ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Upper Level Vocabulary Test 7

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Explanations

1. Many poets have _____ the beauties of the countryside.
✔ **E) extolled**
To **extol** something means to praise it very highly, often in poems or speeches: **poets extolled the beauties of the countryside**. Not **applauded**, which means clapping or approving an action, not praising beauty.

2. When the student graduated, he got his _____.
✔ **B) degree**
When you finish university, you **get a degree** (for example, a BA or MSc). Not **bachelor**: we say **a bachelor's degree**, not just **a bachelor**.

3. She didn't _____ doing the washing up, as she hadn't wanted to go out anyway.
✔ **E) mind**
Not mind doing something means you are happy to do it or it doesn't bother you. The clue is that she hadn't wanted to go out anyway. Not **object**, which needs **to**: **object to doing**.

4. The tremor in his voice _____ his nervousness.
✔ **E) revealed**
To **reveal** means to show something that was hidden. The shaking (**tremor**) in his voice showed that he was nervous. Not **disguised**, which means the opposite: to hide.

5. Although I tried to concentrate on the lectures, I was _____ by the noise from the next room.
✔ **D) distracted**
To be **distracted** by something means that your attention is taken away from what you are doing. The noise from the next room stopped the speaker from concentrating on the lectures. Not **interfered**, which needs **with** (**The noise interfered with my work**) and is not used in the passive like this.

6. I _____ what her name is; I'm sure I know her face.
✔ **B) wonder**
I wonder what... is used when you want to know something but don't. The speaker knows her face but not her name. Not **remember**, because then the speaker would know the name.

7. 'I _____ that one', said the tourist, pointing for the benefit of the uncomprehending shopkeeper.
✔ **A) want**
The tourist uses the simplest, most direct verb, **want**, so the shopkeeper can understand: **I want that one**. Not **wish** or **desire**, which are formal and are not used this way when shopping.

8. I do not _____ to be clever but I am not stupid.
✔ **D) claim**
To **claim to be** something means to say that you are it. The speaker doesn't say he is clever, but he isn't stupid. Not **confess**, which means admitting something bad.

9. After the Cabinet reshuffle, the Minister wasn't very happy in his new _____.
✔ **B) post**
A **post** is an official position, especially in government: **a ministerial post**. In a Cabinet reshuffle, ministers are moved to new posts. Not **shift**, which is a period of work time, as in **a night shift**.

10. Children under the age of 16 are not _____ to enter for the competition.
✔ **D) eligible**
Eligible to do something means allowed to do it because you meet the rules (age, etc.): **You are eligible to vote at 18.** Not **permissible**, which describes actions, not people: **Smoking is not permissible here.**

11. I was so _____ in my book that I didn't hear the doorbell ring.
✔ **C) absorbed**
Absorbed in a book means so interested in it that you notice nothing else. Not **occupied**, which goes with **with** and means busy, not deeply interested.

12. Motorists _____ of speeding may be banned from driving for a year.
✔ **A) convicted**
To be **convicted of** a crime means a court has officially found you guilty. Only then can you be banned from driving. Not **charged**, which is followed by **with** and only means accused.

13. In the medical profession, men _____ women by five to one.
✔ **B) outnumber**
To **outnumber** means to be more in number than another group. **By five to one** gives the ratio. Not **outclass**, which means to be much better than someone.

14. He has told us so many lies that we can no longer place any _____ on what he says.
✔ **B) reliance**
The fixed phrase is **place reliance on** something, meaning to trust or depend on it. Not **credibility**: a person **has** or **lacks** credibility, but we don't **place** credibility on something.

15. Pools of water lay trapped among the rocks as the tide _____.
✔ **D) receded**
When the tide **recedes**, the sea goes back and leaves water in pools among the rocks. Not **retired**, which means stopping work and is not used for the tide today.

16. He bought that house, _____ that he would inherit money under his uncle's will.
✔ **C) assuming**
Assuming that means believing something is true without proof. He bought the house because he expected to inherit money. Not **speculating**, which means guessing or risking money, not taking something as true.

17. A _____ change in policy is needed if relations are ever to improve.
✔ **C) drastic**
A **drastic change** is a sudden, very big change made to solve a serious problem. Not **severe**, which goes with problems or punishments, not with change in policy.

18. He wrote the textbook in _____ with his brother.
✔ **B) collaboration**
In collaboration with someone means working together with them to produce something: **a book written in collaboration with a colleague**. Not **in unison**, which means saying or doing something at the same time.

19. His country cottage _____ the amenities of his London flat.
✔ **E) lacked**
To **lack** something means not to have it. The cottage did not have the comforts (**amenities**) of the London flat. Not **missed**: a person misses things, but a house doesn't.

