ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Short Advanced Reading Comprehension Test 9 With MCQs and Answers

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21	**A**	22	**A**	23	**C**	24	**C**												

Explanations

1. The passage is about _____.
✓ D) Australia's past as British colonies and its present independent status
The passage covers two things. The past: six colonies ruled by the British that united in 1901. The present: an independent country whose people elect their own lawmakers. The option about the six colonies uniting covers only one detail. Not **struggle for independence**: no struggle is described.

2. As stated in the passage, the British monarch _____.
✓ E) has no real political power in Australia
The passage says the monarch doesn't rule Australia and that Australians vote for their own lawmakers. So the monarch is head of state in name only and has no real political power there. The monarch does not choose the members of Parliament; the voters do.

3. As we infer from the passage, Australia _____.
✓ A) is not ruled by the British monarchy anymore
The passage says Australia is an independent country and that the monarch doesn't rule it. From this we can infer that the British monarchy no longer rules it. Not **under British rule since 1901**: 1901 is only when the colonies united, and the country is independent today.

4. The main idea of the passage is that _____.
✓ A) Shakespeare's foremost role in English literature has been recognized all over the world
The passage describes the places linked to Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon and the big festival held there. It then mentions Shakespeare festivals in the USA and Canada. Together these show that his importance is **recognized all over the world**. The option about tourists in Stratford-upon-Avon describes only one part of the passage.

5. According to the passage, _____.
✓ C) the Shakespeare festival held in Stratford-upon-Avon continues for seventy days
The passage says the festival 'now lasts for **ten weeks**', and ten weeks = 10 × 7 = **seventy days**. The Shakespeare Memorial is a theatre in England, built more than two hundred years after Shakespeare died. It was not built during his lifetime.

6. We infer from the passage that _____.
✓ D) Shakespeare festivals attract many people in the United Kingdom and Canada
Big audiences watch the plays at Stratford-upon-Avon, and the festival grew from one week to ten because it was 'so popular'. Canada's Stratford Festival also includes his plays. So these festivals attract many people. Not the option about audiences decreasing: the passage suggests the opposite.

7. The author of the passage seeks primarily to _____.
✓ C) identify two schools of thought among American Renaissance writers regarding the democratic ideal
The passage first presents the optimistic view of Emerson and Whitman, who believed the democratic ideal was within reach. It then presents the doubtful view of Hawthorne and Melville, who were 'less sanguine' and called the dream 'unrealizable'. Its main purpose is therefore to identify and contrast these two schools of thought. Not **how Emerson's idealism was mirrored**: Hawthorne and Melville questioned that idealism rather than reflecting it.

8. Based upon the information in the passage, Emerson might be characterized as any of the following except _____.
✓ D) a political activist
Look for evidence for each option. Emerson is a transcendentalist ('transcendental assumptions', 'Emerson's metaphysics'). He is an American Renaissance writer ('Other American Renaissance writers'). He is a public speaker (his "American Scholar" address). He is a literary critic, because he judges Thoreau's Walden and Whitman's Leaves of Grass. Nothing says he took part in political action, so **political activist** is the exception. Not **literary critic**: judging other writers' books is exactly what a critic does.

9. With which of the following statements about Melville and Hawthorne would the author most likely agree?
✓ D) Both men believed the idealists to be misguided.
Hawthorne showed that Hester's 'heroics' lead to **moral anarchy**. Melville saw **the misguided assumptions of democratic idealism**. So both believed the idealists were misguided. Not 'disillusioned transcendentalists': the passage never says they were transcendentalists, only that they sympathised with the ideal. Not 'they agreed what the dream would lead to': Hawthorne predicts anarchy, while Melville simply calls it unrealizable.

10. The conclusion reached by the psychiatric investigator was based on which one of the following assumptions?
✓ B) High levels of anxiety did not cause the subjects to become chronic abusers.
The investigator found a **correlation**: chronic abusers were more anxious. From it he concluded that abuse **caused** the anxiety. This works only if the cause does not run the other way. So the argument must assume that anxiety did not make the subjects chronic abusers. Not the option about anxiety making some people restrict their abuse: the argument does not need it, and it would predict more anxiety among sporadic abusers.

