ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Active-Passive Voice, Causatives Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 3

Causatives Tests · 25 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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Explanations

1. I'm afraid our accountants _____ for fraud - on the brighter side, our financial statements _____ the Times best-seller fiction list.
✔ **C) are being investigated / have made**
The accountants are not doing the investigating; someone is investigating them, and it is happening now. So we need the **present continuous passive**: **are being investigated**. In the second gap the statements are the subject and they **have made** the list. The present perfect shows a recent result that matters now. Not **are investigating**: that is active and would mean the accountants are the investigators.

2. Unless there _____ a dated object, such as a coin, within a layer, a technique _____ to determine an approximate chronological date.
✔ **B) is / must be used**
This sentence describes a general procedure, so it uses the present tense. **Unless there is** means 'if there isn't'. The main clause needs a passive modal, because the technique does not use itself: **must be used**. Not **was / will be used**: a past verb after **unless** does not go with **will** in a real, general condition.

3. The boxer _____ in the last round. It took a long time to bring him down.
✔ **C) was knocked out**
In the last round refers to a finished event in the past, so we use the **past simple passive**: **was knocked out**. The boxer received the action. Not **has been knocked out**: the present perfect does not go with a finished past time like **in the last round**.

4. He _____ to learn that his proposal _____.
✔ **C) was delighted / had been accepted**
The story is in the past (**was delighted**). The proposal was accepted before he learned about it, so the earlier action takes the **past perfect passive**: **had been accepted**. A proposal is accepted by someone, so it must be passive. Not **accepted** alone: **his proposal accepted** has no auxiliary and is not a correct passive.

5. It is believed that a criminal inquiry _____ out given the age of the remains and the fact that any potential witnesses to a possible crime would no longer be alive.
✔ **B) wouldn't be carried**
An inquiry is carried out by someone, so we need a passive: **be carried out**. After **It is believed that**, **wouldn't** expresses the expected outcome, a prediction about what will not happen given the circumstances: **wouldn't be carried out**. **Given** here means 'considering'. Not **wouldn't carry**: that is active and would mean the inquiry itself carries something out.

6. The shape of the world _____ into account if you really want to solve the problem.
✔ **E) must be taken**
If you really want to solve the problem shows that this is a necessity, so we need **must**. The shape of the world is not doing anything; you take it into account, so the verb is passive: **must be taken into account**. Not **must take**: that is active and would mean the shape of the world takes something into account. Not **had to be taken**: the sentence is about the present.

7. Digital memories _____ all people to tell their life stories to their descendants in a compelling fashion that until now _____ solely for the rich and famous.
✔ **B) can enable / has been reserved**
In the first gap, digital memories are the subject that does the enabling, so it is active: **can enable**, meaning 'are able to make possible'. In the second gap the 'compelling fashion' is something people keep for the rich. It is the receiver of the action, and **until now** signals the present perfect: **has been reserved**. Not **has reserved**: that is active and has no object.

8. Is it possible to find a country where the beauty, the history and the variety in the scenery _____ in such perfect harmony?
✔ **B) are combined**
The question is about a country now (**Is it possible...**), so the present tense is needed. Three plural subjects (beauty, history, variety) are joined together, so we use the **present simple passive**: **are combined**. Not **were combined**: the past tense does not fit a question about a present situation.

9. According to the U.S. Climate Report, a copy of which _____ by the newspaper, the administration's climate policy _____ in emissions growing 11 per cent in 2012 from 2002.
✔ B) was obtained / will result
The newspaper got the copy at a past moment, and the copy received the action, so the **past simple passive** is needed: **was obtained**. **Result in** is an active verb meaning 'lead to' and is never used in the passive, so the report's prediction is **will result in**. Not **will be resulted**: **result** cannot be passive.

10. One of the most prescient of Bush's ideas was the suggestion that the Memex _____ to imitate the associative thinking of the human mind, which he _____ in lively terms.
✔ D) should be designed / described
After **the suggestion that**, English uses **should** + base verb (or a subjunctive). The Memex is designed by people, so the form is passive: **should be designed**. In the relative clause **he** (Bush) is the subject who described the thinking, so the active past simple is needed: **described**. Not **was described**: the subject **he** did the describing.

11. The machine _____ all tests set for it thus far and it _____ for detecting certain threats by our engineers.
✔ E) has passed / has been evaluated
Thus far (= so far) calls for the present perfect. The machine itself passed the tests, so the first verb is active: **has passed**. The phrase **by our engineers** shows the machine received the second action, so it is passive: **has been evaluated**. Not **has been passed**: a machine passes tests, the tests don't pass it.

12. In Freudian theory, neurosis _____ by certain complexes of repressed ideas, and the aim of treatment is to recover these disturbing contents to consciousness.
✔ C) is caused
A theory is described with the present simple, as the parallel clause **the aim of treatment is** shows. Neurosis receives the action (complexes cause it), so we need the **present simple passive**: **is caused by**. Not **causes**: that is active and would make neurosis the cause.

