ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Upper Level Vocabulary Test 18

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Explanations

1. This village is only _____ by river.
✔ **C) accessible**
Accessible means 'possible to reach or enter'. **The village is only accessible by river** means a boat is the only way to get there. **Attainable** and **achievable** are used for goals, not places.

2. The man's face was _____ from his infected tooth.
✔ **B) swollen**
Swollen (from **swell**) describes a part of the body that has become bigger because of infection or injury, e.g. **a swollen face**, **a swollen ankle**. **Dilated** is used for pupils or blood vessels, not faces.

3. As my exam is next week, I'll take advantage of the day off to _____ on some reading.
✔ **A) catch up**
Catch up on something means to do work you have fallen behind with, e.g. **catch up on some reading**. Not **make up**, which is used with time or lost work (**make up for lost time**), not with 'on'.

4. Many local authorities realize the need to make _____ for elderly people in their housing programs.
✔ **D) provision**
Make provision for someone means to plan and supply what they will need in the future. It is a fixed phrase, often used in official contexts: **make provision for elderly people**.

5. The curator of the Museum was most _____ and let me actually examine the ancient manuscript.
✔ **C) obliging**
Obliging means willing to help and do favours for others. The curator let the speaker examine the manuscript, which shows helpfulness. **Favorable** describes conditions or opinions, not a helpful person.

6. For parents, one of the problems _____ by rising prices is the continual demand for more pocket money.
✔ **B) posed**
The collocation is **pose a problem**, so **problems posed by rising prices** means problems created by them. **Given** or **provided** do not collocate with 'problems' in this meaning.

7. After speaking for two hours, the lecturer found he could scarcely talk, as he had become _____.
✔ **A) hoarse**
Hoarse describes a rough, weak voice, often after speaking or shouting for a long time. The clue is **after speaking for two hours**. **Speechless** and **tongue-tied** describe not knowing what to say because of emotion or shyness.

8. There is pressure on the British government to _____ the number of immigrants permitted to settle in the U.K.
✔ **E) limit**
Limit the number of something means to set a maximum amount. It is the standard collocation for controlling numbers. **Restrain** and **confine** are used for people or actions, not numbers.

9. In recent years, there has been a _____ increase in the cost of living.
✔ **D) significant**
A significant increase means a large and important rise. It is a very common collocation with **increase**. **Wide** and **violent** do not collocate with 'increase'.

10. The drunken couple did nothing to keep the flat clean and tidy and lived in the utmost _____.
✔ **E) squalor**
Squalor means very dirty and unpleasant living conditions. The clue is that they did nothing to keep the flat clean: **living in squalor**. **Pollution** is used for air, water or the environment.

11. She was extremely lucky when her great-uncle died; she _____ a fortune.
✔ **C) came into**
Come into money means to receive it when someone dies, e.g. **come into a fortune**. Not **came by**, which means to get something by chance or effort, not to inherit it.

12. The accused man was able to prove his innocence at the trial and was _____.
✔ **D) acquitted**
Acquitted means officially found not guilty in court. The clue is **prove his innocence at the trial**. **Pardoned** is used for someone already found guilty who is later freed.

13. A good boss always _____ responsibility to his assistants.
✔ **B) delegates**
Delegate means to give part of your work or responsibility to someone at a lower level: **delegate responsibility to assistants**. Not **relegate**, which means to move someone or something to a lower position.

14. Although nobody _____ his presence, Mr. Smith knew he had been recognized.
✓ **A) acknowledged**
Acknowledge someone's presence means to show that you have noticed them, e.g. by nodding or saying hello. **Admitted** means agreed that something is true, which does not fit here.

15. He tries to _____ himself with everyone by paying them compliments.
✓ **C) ingratiate**
Ingratiate yourself with someone means to try to make them like you, often by flattering them. It is always used with a reflexive pronoun and **with**. **Please** is not used with 'himself with'.

16. He was _____ from the competition because he had not complied with the rules.
✓ **D) disqualified**
Disqualified from a competition means officially stopped from taking part because you broke the rules. **Banished** means sent away from a country or place as a punishment.

17. He thanked me _____, too much I thought for the little I had done.
✓ **B) profusely**
Thank someone profusely means to thank them a lot, perhaps too much. The clue is **too much I thought**. **Prolifically** means producing a lot of work or offspring.

18. The police managed to _____ down the owner of the car.
✓ **B) track**
Track down means to find someone after searching for a long time. It is a phrasal verb with **down**. **Trace** means a similar thing but is used without 'down'.

19. The party's reduced vote was _____ of lack of support for its policies.
✓ **A) indicative**
Be indicative of something means to show or suggest it. The reduced vote shows a lack of support. **Revealing** and **evident** are not followed by **of** in this way.

