ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Upper Level Vocabulary Test 20

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Explanations

1. If the fire alarm is sounded, all residents are requested to _____ in the courtyard.
✔ **B) assemble**
Assemble means to come together in one place as a group, often for an official reason, as in **assemble in the courtyard**. Not **crowd**, which suggests pushing together in a disorganised way and needs **into** or **round**.

2. The acoustics in the concert hall were very poor, and it would obviously be necessary to _____ my voice.
✔ **C) amplify**
Amplify means to make a sound louder, so it fits a hall with poor acoustics. Not **increase**, which we don't use with **voice**. We say **raise** or **amplify my voice**.

3. One rainy night the old bridge _____ into the river without warning.
✔ **B) collapsed**
Collapse means to fall down suddenly, usually because of weakness or damage, as in **the bridge collapsed**. Not **submerged**, which means went under water. It doesn't describe the bridge falling.

4. The people who objected to the new road were told that since work had already started there was no point in _____.
✔ **B) protesting**
People who **object** to a plan **protest** against it. The clue is **objected to the new road**. **There was no point in protesting** means protesting was useless because work had already started.

5. When they asked him about it, he said it was no _____ of theirs and wouldn't tell them anything.
✔ **B) concern**
It's no concern of yours/theirs is a fixed expression meaning 'it's none of your business'. **Connection** and **relation** don't form this phrase.

6. Nursery schools can be enormously _____ to socially disadvantaged children.
✔ **B) beneficial**
Beneficial to someone means having a good effect on them or helping them. Not **invaluable**, which already means 'extremely useful', so it can't follow **enormously**. **Admirable** and **praiseworthy** describe things people deserve praise for, not things that help someone.

7. Corruption in the running of the city's largest bank was _____ in the local newspaper.
✔ **D) exposed**
To **expose** corruption or a scandal means to make it publicly known, often in the press. Not **discovered**, which would need **by the newspaper**, and **commented** would need **on**.

8. The lad spent several years as _____ to a master-builder, so that he might learn the trade.
✔ **B) apprentice**
An **apprentice** is a young person who works for a skilled worker for a period of time in order to learn a trade. Note the pattern **apprentice to a master-builder**. **Learner**, **student** and **pupil** don't take **to** in this way.

9. He said he couldn't _____ to retire from work and live only on his pension.
✔ **B) afford**
Can't afford to do something means you don't have enough money for it. Living **only on his pension** is the clue. **Risk** is followed by **-ing** (**risk retiring**), not **to**.

10. After his heavy defeat in the local elections he decided to _____ from the campaign for the Presidency.
✔ **D) withdraw**
Withdraw from a race, competition or campaign means to stop taking part in it. Not **abandon**, which takes a direct object (**abandon the campaign**), not **from**.

11. After the outbreak of a mysterious illness, investigation revealed _____ of the town's water supply.
✔ **D) pollution**
Pollution of water means it has been made dirty or harmful, which could cause an illness. Not **contagion**, which is the spreading of disease from person to person, not something that happens to water.

12. She was very interested in the work of certain charities and made a regular _____ to them.
✔ **B) contribution**
A **contribution** is money you give to help a cause. We say **make a contribution to** a charity, and **regular** shows she gave money again and again. Not **tribute**, which is something you say or do to show respect for someone, not money given to a charity.

13. The students visited the museum and spent several hours with the _____, who was very helpful.
✔ **D) curator**
A **curator** is the person in charge of a museum or its collection. Not **steward**, which is someone who looks after passengers or guests, or who helps at public events.

14. As soon as the exams were over, the students all went their _____ ways.
✔ **C) respective**
Respective means belonging to each person separately, so **went their respective ways** means each went to their own place. Don't confuse it with **perspective**, which means a point of view.

15. The council members were dissatisfied with the wording of the recommendation but passed it after _____ had been agreed.
✔ **B) amendments**
Amendments are changes made to the wording of a document, law or proposal. The clue is **dissatisfied with the wording**. **Refinements** are small improvements, but formal changes agreed by a council are called **amendments**.

16. He _____ his old car for a new model as soon as he had won the money.
✔ **B) exchanged**
Exchange A for B means to give A and get B in return. Not **replaced**, which needs **with**: **replaced his old car with a new model**.

17. The brothers showed great _____ to their older sister, who had acted as the sole parent to them for many years.
✔ **B) devotion**
Devotion is deep love and loyalty to someone. It fits brothers who were brought up by their sister. Not **allegiance**, which is loyalty to a country, ruler or cause.

18. His poor standard of play fully justifies his _____ from the team for the match next Saturday.
✔ **C) exclusion**
Exclusion from the team means not being chosen to play. Not **expulsion**, which means being forced to leave a school or organisation permanently, usually as punishment. **Ban** is also a punishment, not a result of poor play.

19. Even a small dog in a house can _____ a thief.
✔ **A) deter**
Deter means to discourage someone from doing something, often by making them afraid. For example, **Alarms deter burglars.** Not **forestall**, which means to prevent something by acting first, and usually takes an action as its object, not a person.