13. Tetracycline antibiotics _____ to pregnant women, women who _____, or children under 12 years of age.
✔ E) aren't given / are breastfeeding
This is a general medical rule, so the present simple is used. The antibiotics receive the action, so it is passive: **aren't given**. The second gap describes women in a current temporary situation, so the present continuous is natural: **are breastfeeding**. Not **weren't given**: the past tense does not fit a general rule that is still true.

14. In Paris, he _____ by would-be immigrants to America who _____ that he could help them get there and furnish them with land and jobs.
✔ B) was besieged / assumed
Besieged by means 'surrounded by many people wanting something'. **He** received the action, so the **past simple passive** is needed: **was besieged**. In the relative clause the immigrants did the assuming, so it is active past simple: **assumed**. Not **was assumed**: the immigrants are the subject, not the receivers of the action.

15. Responses _____ for the extent to which the behaviour _____ to the actor's disposition.
✔ A) were scored / was attributed
This sounds like a research report describing the past procedure. Researchers scored the responses, so it is passive: **were scored**. People attributed the behaviour to a cause, so the second verb is also passive: **was attributed to**. Not **were scored / attributed**: **the behaviour attributed to** is active, and behaviour cannot do the attributing.

16. Hundreds of antiques which _____ to one of the sultans _____ by the end of this year.
✔ B) belonged / will have been sold
Belong is a state verb. It is not used in continuous or passive forms, so we say **belonged**. **By the end of this year** signals the future perfect. The antiques receive the action, so the future perfect passive is needed: **will have been sold**. Not **are belonged**: **belong** cannot be passive.

17. Gilgamesh was a man who wanted more power than mortals _____ and wanted his influence _____ forever.
✔ C) were allowed / to be known
Mortals receive permission from the gods, so the passive is needed: **than mortals were allowed**. After **want** + object we use a **to**-infinitive. The influence is known by people, so it is a passive infinitive: **wanted his influence to be known**. Not **to known**: after **to** we need the base form **be** + past participle.

18. School attendance _____ only for courses that _____ as credits towards a certificate, diploma or degree.
✔ C) is counted / could be used
This is a general rule, so the present simple is used. Attendance is counted by the school, so the passive **is counted** fits. The key gap is the second one. Courses are used by students as credits, so we need a passive modal: **could be used as credits**. Every option with an active second verb (**might use**, **should use**) is wrong, because courses do not use anything themselves.

19. The Sumerians _____ approximately 3000 to 2500 B.C. in a region known as the "Fertile Crescent" located along the Tigris River and _____ to be the world's first civilization.
✔ B) emerged / were considered
Emerge (= appear, come into existence) is intransitive, so it is never passive: **emerged**. **Consider** in the pattern **be considered to be** must be passive, because people consider the Sumerians to be the first civilization: **were considered**. Not **were emerged**: intransitive verbs have no passive form.

20. KIBS (knowledge-intensive business services) _____ to be one of the main drivers of technological change and economic progress and _____ as "users, carriers and sources of innovation".
✔ C) are believed / described
The pattern **be believed to be** is passive, because people believe it about KIBS, and the present simple fits a current view: **are believed**. In the second gap **are** is shared and left out, so only the past participle is needed: **(are) described as**. Not **have believed**: that is active and would mean KIBS do the believing.

21. The trial _____ in Manhattan, a borough where juries are less hospitable to plaintiffs than the Bronx.
✔ A) was to be held
A trial is held by a court, so the verb must be passive. **Was to be held** (be + to-infinitive) describes something planned or arranged in the past. All the other options are active and would mean the trial holds something.

22. The buildings _____ back to the Aztecs, whose ceremonial centre _____ there before the Europeans built over it.
✔ E) date / was located
Date back to means 'have existed since a certain time'. It is an active verb in the present simple, because the buildings still exist: **date back**. The ceremonial centre was in that place in the past, and **be located** is passive: **was located**. Not **had located**: that is active, and a centre does not 'locate' anything.

23. Most of the convalescents prefer _____ for at home while they _____ with their beloveds rather than in a health centre.
✔ D) to be cared / are
Prefer is followed by a **to**-infinitive. The patients receive the care, so we need a passive infinitive: **to be cared for**. The second gap describes the same general present situation, so **are** is right: **while they are with their beloveds** (= loved ones). Not **to care**: that is active and would mean the patients care for someone else.

24. A set of very strict measures _____ to reduce street crime so that people can at least _____ free in public.
✔ A) has been taken / roam
The singular subject is **a set**. The measures were taken by the authorities, and the result matters now, so the **present perfect passive** fits: **has been taken**. After the modal **can** we use the base form: **roam free** (= move around freely). Not **has taken**: that is active, and measures do not take anything themselves.

25. In our family, housework _____ to be everyone's responsibility. However, my teenage brother _____ himself with such matters.
✔ C) is considered / doesn't concern
The pattern **be considered to be** is passive, and a present general belief needs the present simple: **is considered**. **Concern oneself with** (= take an interest in, get involved in) is active and needs a reflexive object, so with a habit we say **doesn't concern himself**. Not **isn't concerned**: the passive cannot be followed by **himself**.

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