English Punctuation & Grammar: Hard Practice Paper 5 Answers

Q#	Answer	Explanation
1	E	Every mark in this line is correct. The comma before and separates two complete sentences, and Mary Anning and Lyme Regis are names and so take capital letters. So there is no mistake in this line.
2	B	'a cabinetmaker' is extra information dropped into the middle of the sentence to tell us who her father was, and information of that kind needs a comma at **both** ends, not just the first: a cabinetmaker, taught her. The mistake is in group B.
3	B	'found a skull (four feet long' opens a bracket and never closes it. A bracket that has been opened must always be closed again, and what belongs inside it here is the measurement: a skull (four feet long) and called for Mary. The mistake is in group B.
4	A	'Marys work changed' means the work done by Mary, so it is a possessive and needs an apostrophe before the s: Mary's work. The mistake is in group A.
5	D	'so much about bones?' should not end with a question mark. Nobody's exact words are given; the line only reports that a question was asked, so it is a statement and takes a full stop: so much about bones. A question mark would be right only for "How has she learnt so much?" The mistake is in group D.
6	E	Every mark in this line is correct. A semicolon can join two complete sentences when their meaning is closely linked, which is exactly what it is doing here, and the full stop closes the whole line. So there is no mistake in this line.
7	C	'far less honours' uses the wrong word. Honours can be counted one by one, so the word is fewer; less is kept for things that cannot be counted, such as less time or less money: far fewer honours. The mistake is in group C.

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8	C	‘nor the Society were’ does not agree. After neither… nor the verb matches whichever subject stands nearer to it, and the nearer one here is the Society, which is singular: nor the Society was willing. The mistake is in group C.
9	A	‘The value of her finds were’ does not agree. The subject is value, which is singular, so the verb must be was. The words of her finds sit in between and pull the ear towards a plural, but they are not the subject: The value of her finds was. The mistake is in group A.
10	D	‘is known across the world’ ends the passage, and a sentence that makes a statement closes with a full stop: across the world. The comma before and earlier in the line is right, because and joins two complete sentences. The mistake is in group D.

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