English Punctuation & Grammar: Hard Practice Paper 2 Answers

Q#	Answer	Explanation
1	E	Every mark in this line is correct. The semicolon joins two complete sentences that belong closely together, which is exactly what a semicolon is for. So there is no mistake in this line.
2	B	'has gone.' ends the spoken words, but the sentence carries on with said the guard, so the speech closes with a comma inside the speech marks, not a full stop: "The last train has gone," said the guard. The mistake is in group B.
3	D	'later that night?' closes a sentence that only reports a question instead of asking one. Anna asked whether... is a statement about what she said, so it finishes with a full stop: later that night. The mistake is in group D.
4	E	Every mark in this line is correct. The semicolon holds together two closely linked sentences, and the full stop closes the line. So there is no mistake in this line.
5	A	'Anna had less coins' uses the wrong word. Coins can be counted one by one, so the word is fewer; less is kept for what cannot be counted, such as water or time: Anna had fewer coins. The mistake is in group A.
6	C	'were still' does not agree. Neither... nor points at one thing at a time, so the verb is singular: neither the ticket office nor the café was still open. The mistake is in group C.
7	D	'with the nights rain.' means the rain of that night, so it is a possessive and needs an apostrophe before the s: with the night's rain. The mistake is in group D.
8	B	'appeared and asked' runs straight into the words spoken. A comma is needed after the word that introduces speech: appeared and asked, "Are you waiting for someone?" The mistake is in group B.

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9	C	‘she wasnt travelling’ is missing an apostrophe. Wasnt is short for was not, and the apostrophe stands in place of the missing o: she wasn’t travelling. The mistake is in group C.
10	D	‘waiting room’ is the last of the passage, and the sentence stops with nothing to close it. A statement ends with a full stop: waiting room. The mistake is in group D.

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