it was because of economic reasons
The last sentence says the money-related reasons were hidden and **the government simply turned it into an issue of freedom**. The real cause was economic. **Economic** means related to the economy; **economical** means 'not wasting money'.

22. Part of what makes New England mud so unique is the sand and salt thrown on the roads by the brave men of our highway departments all winter. Those tons of mixed sand and salt don't just disappear. They simply evolve into the mud of spring. This type of mud can dissolve the doors and fenders off our cars. The mud sucks the shoes right off your feet, dissolving the stitching that once held them together.

According to the author, mud forms on the roads _____.
✓ A) because of sand and salt thrown on the roads during winter
The first sentence explains that the mud comes from **the sand and salt thrown on the roads** by highway workers **all winter**. The passage does not compare the mud with ice.

23. **Despite the fact that the mixture of salt and sand is expected to disappear, _____.**
✓ E) it turns into spring mud in spring
The passage says the sand and salt **don't just disappear. They simply evolve into the mud of spring. Evolve into** means slowly change into.

24. **The mud made from the salt and sand mixture is so harmful that _____.**
✓ B) it damages our cars and our shoes
The passage says this mud **can dissolve the doors and fenders off our cars**. It also **sucks the shoes right off your feet, dissolving the stitching**. So it damages both cars and shoes.

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