ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Conditionals and Wish Clauses Advanced Level MCQs Test With Answers 1

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Explanations

1. We _____ more on outgoings and souvenirs if we _____ a cheaper hotel.
✔ E) could have spent / had chosen
This is a third conditional about an unreal past: **if** + past perfect (**had chosen**), and in the main clause a modal + **have** + past participle (**could have spent**). The holiday is over, and they did not choose a cheaper hotel. Not **were to spend / might choose**: **were to** belongs in the if-clause and refers to an imagined future.

2. If you _____ me for suggestions before you left, I _____ you some nice restaurants around here.
✔ A) had asked / would have recommended
The clue **before you left** shows an unreal past situation, so we need the third conditional: **if** + past perfect (**had asked**) and **would have** + past participle (**would have recommended**). Not **asked / had been recommending**: the past perfect continuous cannot be used in the result clause.

3. I wish everybody _____ the same language all over the world. Then we _____ so hard to learn English now.
✔ D) spoke / wouldn’t be studying
For a wish about the present, **wish** is followed by the past simple (**spoke**). The next sentence gives the imagined present result, which needs **would** + verb; here it is continuous (**wouldn't be studying**) because of **now**. Not **could speak / aren't studying**: the result is imaginary, so a real present tense is wrong.

4. I’m sure we _____ on better terms with the manager if she _____ us so disrespectfully all the time.
✔ C) would be / didn’t treat
All the time shows a present, repeated situation, so this is a second conditional: **would be** in the main clause and the past simple **didn't treat** in the if-clause. Not **were / hadn't been treating**: the main clause needs **would**, and a past perfect if-clause would refer to the past.

5. If the classroom _____ with an overhead projector, it _____ lessons more interesting.
✔ E) were equipped / would make
This is a second conditional about an imagined present situation: a past passive in the if-clause (**were equipped**) and **would** + verb (**would make**). The classroom cannot equip itself, so the verb must be passive. Not **had equipped**: it is active, and the past perfect belongs to the third conditional.

6. If the TEM motorway _____, the traffic in Istanbul _____ to a standstill.
✔ D) hadn’t been built / would have come
The motorway was built in the past, and the sentence imagines the opposite. This needs the third conditional: **hadn't been built** (past perfect passive) and **would have come**. **Come to a standstill** means 'stop completely'. Not **doesn't build**: a motorway does not build anything, so the verb must be passive.

7. Jim is having difficulty doing his maths assignments, and he wishes he _____ to the instructions of his teacher more carefully.
✔ B) had listened
To express regret about the past, use **wish** + past perfect: **he wishes he had listened**. He is having difficulty now because he did not listen earlier. Not **would listen**: **wish** + **would** is for complaints about someone else's behaviour, not about your own past actions.

8. If anyone _____ with a five thousand lira note, please hold it up to the light to check if it _____ a forgery.
✔ C) pays / is
This is a real (first-type) conditional with an imperative in the main clause (**please hold it up**), so the if-clause takes the present simple (**pays**). The checking clause **check if it is a forgery** is also about a real present situation, so it takes **is**. Not **paid / wouldn't be**: nothing in the sentence is hypothetical.

9. We keep a spare set of car keys in case we _____ the originals.
✔ C) should lose
In case is followed by a present tense or by **should** + verb for a possible future event: **in case we lose** or, more formally, **in case we should lose**. Not **will lose**: **will** is not used after **in case**.

10. Many people believe that football stadiums _____ safer places for families to go if strict measures _____ to solve the problem of football hooliganism.
✔ B) would be / were taken
This is a second conditional about a hypothetical present or future situation: **would be** in the main clause and a past simple passive in the if-clause (**were taken**). Measures are taken by someone, so the verb is passive. Not **were to be / are taken**: **were to** belongs in the if-clause, not in the result clause.

11. If nature reserves _____ to protect the turtles, undoubtedly they _____ rarer today.
✓ **C) hadn’t been established / would be**
This is a mixed conditional. The if-clause describes an unreal past (**hadn't been established**, past perfect passive), and the result is about the present, shown by **today**, so it uses **would be**. Not **weren't establishing / could have been**: the reserves were established by people, so the verb must be passive.

12. Why are you buying so many books all the time? If you _____ a library, you _____ money by borrowing them.
✓ **B) joined / would be able to save**
The question **Why are you buying…all the time?** shows a present situation, so we need a second conditional: **if** + past simple (**joined**) and **would** + verb (**would be able to save**). Not **had joined / were able to save**: the main clause of a conditional needs a modal such as **would**.

13. You _____ your manager if you think that you _____ by that supplier.
✓ **D) had better inform / are being overcharged**
Had better + base form gives strong advice: **You had better inform your manager**. The present continuous passive **are being overcharged** describes something happening to you now (the supplier charges you too much). Not **would rather inform**: it expresses the speaker's own preference, not advice.

14. Because of the swearing it contains, this film _____ on national television if it had been released twenty years ago.
✓ **D) wouldn’t have been shown**
If it had been released twenty years ago is an unreal past condition, so the result needs **would have** + past participle. A film is shown by someone, so the verb is passive: **wouldn't have been shown**. Not **hadn't been shown**: the past perfect belongs in the if-clause, not in the result clause.

15. I wish I _____ with you longer, but unfortunately, I have a lecture at four o’clock.
✓ **A) could stay**
Wish + could expresses regret that you are not able to do something now: **I wish I could stay longer**. The clue is that the speaker has to leave for a lecture at four o'clock. Not **would stay**: we do not normally say **I wish I would…** about ourselves.

