ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Summarising A Paragraph MCQ Exercise 3

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Explanations

1. Jane had had a terrible dream that night. She had dreamed that she was in a haunted house. The house was large and dark. It had broken stairs and windows. As she went through the house, she heard terrible noises and then she saw a white mist which turned into a strange animal in front of her. She screamed and then woke to find that she was safe in her own home.
✔ D) Jane was very frightened by the nightmare she had the other night in which she visited an old abandoned house and saw a ghost.
A good summary gives the main idea of the whole paragraph: Jane had a **frightening nightmare** about a dark, broken, haunted house and a ghostly shape. Only this option covers the dream, the house and her fear. Not 'screaming all night': she screamed once and then woke up.

2. Many people these days are overly interested in dieting. Young women and men especially feel that they should diet. Some want to diet to lose weight, others to gain, and still others wish just to be healthier.
✔ B) The reasons why people are dieting these days vary.
The paragraph's main point is that people diet for **different reasons**: to lose weight, to gain weight or to be healthier. Not 'Many people these days are dieting', because that misses the different reasons, which are the main idea.

3. Many people complain a great deal about the bad influences of television on the young. However, these are the same parents that don't seem to realize that what their children watch should be decided by them. It is the parents who are responsible for turning the program off if it isn't appropriate for their children.
✔ E) Parents should take the initiative to prevent their children from watching what they feel is not appropriate for them.
The writer says parents complain about TV, but they themselves should **decide** what their children watch and turn off bad programs. This option shows that parents should **take the initiative**. Not 'Parents tend to allow their children to watch too much television', because the paragraph is about what children watch, not how much.

4. The future is something that many people, especially young ones, worry about. Our elders tell us that making correct decisions about our futures is very important and making a mistake can ruin us forever. However, when one looks at the records, those people who have taken chances and tried to do things their own way tend to make out much better than those who do things the way the system expects.
✔ E) Although it is generally felt that people shouldn't take risks, many people who do have proved that being different is not always wrong.
The paragraph contrasts two ideas. Elders say mistakes can ruin us, **but** people who take chances often do better. This option keeps both parts with **Although**. Not 'Taking risks is not considered to be the correct way…', because that gives only the elders' view and misses the writer's main point.

5. Although we didn't know who she was or where she had come from, it was easy to guess that she had some type of royal blood in her veins. The English she spoke was so carefully precise that she couldn't possibly be a native speaker. Her graceful movements and confident gestures indicated power and control. All in all, the appearance she presented was very impressive.
✔ D) This unknown woman had a manner that impressed those who met her.
Every detail (royal blood, precise English, graceful movements) leads to the last sentence: her appearance was **very impressive**. This option summarises that main idea. Not 'This woman was of rich and royal heritage', because the writers only guessed this; they did not know it.

6. From the very first, man has wondered if there was life on worlds other than our own. The mind of man has wandered many light-years away: to other planets and solar systems. Today man is still asking this question, but he seeks the answer in science and technology instead of religion and magic.
✔ B) Since the beginning of man's history, the question of whether there is life on other planets has been asked, but today new ways of answering this question are available.
The paragraph has two parts: people have **always** asked about life on other worlds, and **today** they look for the answer in science instead of religion and magic. Only this option includes both. Not 'Man has always asked himself about life on other planets', because it leaves out the new ways of finding the answer.

7. There are many different reasons why a poet writes poetry. I would suppose that some write poems for themselves and to please their own senses. Others, however, write to share thoughts, or rather feelings, with others. Most poems are meant to appeal to the heart and senses rather than to the mind and reason.
✔ E) Among the different reasons for writing poetry, the need to express emotions is probably the strongest motive for most poets.
The paragraph gives different reasons for writing poetry. Its last sentence says that most poems appeal to the **heart and senses**, which means feelings. This option includes both points: the different reasons and the importance of **emotions**. Not 'Poets write poems for themselves and for others', because it misses the main idea about feelings.

8. The art form, which is best known under the name of Impressionism, evolved in France with the Realist movement of the mid to late 1800s. Although this style only lasted for about 15 years in a pure form, it has influenced the style of art that has come after it till today. The motivating thought in this style of art comes from the idea that "Nothing is seen without light."
✔ B) The Impressionism style of art which started in France in the late 1800s and still has a strong effect on artists today gives importance to light.
A full summary needs three points: Impressionism started in France in the 1800s, it **still influences** art today, and its key idea is **light**. Only this option includes all three. Not the option about using light 'for the first time', because the passage never says that.

9. War is one of the most terrible parts of human history. Death, destruction and pain, both physical and emotional, are the primary results of war. Still, man seems to be incapable of doing without it.
✔ C) The death and misery that war produces are not enough to stop man from fighting.
The paragraph says war brings death and pain, **still** people cannot do without it. This option shows both ideas: the misery of war is not enough to stop fighting. Not 'man likes to make war', because the passage never says people enjoy it.

10. Our world seems to be changing too fast to keep up with. In my youth, life was much more simple. Our parents worried about feeding and educating us. We worried about simple things like school and friends. Today, however, children have become selfish and materialistic.
✔ E) Time has changed the needs and attitudes of people.
The writer compares the past with today. Before, people worried about simple things; now children are **selfish and materialistic**. So time has changed people's **needs and attitudes**. Not 'Children are brought up differently these days', because the paragraph is about what people care about, not about how parents raise children.

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