ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Situational Responses Test 3

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Explanations

1. You want to learn how to use a computer. You go to the evening school in your neighbourhood and say:
✔ **E) May I register for the computer course?**
You want to join a class, so you ask to **register** (sign up) for the course. **May I register…?** is a polite request. The other options don't ask to join anything.

2. Your friend calls you up and says that it's such a nice day that you should go out together. You agree and say:
✔ **C) That's not a bad idea.**
That's not a bad idea is a friendly way of saying "Yes, good idea." It agrees with the plan. The other options talk about rain or say no, which doesn't fit a nice day.

3. Tom is going out. The weather is very cold and he only has a sweater on. You say:
✔ **B) You don't have enough on.**
You don't have enough on means you are not wearing enough clothes for the cold. Not "Your sweater is too heavy", because a sweater is too light, not too heavy, for very cold weather.

4. You want to go to a concert next week and you'd like your best friend to go with you. You say to her:
✔ **C) I hear the concert is really good. Let's go together.**
You invite someone with **Let's…**: **Let's go together.** The concert is next week, so options about "last week" or not liking the concert don't fit.

5. You are at a restaurant. The waiter has brought you the wrong dinner. You say:
✔ **D) Please check the order. This isn't what I requested.**
You politely tell the waiter there is a mistake: **This isn't what I requested** (= ordered). The other options ask for the menu or the bill, which doesn't solve the problem.

6. You don't know how to operate the new photocopy machine. The secretary has just walked into the room and you say:
✔ **E) Can you teach me how this works?**
You need help using the machine, so you ask the secretary to show you: **Can you teach me how this works?** Not "Why don't you know how to work this?", because you are the one who doesn't know.

7. You are expecting guests this evening. A friend has dropped by and offered to help you prepare. You say:
✔ **C) Thanks, I really could use the help.**
Your friend offers help, so you thank them and accept: **I really could use the help** means "I need help". Not "What do you want me to do?", because the helper says that, not you.

8. You had planned to go on a picnic today but when you woke up it was raining. You call Jim who was going to go with you and say:
✔ **A) Let's postpone it till next week.**
It is raining, so you move the picnic to a later day. **Postpone** means to change something to a later time. Not "put off the picnic till it starts to rain again", because you want a day without rain.

9. A friend calls and asks you if you are free at the weekend. You must complete a report this weekend. You say:
✔ **E) Sorry, I won't be able to spend any time with you this weekend. I'm busy.**
You have to work on a report, so you politely say no: **I won't be able to spend any time with you this weekend. I'm busy.** Not "I'm tied up at the moment", because the friend is asking about the weekend, not now.

10. Your mother has just got back from shopping. She has several bags in her arms and is having trouble carrying them. You offer to help by saying:
✔ **C) Can I give you a hand?**
Give someone a hand means to help them. **Can I give you a hand?** is a common way to offer help. The other options don't offer to carry anything.

11. You want to buy a new red skirt for yourself. The sales clerk is asking if she can help you. You say:
✔ **D) Yes, please. I'm looking for a red skirt.**
The clerk asks **Can I help you?**, so you accept and say what you want: **Yes, please. I'm looking for…** Not "What size do you take?", because the clerk asks that, not the customer.

12. The children are making a lot of noise and you must study for an important exam the next day. You say:
✔ **B) Please go into the other room and play.**
You need quiet to study, so you politely ask the children to play somewhere else: **Please go into the other room and play.** Turning up the TV would make more noise.

13. You had promised your mother that you would pick your brother up from school on the way home. You are late getting out of work and are not able to keep your promise. You call your mother and say:
✔ **E) I haven't been able to finish up here. Would you send Dad to get him?**
You explain that you are still at work (**I haven't been able to finish up here**) and ask for another way to get your brother: **Would you send Dad to get him?** The other options don't solve the problem.

14. You have decided to go to Spain on your holiday. You call the travel agency and say:
✓ E) Will you give me some information about touring Spain?
A travel agency gives travel information, so you ask: **Will you give me some information about touring Spain?** Not "Will you be going to Spain this year?", because you are going, not the agent.

15. The telephone is ringing but your hands are full and you can't answer it. Your sister is in the other room and you say:
✓ A) Susan, can you please get that?
You can't answer the phone, so you ask your sister to do it: **Can you please get that?** (**get the phone** = answer it). Not "see who is at the door", because it's the telephone ringing, not the doorbell.

16. You are waiting for a friend at the bus station. Another friend has come with you and asks what your friend looks like. You say:
✓ C) He looks like his cousin Joseph, who you know.
Your friend asks about appearance, so you describe it: **He looks like** (= resembles) someone your friend knows. Not "The one who phoned me yesterday", because that says nothing about how he looks.

17. You went to the ballet last night. A friend has just asked you what it was like. You say:
✓ C) We enjoyed ourselves immensely.
We enjoyed ourselves immensely means we had a very good time, so it describes the evening. Not "They sang many lovely songs", because in a ballet people dance, they don't sing.

18. You get onto the bus and someone is sitting in your seat. You say:
✓ E) I believe you are in my place.
I believe you are in my place is a polite way to say someone is sitting in your seat. **I believe** makes it softer. The other options are about the trip, not the seat.

19. Your friend has just given you flowers. There is no special occasion today. You are puzzled and say:
✓ A) What is this for?
You are surprised because there is no special day, so you ask the reason: **What is this for?** Not "How thoughtful of you to remember!", because there is nothing to remember today.

20. You have been taking sewing classes and have just made your first article of clothing. You show it to your mother and say:
✓ B) What do you think, Mom?
You want your mother's opinion of the clothes you made, so you ask: **What do you think?** Not "before I bought it", because you made it yourself.

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