11. Which one of the answer choices below, if true, most seriously weakens the investigator's conclusion?
✓ E) High levels of anxiety caused some subjects to be chronic abusers.
A standard way to weaken a cause-and-effect conclusion is to show **reverse causation**. If high anxiety made people chronic abusers, then anxiety is the cause, not the result of the abuse. That directly undermines the investigator's claim. Not the option about anxiety making some people restrict their abuse: it does not explain why the chronic group is more anxious.

12. This paragraph originally appeared in _____.
✓ A) a scientific review
The paragraph reports a study: its subjects, its method, its result and a report in the **Journal of Medicine**. This is typical of a **scientific review**. It is not fiction. An encyclopaedia entry would give general information rather than describe one study.

13. We understand from the passage that the Khyber Pass _____.
✓ A) is a shortcut between Pakistan and Afghanistan
The passage says the pass is the fastest and easiest way to travel between Pakistan and Afghanistan; in other words, it is a **shortcut**. It is the lowest place between two mountain ranges, so it is not on top of the mountains.

14. According to the passage, _____.
✓ B) villagers living in the area where the Khyber Pass is located have been in conflict for years
The passage says the people in the villages are **always quarrelling and fighting**, so they have been in conflict for a long time. It calls the pass the fastest route, not the **only** trade route.

15. The author of the passage warns us about _____.
✓ B) the possible dangers that might be encountered in the Khyber Pass
The last sentence is the warning: the pass **is dangerous** because of the tribal wars and the bandits who rob travellers. The fighting is between the villages, not a war between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

16. The passage is mainly about _____.
✓ D) a park built to remind the people of the evil of the war and the atomic bomb
The passage begins and ends with Peace Memorial Park and the Atomic Bomb Dome. The Dome was left in ruins **to remind everyone of the horrors of the atomic war**. The end of the war and the rebuilding of Hiroshima are mentioned only briefly, without explaining how they happened.

17. We infer from the passage that _____.
✓ C) the US bombed Hiroshima because it was an important military base
The passage says Hiroshima was **an important Japanese military base** and that American planes dropped the bomb, so we can infer this was the reason for the attack. Not the option about the Dome being restored: the passage says it still **stands in ruins**.

18. According to the passage, _____.
✓ B) Nagasaki is the second city that received an atomic bomb during World War II
The passage says: **Three days later, a second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.** Only two cities are mentioned. The passage also does not say how the war ended, and it calls Peace Memorial Park **the only park of its kind**.

19. What is the gist that this piece of writing conveys?
✓ D) Romulus established the city of Rome.
The passage tells the legend of how Rome began. Its key event is that Romulus built the city, called Roma, and ruled it for thirty-seven years. The wolf only fed and protected the babies; she did not found the city.

20. What is a herdsman?
✓ C) Someone who cares for domestic animals
A **herdsman** is a person who looks after a herd of animals such as cows, sheep or goats. Example: **The herdsman took his cattle to the river.**

21. "...they sought revenge on the king who had killed their mother..." means _____.
✓ A) they tried to punish the king for killing their mother
To **seek revenge on** someone means to try to hurt or punish them because they hurt you. Example: **He sought revenge on the man who had cheated him.** The brothers wanted to punish the king for killing their mother. Going to court or talking to the king is not revenge.

22. How long does it take for 100 hectares of rainforest to be destroyed?
✓ A) Less than two minutes.
The passage states that **1 hectare of rainforest is destroyed every second**. Therefore, destroying 100 hectares takes **100 seconds**. Since 100 seconds equals **1 minute and 40 seconds**, the correct answer is **Less than two minutes**. It takes more than just a few seconds, but considerably less than an hour.

23. Why is pulp and paper production important to Canada?
✓ C) Pulp and paper export is a major source of income for Canada.
Canada supplies **34%** of the world's wood pulp and **49%** of its newsprint. The passage also says logging brings **jobs, profits, taxes**. So selling these products to other countries is a major source of income. Not 'publishes a lot of newspapers': the paper is supplied to the world, not mainly used in Canada.

24. Who is suggesting that pulp and paper could be produced without cutting down trees?
✓ C) The environmental lobby.
The last sentence says hemp was suggested **by agriculturalists and environmentalists**. Environmentalists are people who work to protect nature, so this group is the environmental lobby. The government, by contrast, is **reluctant** to restrict logging.

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