ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Vocabulary Test About HOMEWORK Choose The Right Answer MCQ Exercise 43

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1	**B**	2	**A**	3	**C**	4	**B**	5	**D**	6	**D**	7	**D**	8	**C**	9	**D**	10	**B**
11	**D**	12	**B**	13	**B**	14	**D**	15	**A**	16	**A**	17	**A**	18	**B**				

Explanations

1. It's vital that the students' handwriting be _____.
✔ **B) legible**
Legible means clear enough to be read: **Her handwriting is very legible.** Not **literate**, which describes a person who can read and write, not handwriting.

2. It's quite _____ which question you answer first because you must answer them all.
✔ **A) arbitrary**
Arbitrary means chosen by chance or personal preference, not for any reason. Since all the questions must be answered, the order does not matter. Not **voluntary**, because answering is compulsory, not a free choice.

3. Vincent read the article through quickly, so as to get the _____ of it before settling down to a thorough study.
✔ **C) gist**
The fixed phrase is **get the gist of something**, meaning to understand the main idea without the details. Reading quickly gives you the gist. Not **core**, which does not combine with **get the … of it**.

4. It is very difficult to _____ the exact meaning of an idiom in a foreign language.
✔ **B) convey**
To **convey** a meaning is to communicate it or make it understood: **It's hard to convey the meaning of an idiom.** Not **transfer**, which is used for moving things, money or people, not meanings.

5. I tried to concentrate on my homework but my eyes kept _____ away from the handbook.
✔ **D) straying**
When your eyes or thoughts **stray**, they move away from what you should be looking at or thinking about: **my eyes kept straying away from the book**. Not **digressing**, which is used for speakers or writers who leave the main subject.

6. On Sunday, Vivian studied for seven hours _____.
✔ **D) on end**
On end follows a period of time and means continuously, without stopping: **for seven hours on end**. Not **at length**, which means for a long time or in detail, and is not used after a stated time.

7. Miss Nervous handed in the test and awaited the results _____.
✔ **D) with bated breath**
With bated breath means anxiously or excitedly waiting for something. Not **under her breath**, which means speaking very quietly.

8. Wilfred was so _____ in his studies that he did not notice the time passing.
✔ **C) engrossed**
Engrossed in something means so interested in it that you notice nothing else: **engrossed in his studies**. **Drenched**, **soaked** and **drowned** are about water, not attention.

9. You will need a pen and some paper to _____ this problem. It is too difficult to do in your head.
✔ **D) work out**
To **work out** a problem is to solve it by thinking or calculating. Not **find out**, which means to get information or learn a fact, not to solve a problem.

10. Students will be _____ for exceeding word-limits in their precis.
✔ **B) penalised**
To be **penalised** is to lose marks or points for breaking a rule. This is the usual word in exams and sport. Not **punished**, which is too strong and general for losing marks; **condemned** and **sentenced** are used in law.

11. I'm afraid I've only had time to _____ the article you recommended.
✔ **D) scan**
To **scan** an article here means to read it quickly to get a general idea. **Glance** and **look** would need **at**, and **peruse** means to read carefully, which does not fit **only had time**.

12. Frank has a good _____ for figures.
✔ **B) head**
The fixed phrase is **have a (good) head for something**, meaning a natural ability: **a good head for figures**, **a head for heights**. Not **mind** or **brain**, which do not form this phrase.

13. The noise from the traffic outside _____ me from my homework.
✔ **B) distracted**
Distract someone from something means to take their attention away from it. Not **prevented**, which needs a verb form: **prevented me from doing my homework**.

14. You must not _____ from the point when you write an essay.
✔ **D) wander**
The usual phrase is **wander from the point**, meaning to start talking or writing about something unrelated to the main subject. Not **ramble**, which means to talk for a long time in a confused way and is normally used with **on**, not **from the point**.

15. I can't possibly mark your homework as your handwriting is _____.
✔ **A) illegible**
Illegible means impossible or very hard to read, the opposite of **legible**. Not **illogical**, which means not sensible or reasonable.

16. Deborah is going to take extra lessons to _____ what she missed while she was away.
✔ **A) catch up on**
To **catch up on** something is to do work you missed so that you reach the level of others: **catch up on the lessons she missed**. Not **cut down on**, which means to reduce.

17. Miss Crammer is so _____ in her work that it would be a pity to disturb her.
✔ **A) absorbed**
Absorbed in something means giving it all your attention: **so absorbed in her work**. Not **intent**, which takes **on** (**intent on her work**), not **in**.

18. It suddenly _____ on me what he really meant.
✔ **B) dawned**
The phrase **it dawned on me (that / what …)** means I suddenly understood something. Not **hit** or **struck**, which are used without **on**: **it suddenly struck me what he meant**.

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