ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Use of English Vocabulary Test J

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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.)**

The Fall Guy

Nick Gillard earns a living working as a stuntman on films and TV shows but his first _____ of show business was trick-riding circus horses when he was just 12 years old.
✔ **D) taste**
A **taste of** something is your first short experience of it, e.g. **his first taste of show business**. Not **lesson**, **experiment** or **attempt**: we don't say **a lesson of show business** or **an attempt of show business**.

2. Four years later he got the chance to _____ in his first film.
✔ **C) perform**
Perform in a film means to act or do your work in it, which fits a stunt rider. Not **play**: you **play a part** in a film, but **play in a film** is not the usual collocation.

3. 'I really enjoyed working on the film,' Nick remembers, 'so I started asking how I'd _____ becoming a stuntman.'
✔ **B) go about**
Go about (doing) something means to start dealing with it or find the way to do it: **How do I go about becoming a stuntman? Go on**, **go by** and **go for** have different meanings (continue, pass, choose/attack).

4. Nick couldn't just _____ as a stuntman straight away.
✔ **C) set up**
Set up as + job means to start working in a business or profession, e.g. **set up as a stuntman**. Not **establish**: it needs an object (**establish a company**), and **establish as a stuntman** is wrong here.

5. First, he had to get _____ by the British Stunt Register, which represents stunt professionals in Britain.
✔ **D) accepted**
Get accepted by an organisation means it agrees that you can join it. Not **allowed**: it needs **to** + verb (**allowed to join**), and **applied** and **agreed** don't work in this passive structure.

6. To do this he had to reach instructor _____ in six sports including skiing, riding and gymnastics.
✔ **B) level**
Reach a level is a common collocation; **instructor level** means good enough to teach the sport. **Line**, **measure** and **mark** are not used with **instructor** in this way.

7. Since qualifying _____ the age of 19, Nick has worked on many movies and he has doubled for some of the biggest stars in Hollywood.
✔ **C) at**
We say **at the age of** + number, e.g. **at the age of 19**. Not **in** or **by**: **by the age of 19** would mean 'not later than', which is a different meaning.

8. Safety and timing are all-important for stunt professionals - they plan everything down to the _____ detail.
✔ **A) tiniest**
Down to the tiniest (smallest/last) detail means planning absolutely everything, even very small things. Not **least**: **the least detail** is not used in this expression.

9. 'We take the utmost _____.
✔ **B) care**
The fixed phrase is **take care**, so **take the utmost care** means be extremely careful. Not **caution**: we usually **exercise caution**, not **take caution**; and **take attention** is wrong (**pay attention**).

10. It's not like being an actor where you can _____ the shot again if it goes wrong. It's got to work the first time.'
✔ **D) take**
In filming, you **take a shot** (film a scene), so **take the shot again** means film it once more. Not **make** or **have**: they are not used with **shot** in this sense.

11. Nick has _____ some terrifyingly dangerous stunts.
✔ **B) done**
We **do a stunt**, just as we **do a job** or **do a task**. Not **made**: **make a stunt** is not a natural collocation.

12. For one film he jumped across a bridge in a speed boat, and in Alien 3, he was _____ on fire, without air, for more than two minutes.
✔ **C) set**
Set someone/something on fire means make it burn on purpose; in the passive: **he was set on fire**. Not **caught**: **catch fire** has no object and is not used in the passive like this.

13. Filming on location _____ him all _____ the world, often for months _____ a time.
✔ **A) takes**
Take someone somewhere means cause them to go there: **Filming takes him all over the world.** Not **brings**: **bring** means movement towards the speaker, which doesn't fit travel to many places.

14. Filming on location _____ him all _____ the world, often for months _____ a time.
✓ D) over
All over the world is a fixed phrase meaning 'in many different places around the world': **Filming takes him all over the world.** Not **through** or **about**: we don't say **all through the world** or **all about the world** with this meaning.

15. Filming on location _____ him all _____ the world, often for months _____ a time.
✓ A) at
For months at a time means for several months without a break. The fixed phrase is **at a time** (**for hours at a time**, **for weeks at a time**).

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