20. His carelessness _____ the whole enterprise.
✔ **C) jeopardized**
Jeopardize means to put something in danger of failing or being harmed. Its subject can be a quality like **carelessness**. Not **risked**: **risk** usually means a person knowingly takes a chance (**He risked his life**).

21. I congratulate you on your _____ in jewellery.
✔ **D) taste**
Taste in clothes, music or jewellery means your ability to choose good things, as in **She has good taste in clothes**. Not **choice**, which describes one decision and doesn't form the phrase **on your choice in**.

22. He _____ his rose bushes carefully with insecticide every evening.
✔ **E) sprayed**
Spray means to cover something with tiny drops of liquid, which is how insecticide is used. **Strewed** and **spread** are for scattering solids or putting a layer on something.

23. Playing on strong national feelings, they _____ the crowd to burn down the Embassy.
✔ **C) incited**
Incite someone to do something means to encourage them to do something violent or illegal. Not **instigated**, which takes an event as its object (**instigate a riot**), not **a person + to**.

24. Not knowing he had _____ out with his girlfriend, I made the mistake of inviting them both to the party.
✔ **A) fallen**
Fall out with someone is a phrasal verb meaning to argue and stop being friendly with them. **Quarrelled** means the same, but it is not used with **out**. We say **quarrelled with**.

25. All visitors are requested to _____ with the regulations.
✔ **B) comply**
Comply with rules or regulations means to obey them. It is the fixed collocation in formal notices. **Agree** and **consent** are about accepting an idea, not obeying rules.

26. My father had to take private pupils in order to _____ his salary as a teacher.
✔ **B) augment**
Augment means to increase an amount by adding to it, as in **augment his salary/income**. Not **expand** or **enlarge**, which are about size, not money.

27. Even though the football match was not very exciting, the _____ managed to make it sound interesting.
✔ **A) commentator**
A **commentator** describes a sports event as it happens on radio or TV. Not **announcer**, which is someone who gives information or introduces programmes, not someone who describes a match.

28. The rain soon worked its way _____ the roof of the old cottage.
✔ **D) through**
Through means from one side to the other, so the rain got inside by passing through the roof. **Work its way through** means to move through something slowly.

29. The Managing Director has asked to see the sales _____ resulting from our recent advertising campaign.
✔ **E) figures**
Sales figures is the fixed collocation for numbers showing how much has been sold. Not **numbers**, which is more general and is not the usual business term.

30. TV, if properly used, can _____ a child's imagination.
✔ **E) stimulate**
Stimulate means to make something more active or encourage it to develop, as in **stimulate the imagination**. Not **arise**, which has no object, and **incite** is used for violence or bad actions.

31. The country's mineral resources have been _____ by foreign powers.
✓ **E) exploited**
Exploit resources means to use them for profit, often unfairly. Not **extorted**, which means getting money from people by threats, and **deprived** needs a person as its object (**deprived of**).

32. He earns his living by _____ old paintings.
✓ **B) restoring**
Restore means to repair an old building, painting or object so that it looks as it did originally. Not **renewing**, which means replacing with something new or extending a document like a passport.

33. Unless stricter hunting laws are introduced, seals will soon be _____.
✓ **D) extinct**
Extinct is used for animals or plants that no longer exist. Not **obsolete** or **out-dated**, which describe machines and ideas that are no longer used.

34. Inflation is very hard on people of _____ means.
✓ **C) limited**
People of limited means are people who don't have much money. **Means** here means money or income. Not **needy** or **impoverished**, which describe the people themselves, not their **means**.

35. A new system of quality control was _____ to overcome the defects in the firm's products.
✓ **C) introduced**
Introduce a system, law or method means to bring it in and start using it. Not **installed**, which is mainly used for equipment and machines, and **inaugurated** is used for formally opening buildings or starting someone in an official job.

36. Ask the publishers to send you their latest _____ of English text-books.
✓ **A) catalogue**
A **catalogue** is a complete list of items for sale, such as a publisher's books. Not **prospectus**, which describes a school, university or company, or **brochure**, which advertises holidays or products with pictures.

37. It is easier to adapt to new situations if one has a _____ attitude.
✓ **B) flexible**
Flexible means able to change easily to suit new conditions, as in **a flexible attitude**. Not **changeable**, which suggests changing often and unpredictably, like the weather.

38. He was smoking; I could see the tip of his cigarette _____ in the darkness.
✓ **E) glowing**
Glow means to give out a steady light without flames, like the burning tip of a cigarette. **Sparkle**, **glint** and **gleam** describe reflected or flashing light.

39. Although he was under no _____, the shopkeeper replaced the defective battery free of charge.
✓ **C) obligation**
Be under no obligation means you don't have to do something. Here the shopkeeper didn't have to replace the battery, but he did. Not **guarantee**: **under guarantee** is about the product, not the person.

40. I haven't the _____ idea what you mean.
✓ **C) faintest**
I haven't the faintest idea is a fixed expression meaning 'I don't know at all'. **Faintest** means weakest. Not **smallest**: the idiom uses **faintest** or **slightest**.

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