

QTS – Grammar Test Answers

Question 1

- A) *If the OFSTED inspectors do not see an improvement when they return to the school, the head will have to resign.*

The use of the future tense needs to be consistent throughout the sentence. Option A, which states *the head will have to resign*, is the only sentence that matches this phrase correctly with the future need to see an improvement.

Question 2

- D) *Child development as a field of study covers all kinds of subjects.*

In the sentence for Question 2 the plural word *kinds* needs to agree with the plural word *subjects*.

Question 3

- B) *Reading to pre-school-aged children has a positive effect on their literacy.*

The words effect and affect are commonly misused. It is important for you to remember that effect is a noun, whereas affect is a verb. In this case option B is the correct answer since it incorporates the word effect as a noun.

Question 4

- C) *Considering how much revision the student did, her exam results should have been better.*

Modal verbs (e.g. might, should) must be followed by have, rather than of. Thus option C is the correct answer because the word should is followed by have.



Question 5

B) We were preparing for the Christmas concert when the fire alarm went off.

The plural pronoun we must be followed by the plural form of the verb in order for the sentence to agree. Sentence B is the only option where these match.

Question 6

D) When the next academic year starts, there will be many new pupils who will each learn the school rules.

This is an example of three of the options (A, B and C) using inconsistent tenses following the use of the future tense in the first phrase of the sentence. Whereas option D uses the appropriate form of the future tense throughout the sentence.

Question 7

B) There are many books that pupils can take out of the library but they're not allowed to take them out for more than two weeks at a time.

They're/their/and there are very commonly misused. They're is correct here because it is a contraction of they are.

Question 8

D) The teacher showed me the solution to the maths problem.

The pronoun *me* is correct when it is the object of the sentence, as in option D. However *me* can't be used as the subject of a sentence – which is why “Me and the teacher looked over. . .” is incorrect.

Question 9



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C) *Children must remember to wear their plimsoles when they have PE classes.*

Children is in the third person, so the correct grammar is for the possessive pronoun – i.e. *their* – to also be in the third person.

Question 10

A) *He and I are presenting a paper at a national teachers' conference next week.*

He and I are the subjects of the sentence, so the correct grammar in this case is to use I as the correct form of the pronoun. This is only found in option A.

Question 11

B) *Peter was the elder of the two brothers.*

The comparative form of a word (elder, wiser, taller) is used when only two examples are being compared.

Question 12

A) *Every sort of book is available on how to rear your child.*

This is the only sentence where the determiner (every), the singular subject (sort) and singular verb (is) agree. The other three options include other determiners (all, each) that are inconsistent with either their subject (sort, sorts) or their verb (is, are).

Question 13

C) *Of all the swimmers on the team this year, Alex is the fastest.*

The superlative form of a word (i.e. fastest, biggest, oldest) is used when three or more examples are being compared. In this case *all the swimmers* requires the superlative *fastest*.

Question 14



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C) *It was the new teacher's stricter regime that the parents preferred.*

Option C is the only sentence containing the correct use of grammar. It uses the correct relative pronoun (i.e. that) when referring to what the parents preferred. The words whom and who are not used for objects (i.e. the strict regime) - only for referring to specific people.

Question 15

B) *After raising enough money at the summer fair, the PTA purchased new computer software.*

This is the only grammatically correct sentence, as all the other options feature dangling participles – where the participle phrase that begins the sentence does not modify when the new phrase begins. It was the PTA that raised the money at the summer fair, not the new computer software!

Question 16

A) *The teaching assistant told the pupils to use these crayons to decorate their masks.*

The answer is the only sentence in which the correct determiner is used – i.e. *these crayons*.

Question 17

B) *Maths and science are his strongest subjects, although he also has an aptitude for languages.*

The subject of the sentence is plural – maths *and* science – so the verb needs to be plural (*are*, instead of *is*).

Question 18

C) *The teacher to whom the award was given has been promoted to deputy head.*

A handy rule for deciding when to use who or whom is to substitute *he* or *him* into the sentence. He becomes who; Him becomes whom.

For example: The award was given to him.

Thus, The teacher *to whom* the award was given.



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Question 19

D) The highly critical report states that five-year-old children should not be left to fend for themselves at the swimming pool.

In the correct sentence, the plural noun *children* agrees with the plural pronoun *themselves*. In the other sentences the singular child does not agree with the plural themselves.



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