ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Situational Responses Test 1

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11	**C**	12	**B**	13	**C**	14	**C**	15	**A**	16	**E**	17	**B**	18	**E**	19	**D**	20	**A**

Explanations

1. You are going to be late home because you are going to watch the school play. So you phone home and say:
✔ E) Hello Mum! I thought I'd let you know I'll be a couple of hours late.
You are phoning home to warn your family **before** you are late, so you say you **will be** a couple of hours late. Not the first option, because **I'm sorry I am late** is said after you have already arrived late.

2. A friend of yours has bought herself a new skirt. The style and colour really suit her. So you say:
✔ D) That skirt looks perfect on you. You look lovely in it!
The skirt suits your friend, so you give her a **compliment**: **That skirt looks perfect on you.** The other options criticise her choice or the price.

3. You are a stranger in the town but you know there is an interesting archaeological museum that you want to visit. You stop someone and ask him how to get there:
✔ C) Excuse me, could you tell me how to get to the archaeological museum?
A polite request for directions to a stranger usually starts with **Excuse me, could you tell me how to get to ...?** The other options ask about opinions, other places or distance, not the way there.

4. You've booked a table at a restaurant you know well. When you get there, you find they have given your table to someone else, and the restaurant is full. You are annoyed and say:
✔ E) I don't understand how you could do this to me. I come here such a lot.
You are annoyed because the restaurant gave away your booked table, so you complain: **I don't understand how you could do this to me.** Not the option with **If I had known ... I would have booked**, because you did book a table.

5. A serious earthquake has hit the eastern part of the country. You have offered to help collect money at school for the victims. You go to one of the classrooms and say to the students:
✔ D) The earthquake has caused a great deal of suffering, so let's be generous in our help.
You are collecting money, so you explain the need and ask the students to give: **let's be generous**. The other options say there is no need to help or talk about the past.

6. Bill Atkins is leaving the firm he has worked at for twelve years. His colleagues have just given him a watch as a farewell present. Bill thanks them saying:
✔ D) I really don't know how to thank you and I think you knew this is just what I needed.
Bill is thanking his colleagues for the present, so he says **I really don't know how to thank you.** Not the option **I am very sorry you are leaving us**, because that is what the colleagues would say to Bill, not what Bill says.

7. You send a card to one of your friends who has just moved to another city and say:
✔ E) We shall miss you. The place won't be the same without you.
Your friend has moved away, so you say you will feel sad without them: **We shall miss you.** The other messages are for thanks, anniversaries, visits or illness.

8. A friend of yours wants to buy a second-hand car but doesn't know how to find one and asks for help. So you say:
✔ C) Why don't you look at the advertisements in the newspaper?
Your friend asks how to find a used car, so you make a suggestion with **Why don't you ...?**: look at the newspaper advertisements. The other options do not answer the question of how to find one.

9. You have a ticket for a concert, but at the last minute, you are unable to go. You think perhaps some of your friends in the class might like to go. So you say:
✔ E) I have a ticket for the concert tonight that I can't use. Would any of you be interested?
You can't go, so you offer your ticket to someone else: **I have a ticket ... that I can't use. Would any of you be interested?** Not **Would anyone like to come with me?**, because you are not going to the concert.

10. Dick has invited Mary out to dinner on Tuesday. Mary does not really like Dick and wants to turn the invitation down without being rude. So she says:
✔ B) I'd really like to but I just can't. I'm so busy. I hope you understand.
Mary wants to **turn down** the invitation politely, so she says she would like to but is too busy and hopes Dick understands. Not the option suggesting Wednesday, because that accepts another date, and Mary doesn't want to go out with him.

11. At your friend's wedding, you want to say something nice about the bride's appearance. You say to her:
✔ C) I love your dress, you look gorgeous in it!
You want to say something nice about how the bride looks, so you praise her: **you look gorgeous**. The other options are rude or talk about cost.

12. A friend of yours wants to borrow a book which you need yourself at the weekend. You agree conditionally and say:
✓ B) Of course, but I want it back by Friday at the latest.
Conditionally means 'yes, but only if ...'. You lend the book but need it at the weekend, so you say **Of course, but I want it back by Friday at the latest.**

13. A friend has spilt tea on your dress. You want to stop her from feeling upset. So you say:
✓ C) Never mind! This dress needed washing anyway.
Never mind! is used to tell someone a problem is not important. Saying the dress **needed washing anyway** stops your friend feeling bad.

14. You are overweight and want to lose weight. So you ask your doctor:
✓ C) Do you advise me to go on a diet or should I take more exercise?
You want to lose weight, so you ask the doctor for advice on how to do it: a diet or more exercise. The other options argue with the doctor or deny being overweight.

15. You are going to meet your daughter at the railway station at 6:00 p.m. but you can't as you have a meeting then. So you ask your friend to help you. You say:
✓ A) My daughter will be coming this evening. Do you think you could meet her for me?
You can't go to the station, so you politely ask your friend to go instead: **Do you think you could meet her for me?** Not **Can you come with me to the station?**, because you can't go yourself.

16. Your friend tells you that he doesn't know how to improve his knowledge of English and asks for advice. So you say:
✓ E) Why don't you try going to a good language school?
Your friend asks for advice, and **Why don't you ...?** is a common way to give a suggestion: **Why don't you try going to a good language school?** The other options are comments, not advice.

17. You are going to a friend's house for the evening and do not want your mother to worry about you. So you leave a note saying:
✓ B) I've gone to Jane's. I'll be back about 10:30.
To stop your mother worrying, the note should say where you are and when you will come back: **I've gone to Jane's. I'll be back about 10:30.**

18. You learn from his mother that Peter is ill. You say to her:
✓ E) Please tell him I hope he'll be feeling better soon.
When someone is ill, we send good wishes through a family member: **Please tell him I hope he'll be feeling better soon.** Not **Please send him a get-well card**, because you would send the card yourself.

19. You've been invited to dinner but have to cancel at the last minute because your child is ill. You telephone and say:
✓ D) Jane is too ill to leave, so please forgive me for not coming to the dinner tonight.
You must cancel and apologise, giving the reason: your child, Jane, **is too ill to leave**, so you ask them to **forgive me for not coming**. The other options accept the invitation or thank someone after a party.

20. You are reserving a room in a hotel. The receptionist asks you for the dates. You reply:
✓ A) I want the room for at least 10 days, starting March 20th.
The receptionist asks for the dates, so you give them: **at least 10 days, starting March 20th**. The other options don't say when you want the room.

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