ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Use of English Vocabulary Test H

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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.)**

Shopping In Japan

Unlike millions of Britons, who will not know how much the Christmas turkey, child's bicycle and the January sales have _____ them until the credit card bill arrives, the Japanese _____ to settle up before they've even _____ their shopping list.
✓ **B) cost**
We say something **costs** someone an amount of money, so **how much the turkey has cost them** means how much they paid for it. Not **charged**, because shops charge people, not the things that are bought.

2. Unlike millions of Britons, who will not know how much the Christmas turkey, child's bicycle and the January sales have _____ them until the credit card bill arrives, the Japanese _____ to settle up before they've even _____ their shopping list.
✓ **A) prefer**
Prefer to do something means to like one choice more than another. Here the Japanese choose to pay first, unlike the British. **Desire to** is too formal and strong, and **enjoy** is followed by **-ing**, not **to**.

3. Unlike millions of Britons, who will not know how much the Christmas turkey, child's bicycle and the January sales have _____ them until the credit card bill arrives, the Japanese _____ to settle up before they've even _____ their shopping list.
✓ **C) written out**
To **write out** a list means to write it completely, e.g. **She wrote out a shopping list. Write off** means to cancel a debt or damage a car badly, and **write up** means to write a report from notes.

4. The Japanese like to improve on every idea, even if the idea is cash. So they have been _____ about the pre-paid card.
✓ **B) enthusiastic**
The adjective is followed by **about**: **enthusiastic about** something means very interested in it and excited by it. Not **keen**, because we say **keen on**, and **exciting** describes the card, not the people's feelings.

5. It _____ the bother of banknotes and it saves the Japanese _____ the fear of being in _____ to someone else.
✓ **A) does away with**
The phrasal verb **do away with** means to get rid of something, e.g. **The card does away with the need for cash.** Not **do without**, which means to manage without having something.

6. It _____ the bother of banknotes and it saves the Japanese _____ the fear of being in _____ to someone else.
✓ **B) from**
The pattern is **save someone from** something, meaning to protect them from a bad situation, e.g. **The card saves them from worry.**

7. It _____ the bother of banknotes and it saves the Japanese _____ the fear of being in _____ to someone else.
✓ **C) debt**
Be in debt to someone means to owe them money. This is a fixed expression. **Payment**, **bill** and **interest** are not used in the phrase **in ___ to someone**.

8. It _____ with the convenient pre-paid telephone card and has _____ through train ticket cards, taxi cards, and supermarket cards all the way to McDonald's hamburger cards.
✓ **D) started**
Start with something means that is how it began; the sentence then lists how the idea grew over time. Not **introduced**, because it needs an object (**introduced the card**), and the idea itself was not **opened**.

9. It _____ with the convenient pre-paid telephone card and has _____ through train ticket cards, taxi cards, and supermarket cards all the way to McDonald's hamburger cards.
✓ **B) developed**
Develop means to grow and change step by step. With **through ... all the way to**, it shows the idea spreading from phone cards to many other kinds of card. **Followed**, **changed** and **turned** do not fit with **through ... all the way to**.

10. Few Westerners can understand why anyone _____ want to give money to a supermarket or a department store _____ by buying a pre-paid card.
✓ **A) would**
After **can't understand why anyone ...**, we use **would** to talk about a person's imagined wish or choice: **why anyone would want to ...**. Not **will**, which sounds like a simple prediction about the future.

11. Few Westerners can understand why anyone _____ want to give money to a supermarket or a department store _____ by buying a pre-paid card.
✓ **D) in advance**
In advance means before the time something happens. With a pre-paid card, you pay the shop before you buy anything. Not **in time**, which means early enough, not too late.

12. But credit companies are held under some suspicion in Japan. People have traditionally preferred cash and will happily stroll the streets with quite large _____ of money in their pockets.
✔ **B) sums**
A sum of money is an amount of money, so **large sums of money** means a lot of cash. **Savings** and **deposits** are money kept in a bank, not in your pocket.

13. The fact that street crime is fairly _____ helps.
✔ **C) rare**
Rare means it does not happen often, which explains why people feel safe carrying cash. Not **seldom**, because it is an adverb (**Crime seldom happens**) and cannot follow **is**.

14. Pre-paid cards are now as _____ as chopsticks and twice as convenient.
✔ **A) common**
Common means seen or found very often, everywhere, e.g. **as common as chopsticks**. Not **usual**, which means normal for a situation, and **often** is an adverb, not an adjective.

15. About 500 million cards were sold in the first five years after they became _____.
✔ **D) available**
Available means people can buy or get something, e.g. **The cards became available in shops. Ready** and **prepared** describe being finished, not being on sale.

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