ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Use of English Vocabulary Test C

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1	**B**	2	**C**	3	**A**	4	**D**	5	**B**	6	**D**	7	**B**	8	**D**	9	**B**	10	**C**
11	**A**	12	**A**	13	**A**	14	**D**	15	**C**										

Explanations

1. **(Please note: Questions 1-15 are part of a cloze test. They are interrelated, meaning that the information provided in each question is connected to the others.)**

The Four-Minute Mile

It is the nature of athletic records that they are broken and their place is taken by new ones. Yet in many sports _____, there is a mark which is not _____ in itself, but which becomes a legend as athletes _____ to break it.
✓ **B) events**
A competition in a particular sport is a **sports event** (or **sporting event**). This is the general word that covers races, matches and other competitions. Not **games** or **matches**, because these are only for team or ball games, and running the mile is a race.

2. Yet in many sports _____, there is a mark which is not _____ in itself, but which becomes a legend as athletes _____ to break it.
✓ **C) significant**
Significant means important or meaningful, and **not significant in itself** is a common phrase. Here it means the mark has no special value on its own; it only becomes famous because athletes try to break it. **Major** and **considerable** don't fit the pattern **not … in itself** in this way.

3. Yet in many sports _____, there is a mark which is not _____ in itself, but which becomes a legend as athletes _____ to break it.
✓ **A) try**
Try to do something means make an effort to do it: **athletes try to break it**. The phrasal verbs have different meanings. **Try on** is for clothes, **try out** means test, and **try for** means try to get something, such as a job.

4. The most _____ of these is the attempt to run the mile in _____ than four minutes.
✓ **D) famous**
The most famous means the one that the most people know about. Not **known**, because English says **the best known**, not **the most known**.

5. The most _____ of these is the attempt to run the mile in _____ than four minutes.
✓ **B) less**
With time and amounts we say **in less than four minutes**. The word **than** after the gap needs a comparative, and **less** is the comparative for amounts of time. Not **under**, because **under** can't be followed by **than**: you can say **in under four minutes**, but not **in under than**.

6. In 1945, the mile record was _____ to 4 minutes, 1.4 seconds.
✓ **D) brought down**
To **bring down** a record, price or number means to make it lower: **the record was brought down to 4 minutes, 1.4 seconds**. Not **broken down**, which means stopped working or divided into parts. **Decreased** and **lessened** are not used with **to** plus a new record time in this way.

7. And there, for nine years, it stuck. Then, in 1954, a medical student _____ Roger Bannister decided to try and break the record.
✓ **B) called**
Called introduces a person's name: **a medical student called Roger Bannister**. Not **known**, because it would need **as**: **known as**. **Entitled** is used for the titles of books and films, and **nicknamed** is for an extra informal name.

8. He had been _____ for this day since running the mile in 4 minutes, 2 seconds the _____ year.
✓ **D) training**
Train for something means prepare your body for a sports event through regular exercise: **He had been training for this day**. The past perfect continuous with **since** shows he did this over a long period before the race.

9. He had been _____ for this day since running the mile in 4 minutes, 2 seconds the _____ year.
✓ **B) previous**
The previous year means the year before the one being talked about, here the year before 1954. Not **the past year**, which means the last twelve months up to now. **Former** is used for people and roles, as in **a former champion**.

10. Two other runners set the pace for him, and _____ 250 yards to go, he burst ahead for the finish.
✓ **C) with**
The fixed expression **with … to go** says how much is left of a distance or time: **with 250 yards to go**. Another example: **with five minutes to go**.

11. He wrote _____: 'My body had exhausted all its energy, but it _____ on running just the same.
✓ **A) afterwards**
Afterwards is an adverb meaning later, after the event. It can stand alone at the end of a clause: **He wrote afterwards**. Not **after**, because as an adverb it normally needs something with it, such as **soon after** or **after the race**.

12. He wrote _____: ‘My body had exhausted all its energy, but it _____ on running just the same.
✓ **A) went**
Go on doing something means continue doing it: **it went on running just the same**. Not **continued**, because **continue** does not take **on** here: we say **continued running**, not **continued on running**.

13. Those _____ few seconds seemed never-ending.
✓ **A) last**
Last means final, the ones at the end: **those last few seconds** of the race. Not **latest**, which means the most recent, as in **the latest news**.

14. I could see the line of the finishing tape. I jumped like a man making a desperate attempt to save himself from danger.’ Bannister’s time was 3 minutes, 59.4 seconds. _____ this record has been broken on many _____ since, Bannister’s achievement will never be forgotten.
✓ **D) Although**
Although links two clauses in one sentence and shows contrast: **Although this record has been broken …, Bannister’s achievement will never be forgotten**. Not **In spite of**, because it must be followed by a noun or **-ing** form, not a full clause. **But** and **However** cannot begin the first clause of this sentence.

15. I could see the line of the finishing tape. I jumped like a man making a desperate attempt to save himself from danger.’ Bannister’s time was 3 minutes, 59.4 seconds. Although this record has been broken on many _____ since, Bannister’s achievement will never be forgotten.
✓ **C) occasions**
The fixed collocation is **on many occasions**, meaning many times. Not **times**, because we say **many times** without **on**. **Periods** and **incidents** don't fit: an **incident** is usually an unpleasant event.

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