ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Vocabulary Test About MUSIC Choose The Correct Answer MCQ Exercise 170

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Explanations

1. Mozart composed music when he was still a child. He had a great _____ for it.
✔ **C) gift**
A **gift for** something is a natural talent you are born with, which fits a child composer. Not **ability** or **skill**, because we say **ability to do** and **skill at/in**, not **for**, and a skill is usually learnt.

2. I'm now going to play a piece _____ "The Fall".
✔ **B) entitled**
Entitled means 'having the title': **a piece entitled "The Fall"**. **Labelled** is for things with a physical label, and **nicknamed** means given an informal name.

3. The conductor was annoyed with the orchestra for not _____ time.
✔ **B) keeping**
The fixed phrase is **keep time**: to play at the correct speed and rhythm. Not **beating**, because **beat time** is what the conductor does with the hand or baton, not the players.

4. Schubert didn't complete one of his symphonies so it will always be _____.
✔ **C) unfinished**
Unfinished means not completed, as in Schubert's famous **Unfinished Symphony**. **Defective** and **deficient** mean faulty or lacking something, not incomplete.

5. The attendance at the music festival _____ all expectations.
✔ **D) surpassed**
Surpass expectations means to be better or greater than expected. **Overcame** is used for problems, and **overtook** for passing a moving vehicle or competitor.

6. Just as the violinist began to play, one of the _____ on his violin broke.
✔ **C) strings**
A violin has four **strings**. Not **chords**, which are groups of notes played together, and not **cords**, which are thin ropes.

7. She sat at the piano and began to play a patriotic _____.
✔ **D) tune**
A **tune** is a melody, and it is countable: **a patriotic tune**. **Music** is uncountable, so we can't say **a music**.

8. She never learnt the piano but she can play by _____.
✔ **A) ear**
Play by ear means to play music after hearing it, without reading notes or having lessons. Not **by heart**, which means from memory, not without training.

9. The audience gave the soloist an enthusiastic _____ when he entered.
✔ **D) reception**
A **reception** is the way people greet someone: **an enthusiastic reception**. Not **applause**, which is uncountable and can't follow **an**. An **encore** is an extra piece at the end, not a greeting.

10. Although I play the piano quite well, I still can't _____.
✔ **D) read music**
Read music means to understand written musical notes. The speaker plays well, perhaps by ear, but has never learnt to do this. **Play a score**, **play the notes** and **read the keys** are not the phrases we use for this skill.

11. They sometimes play together in a _____.
✔ **B) quintet**
A **quintet** is a group of five musicians. Not **quarto**, which is a paper or book size (a group of four is a **quartet**). A **solo** is one person, and a **triplet** is a group of three notes.

12. He's an exceptionally _____ violinist and has won several prizes in international competitions.
✔ **C) gifted**
Gifted means having great natural talent, which fits a violinist who has won international prizes. Not **competent**, which only means able to do something well enough. That is much too weak for a prize-winner. **Artful** means clever in a slightly dishonest way, and **ingenious** is used for clever ideas or inventions.

13. As a child, Mozart was considered to be an infant _____.
✔ **C) prodigy**
An **infant prodigy** (or **child prodigy**) is a very young child with extraordinary talent. **Prodigy** is the fixed word in this phrase. **Sensation** and **miracle** don't form this collocation.

14. She ought to _____ singing with a voice like that.
✔ **C) take up**
Take up means to start doing a hobby or activity: **take up singing**. Not **take to**, which means to start liking something, and is usually used about something you have already tried.

15. The next _____ on the programme will be a sonata by Beethoven.
✔ **B) item**
An **item** is one of the separate things on a list or programme: **the next item on the programme**. **Bit** and **part** are too vague here, and **issue** means a topic for discussion.

16. His performance was _____; the audience was delighted.
✔ **A) faultless**
Faultless means perfect, with no mistakes, which is why the audience was delighted. **Imperfect** and **worthless** are negative, so they don't fit the delighted audience.

17. In the orchestra, the oboe and the bassoon are two of the _____ instruments.
✔ **D) wind**
The oboe and bassoon are **wind instruments**: you play them by blowing air through them. **Breath**, **lip** and **mouth** are not used to name this group.

18. When the artist opened his violin case, he found that someone had stolen his _____.
✔ **B) bow**
A violin is played with a **bow**, a stick with horsehair stretched along it. Not **arc**, which is a curved line, and not **stick** or **rod**, which are not the musical terms.

19. Which _____ do you propose to play this piece in?
✔ **B) key**
A piece of music is played **in** a **key**, for example **in the key of C major**. Not **chord**, which is a group of notes played together, and not **score**, which is the written music.

20. The piano is badly out of _____, I'm afraid.
✔ **C) tune**
Out of tune means not producing the correct notes, so the piano needs tuning. Not **out of practice**, which is used for people who haven't practised recently, not for instruments.

21. As a pianist, his _____ is brilliant, but I don't care much for his interpretation.
✔ **C) technique**
Technique is the practical skill of playing, which is contrasted here with **interpretation**, the way the music is understood and expressed. Not **technology**, which means machines and scientific methods.

22. In this sonata, the first violin _____ a nightingale.
✔ **B) represents**
Represents means stands for or depicts: the violin's music is meant to suggest a nightingale's song. Not **resembles**, which means simply looks or sounds like, with no intention behind it.

23. He never _____ his early promise as a musician.
✔ **C) fulfilled**
The collocation is **fulfil your promise**, meaning to become as successful as people expected. **Carried out** and **performed** are used for tasks, and **discharged** for duties.

24. The choir stood in four rows according to their _____ heights.
✔ **C) respective**
Respective means belonging separately to each person: each singer stood according to their own height. Not **respectable** (socially acceptable) or **respectful** (showing respect).

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