20. Although most of the rooms are small, the hall is _____.
✓ **C) spacious**
Spacious means having a lot of space inside, the opposite of **small**. The clue is the contrast with **Although most of the rooms are small**. **Expansive** is used for large open areas or for friendly, talkative people.

21. Your latest project has little _____ of success.
✓ **D) prospect**
Prospect of success means the chance that success will happen. **Little prospect of** is a common collocation. **Outlook** means a general view of the future and is not followed by **of success**.

22. My enquiries did not _____ any information of value.
✓ **B) elicit**
Elicit information means to get information from someone, often with difficulty. Not **extort**, which means to get money or information by force or threats.

23. The professor's wife was in the kitchen preparing a salad and _____ cold meat into neat, thin pieces.
✓ **C) slicing**
Slice means to cut something into thin, flat pieces, e.g. **slice bread**, **slice cold meat**. **Slashing** means cutting violently, and **sawing** uses a saw.

24. The advantage of the new bridge will be the way it _____ the towns on the opposite banks of the river.
✓ **B) connects**
Connect means to join two places so people can travel between them. A bridge **connects the towns**. Not **spans**, because a bridge spans the river, not the towns.

25. Charles was not sure which profession to enter, but finally _____ for the Law.
✓ **B) opted**
Opt for means to choose something after thinking about the options. The preposition **for** is the clue: **chose** and **selected** take no preposition.

26. The police _____ their attention to the events that led up to the accident.
✓ **D) confined**
Confine your attention to something means to limit it to only that thing. The preposition **to** is the clue. **Contained** means held inside or kept under control.

27. The large crowds lingering in the streets were quickly _____ by heavy rain.
✓ **E) dispersed**
Disperse means to make a crowd break up and go in different directions. Heavy rain made people leave the streets. **Detached** means separated from something it was joined to, which does not fit a crowd.

28. We covered a wide _____ of topics in the interview.
✓ **E) range**
A wide range of means many different kinds of something: **a wide range of topics**. **Number** collocates with **large**, not **wide**.

29. Looked at from your _____, the position is intolerable.
✓ **C) standpoint**
Standpoint means a particular way of looking at a situation. **Looked at from your standpoint** means 'from your point of view'. We say **in your opinion**, not 'from your opinion'.

30. Although your offer for the house is £200 below the asking _____, they'll probably accept for the sake of a quick sale.
✓ **C) price**
The asking price is the price a seller says they want for something, especially a house. It is a fixed expression. **Value** is what something is really worth.

31. The garden had been badly neglected and was completely _____ with weeds.
✓ **A) overgrown**
Overgrown with weeds means covered with plants that have grown wild because nobody looked after the garden. The clue is **badly neglected**.

32. By the end of the day the flood water which had covered most of the town had _____.
✓ **A) receded**
Recede means to move back from a higher point, used especially for water: **the flood water receded**. **Retired** and **returned** are not used for water going down.

33. The police arrested the wrong man mainly because they _____ the names they had been given by the witness.
✔ **A) confused**
Confuse A and B (or **confuse the names**) means to mix them up and think one is the other. **Puzzled**, **perplexed** and **bewildered** describe how a person feels, so they do not take 'names' as an object here.

34. Being already a graduate from another university, he was _____ from the entrance examination.
✔ **A) exempted**
Be exempted from something means to be officially allowed not to do it. As a graduate, he did not need to take the exam. **Excluded** means not allowed to take part, which is the opposite idea.

35. Digging the garden is a very _____ task.
✔ **C) laborious**
Laborious means needing a lot of time and hard work: **a laborious task**. Not **industrious**, which describes a hard-working person, not a task.

36. Hopes of finding the missing climbers are now beginning to _____.
✔ **B) fade**
Hopes fade means hopes slowly become weaker and disappear. It is a common collocation, especially in news reports. **Reduce** and **shrink** are not used with 'hopes' in this way.

37. The Minister accused the farmers of _____ the potato shortage in order to force prices up.
✔ **C) exploiting**
Exploit a situation means to use it unfairly for your own advantage. The farmers used the shortage to push prices up. **Depleting** means using up a supply, which is not the accusation here.

38. The stories about his wealth are quite _____; he is not particularly well off.
✔ **C) unfounded**
Unfounded means not based on facts. The clue is **he is not particularly well off**, so the stories are not true. Not **incredulous**, which describes a person who does not believe something.

39. I don’t really know how to _____ the problem.
✔ **A) tackle**
Tackle a problem means to make a determined effort to deal with it. Not **cope**, because it needs **with**: **cope with a problem**.

40. He had deceived a great many people but she _____ him at once.
✔ **C) saw through**
See through someone means to realise that they are trying to deceive you. The clue is **He had deceived a great many people**. **Look into** means to investigate.

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