ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Level Grammar Exercise – MCQ Test 6

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Explanations

1. Until the eighteenth century, comparative linguistic studies did not progress _____ beyond the stage where ancient Greek and Roman grammarians had left them.
✔ **D) very much**
In a negative sentence, **very much** works as an adverb of degree: **did not progress very much beyond** means 'made little progress beyond'. **So much as** would need a different structure (**did not so much as begin**, meaning 'did not even begin'). **Too much** and **either** do not fit the meaning, and **just in case** expresses precaution.

2. Julius Caesar _____ a great historian if the making of history _____ him the time and the inclination to write it.
✔ **E) could have been / had allowed**
This is a third conditional about an unreal past: **if** + past perfect (**had allowed**) and **could/would have** + past participle (**could have been**) in the main clause. Caesar was busy making history, so he did not have time to write it. **Could have been** means 'would have been able to be'. Not **had been / would have allowed**, because the past perfect belongs in the **if**-clause, not the main clause.

3. In 1939, Germany _____ the sale of uranium from the Czech mines it _____ over.
✔ **C) banned / had taken**
In 1939 is a finished past time, so the main action takes the past simple: **banned**. Germany took over the mines before the ban, so that earlier action takes the past perfect: **had taken** (over). Not **had banned / took**, because this reverses the order of the two events.

4. Physics, as it _____ at the end of the nineteenth century, _____ to as classical physics.
✔ **D) was known / is referred**
At the end of the nineteenth century refers to the past, so the passive past simple **was known** is used. The main clause describes what physics of that period is called today, a present fact, so it takes the present simple passive: **is referred to as**. Not **had been known / had been referred**, because nothing in the sentence suggests an earlier past or a link to another past moment.

5. Sometimes people select certain foods that they believe _____ their physical appearance and avoid those they believe _____ detrimental.
✔ **C) improve / might be**
The sentence states a general truth in the present simple (**people select … believe**). So the first gap takes the present simple **improve**. The second takes **might be**, which shows the possibility the people fear (**detrimental** = harmful). The past and perfect forms in the other options do not fit a general present statement.

6. It is not unusual for advertising campaigns _____ even before the new products _____ onto the market.
✔ **B) to be launched / come**
It is not unusual for + object + **to**-infinitive describes a general situation, so the simple passive infinitive **to be launched** is used. After **before** in a time clause, the present simple **come** is used for a general or future meaning, not **will come**. Not **to have been launched / came**: the past **came** does not fit a general present statement.

7. Much health education in recent years _____ towards the view that a heavy drinker _____ a subject for amusement but for practical help.
✔ **A) has been directed / is not**
In recent years links the past to the present, so the present perfect passive **has been directed** is needed. The view describes a general present truth, so the present simple is used: **a heavy drinker is not a subject for amusement but for practical help**. Not **had been directed**, because there is no earlier past reference point.

8. Galileo originated the method of controlled experiment _____ now forms the basis of scientific investigation.
✔ **E) which**
The gap starts a relative clause about a thing, **the method of controlled experiment**, and it is the subject of **forms**. So the relative pronoun is **which**. **Who** and **whom** are used for people, **where** for places, and **what** cannot follow a noun.

9. Unfortunately, the world's forest _____ at such a rate that the remaining tropical rainforests _____ by the middle of the century.
✔ **C) is being logged / will have been destroyed**
The logging is happening now, so the present continuous passive **is being logged** is used. **By the middle of the century** is a deadline in the future, so the future perfect passive **will have been destroyed** is used. Not **will be logged / would have been destroyed**, because **would have been** refers to an unreal past.

10. The continuing controversy _____ in 1924 by Edwin Hubble, who found that the great spiral nebula in Andromeda _____ Cepheid variables.
✔ **D) was settled / contained**
In 1924 is a finished past time, so the past simple passive **was settled** is needed. After the past verb **found**, **contained** is the normal backshifted form (**contains** is also possible for a permanent fact, but **has been settled** does not go with **in 1924**). Not **had been settled**: the past perfect needs an earlier past reference point, and there is none. **Was being settled** and **would be settled** do not describe an event completed in 1924.

11. If weather forecasters _____ warnings of storms on time, telecommunications companies _____ to take steps to protect their satellites.
✓ E) could provide / would be able
This is a second conditional about a hypothetical present or future situation: **if** + past form (**could provide**) and **would** + infinitive (**would be able**). Not **could have provided / had been able**: that mixes a third-conditional form with a past perfect main clause, which is not possible.

12. Up to the present time, oceanographers _____ lots of seafloor mountains they _____ existed.
✓ B) have found / didn't know
Up to the present time calls for the present perfect: **have found**. The scientists' lack of knowledge was in the past, before they found the mountains, so the past simple **didn't know** is used. Not **are finding / didn't know**, because **up to the present time** describes a result up to now, not an action in progress.

13. It was the first canal of the US artificial waterways built _____ the Great Lakes with the sea.
✓ D) to connect
The **to**-infinitive shows purpose: the canal was built **to connect** the Great Lakes with the sea. Not **connecting**, because after **built** the purpose needs the infinitive. **To be connected** is passive, but the canal connects the lakes, so the verb must be active.

14. Had she realised just how potentially dangerous her discovery was, she would surely have suppressed it, _____?
✓ B) wouldn't she
A question tag repeats the auxiliary of the main clause, **she would surely have suppressed it**, so the tag is **wouldn't she?** The inverted conditional clause (**Had she realised**) does not decide the tag. Not **hadn't she**, because **had** belongs to the **if**-clause, not the main clause.

15. The prohibition _____ growing some sorts of plants without official permission prevents farmers _____ growing anything by any means.
✓ D) on / from
The noun **prohibition** collocates with **on**: **a prohibition on doing something**. The verb **prevent** takes the pattern **prevent someone from doing something**, so the second gap is **from**. Not **of / by**: **prohibition of** is possible with nouns, but **prevent … by growing** is wrong.

16. _____ what extent does her book deal _____ the problem of light pollution?
✓ A) To / with
The fixed phrase is **to what extent** ('how far'). The verb **deal** takes **with** when it means 'handle or discuss a topic': **The book deals with light pollution.** Not **On / to**: **on what extent** is not a correct phrase.

17. There is a discussion _____ sending a bacterium, genetically engineered to digest atomic wastes, _____ a space shuttle to Mars.
✓ E) over / from
A discussion over something means a debate or argument about it. **Sending something from a space shuttle to Mars** uses **from … to** to mark the starting point and the destination. Not **about / over**: **about** fits the first gap, but **over a space shuttle** does not show where the bacterium is sent from.

18. The laboratory team endeavours _____ to generate power as efficiently and cheaply as possible, _____ to apply it economically.
✓ C) not only / but also
The correlative pair **not only … but also** joins two parallel elements, here two **to**-infinitives: **not only to generate power … but also to apply it**. It adds the second aim to the first. The other pairs do not form correct linking structures.

19. The chemical industry in the world developed very quickly from 1935 _____, especially in the organic sector of the industry.
✓ A) onwards
From + a time + **onwards** means 'starting at that time and continuing': **from 1935 onwards**. Not **afterwards**, because it is not used in the pattern **from + date**. **Upwards**, **outwards** and **towards** refer to direction, not time.

20. _____ any outside impacts, certain chemical impurities would make such explosives unstable if they were kept in warm conditions.
✓ E) Even without
Even without means 'even if there were no': the explosives would become unstable in warm conditions even if nothing hit them from outside. Not **In case**, which expresses a precaution and is followed by a clause, not a noun phrase. **Contrary to** means 'opposite to' and does not fit the meaning.

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