20. The victory was _____ annually by a ten-gun salute.
✔ **B) commemorated**
To **commemorate** an event means to honour its memory with a ceremony or celebration, like a gun salute. Not **remembered**, which is about memory, not an official ceremony.

21. He _____ the figures carefully before making any comment.
✔ **B) scrutinized**
To **scrutinize** means to look at something very carefully and in detail. The word **carefully** is the clue. Not **estimated**, which means guessing an amount roughly.

22. He couldn't explain the problem well, as he had only a _____ knowledge of the subject.
✔ **C) rudimentary**
Rudimentary knowledge is very basic, limited knowledge. The clue is **only**, and that he couldn't explain well. Not **fundamental**, which means important or basic in the sense of essential, not limited.

23. His account must be true, because the evidence he gave _____ that of two other witnesses.
✔ **E) corroborates**
To **corroborate** means to support or confirm someone's statement with more evidence. His evidence matched the other witnesses, so it must be true. Not **collaborates**, which means working together.

24. We must hear the _____ of the last meeting before we proceed.
✔ **A) minutes**
The **minutes** are the official written record of what was said and decided at a meeting. Not **agenda**, which is the list of things to discuss at a meeting before it happens.

25. Many road accidents occur because motorists cannot _____ the speed of approaching vehicles.
✔ **C) gauge**
To **gauge** means to judge or measure something, such as speed or distance. Not **value**, which means to think something is important or to decide its price.

26. The rainbow _____ as the sun came fully out from behind the clouds.
✔ **E) disappeared**
The rainbow **disappeared**, meaning it could no longer be seen. Not **dispersed**, which is used for crowds, clouds or gas that spread out and go away.

27. The boy, wanting to be independent, _____ his father's offer of help.
✔ **C) turned down**
To **turn down** an offer means to refuse it. He wanted to be independent, so he refused his father's help. Not **turn away**, which means to refuse to let someone in.

28. It is not profitable to provide bus services in districts where the population is widely _____.
✔ **A) scattered**
A **widely scattered** population lives spread out over a large area, with few people in each place. Not **separated**, which suggests people were divided on purpose.

29. There is a _____ of a thousand pounds offered for the capture of the murderer.
✔ **A) reward**
A **reward** is money offered for helping to catch a criminal or find something. Not **prize**, which is won in a competition.

30. They always kept on good _____ with their next-door neighbours for the children's sake.
✔ **D) terms**
The fixed phrase is **be on good terms with** someone, meaning to have a friendly relationship. Not **relations**, which is used as **have good relations with**, not **keep on good relations**.

31. She had clearly no _____ of doing any work, although she was very well paid.
✔ **D) intention**
Have no intention of doing something means you do not plan to do it at all. Not **desire**, which is followed by **to**: **no desire to work**.

32. The car salesman took the customer for a drive in the new model in order to _____ its improved features.
✔ **B) demonstrate**
To **demonstrate** means to show how something works by using it. The salesman shows the new features during a drive. Not **exhibit**, which means to put things on public display.

33. The actual _____ by which coal is extracted is well worth watching.
✔ **B) process**
A **process** is a series of actions done to produce something: **the process by which coal is extracted**. Not **procession**, which is a line of people moving forward, as in a parade.

34. If we _____ the plan you suggest, we are more likely to be successful.
✔ **E) adopt**
To **adopt** a plan means to accept it and start using it. Not **decide**, which needs **on**: **decide on the plan**.

35. The child was _____ for getting his shoes and socks wet.
✔ **D) scolded**
To **scold** means to speak angrily to someone, usually a child, because they did something wrong. Not **remonstrated**, which needs **with** and is not used in the passive like this.

36. Certainly man must _____ the future, and find ways of providing for his needs.
✔ **A) look to**
To **look to the future** means to think about and plan for what will happen. Not **look for**, which means to search for something.

37. He took the day off work to _____ his aunt's funeral.
✔ **D) attend**
To **attend** an event means to go to it and be present: **attend a funeral, a meeting, a class**. Not **assist**, which means to help.

38. His energetic efforts met with only _____ success.
✔ **C) partial**
Partial success means success that is not complete. The word **only** shows the result was disappointing. Not **particular**, which means special or specific.

39. My rifle was not _____, so I did not hit anything.
✔ **C) of the best**
Of the best is a formal, old-fashioned phrase meaning 'of the best quality'. The speaker's rifle was not very good, so they missed. Not **for the best**, which means 'likely to have a good result in the end': **It's all for the best**.

40. Any student who _____ his homework is unlikely to pass his examination.
✔ **B) neglects**
To **neglect** something means not to give it the attention or work it needs. A student who doesn't do his homework will probably fail. Not **reduces**: you can reduce the amount of homework, but that doesn't fit the meaning here.

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