16. I do wish Mr Swan _____ so aggressive in discussions. Every time we have a meeting, he tries to pick an argument with someone.
✓ **B) weren’t**
For a wish about a present state, use **wish** + past simple. In formal or careful English, **were** is used for all persons: **I wish he weren't so aggressive**. Not **isn't**: a real present tense is not used after **wish**.

17. I wish international communications like the ‘internet’ _____ more frequently to aid environmental and health projects instead of for promoting big business.
✓ **D) were used**
A wish about the present situation takes the past simple, here in the passive: **were used**. Communications are used by people, so the passive is needed. Not **are used**: a present tense cannot follow **wish**.

18. If we _____ baby sitters, we _____ out more often, but we prefer to leave our children in the care of our parents, whom we don’t want to bother too often.
✓ **E) trusted / could go**
The second part of the sentence (**but we prefer to leave our children…**) describes the real present situation. The condition is therefore an unreal present one, so it is a second conditional: **If we trusted…, we could go out more often**. Not **had trusted / will go**: the tenses mix the past perfect with a real future.

19. If Florence Nightingale _____ alive today, I’m sure she _____ impressed with the current standard of nursing care in the majority of the world.
✓ **D) were / would be**
Florence Nightingale is no longer alive, so **alive today** is an unreal present situation. This needs the second conditional: **If she were alive today, she would be impressed**. Not **was / could have been**: **could have been** refers to the past, but the result is about today.

20. Measures to combat global warming _____ if all countries _____ on a solution together.
✓ **D) will fail / don’t work**
This is a first conditional about a real future possibility: **will fail** in the main clause and the present simple **don't work** in the if-clause. Not **will be failing / didn't work**: a past tense in the if-clause does not match **will**.

21. The weather was beautiful as I left home, so I didn’t think of bringing my umbrella. I wish I _____ the weather forecast, so I _____ that it was going to rain.
✓ **A) had watched / would have known**
The speaker regrets a past action, so **wish** takes the past perfect: **I wish I had watched the forecast**. The imagined past result needs **would have** + past participle: **I would have known**. Not **watched / knew**: the past simple after **wish** refers to the present, not the past.

22. I wish you _____ to repair the boiler yourself. You have made the problem worse actually.
✓ **D) hadn’t attempted**
The repair attempt already happened, and its result is the present problem. Regret about the past takes **wish** + past perfect: **I wish you hadn't attempted**. Not **didn't attempt**: the past simple after **wish** would refer to the present.

23. I wish we _____ enough money to buy a camper van. Then we _____ to go on holiday more often.
✓ **A) had / could afford**
A wish about the present takes the past simple (**had**). The imagined result uses **could** + verb: **Then we could afford to go on holiday more often**. Not **would have / might afford**: **wish** + **would** is not used with a state verb like **have** in this sense.

24. I’ve been sitting here all morning wishing my son _____ to tell me that he has arrived in Germany safely.
✓ **A) would telephone**
Wish + **would** expresses impatience for someone else to do something: **wishing my son would telephone**. The speaker is waiting for the call to happen. Not **telephoned**: **wish** + past simple describes a present state, not an action we are waiting for.

25. I think John wishes he _____ in the Lake District, but unfortunately, there are very few employment opportunities there.
✔ **B) could stay**
Wish + **could** expresses regret that something is not possible now: John cannot stay because there are few jobs there. Not **had been staying**: that refers to the past, but the problem is about the present.

26. I _____ Susan at her new office sometime next week if I can find some free time.
✔ **D) would like to visit**
The sentence is about a future plan (**sometime next week**) with a real condition (**if I can find…**). **Would like to visit** politely expresses a present wish about the future. Not **should have visited** or **could have visited**: these refer to the past.

27. Despite the problems he had with the manager, he _____ to stay with them if he _____ that they were giving all employees a fifty per cent pay rise.
✔ **A) might have decided / had known**
This is a third conditional about the past: **if** + past perfect (**had known**) and a modal + **have** + past participle (**might have decided**). He didn't know about the pay rise, so he didn't stay. Not **had decided / could have known**: the past perfect belongs in the if-clause, not in the main clause.

28. Were it not such a distance from the road, this _____ an ideal location for a picnic.
✔ **C) would be**
Were it not… is a formal inverted form of **If it were not…**, a second conditional about an unreal present. The main clause therefore needs **would** + verb: **this would be an ideal location**. Not **will be**: **will** is used for real conditions, not unreal ones.

29. Initially I was opposed to the idea, but after I had seen the research, I _____ that the project was a good one.
✔ **C) had to agree**
Had to agree means the speaker was forced by the evidence to accept the idea in the past. The clue is **after I had seen the research**. Not **would have agreed**: that describes an imagined past result, but the speaker really did agree.

30. We _____ very busy in the office recently; otherwise, I _____ to see your baby earlier.
✔ **D) have been / would have come**
Recently calls for the present perfect (**have been**). **Otherwise** means 'if we hadn't been busy', so the result is an unreal past and needs **would have come**. Not **were / was coming**: the past simple does not fit **recently**, and **was coming** is not a conditional form.

31. Marcus _____ over to help you with the project over the weekend, but he will be taking his mother to hospital for some tests.
✔ **E) would come**
Would come expresses an implied condition: Marcus would come if he were free, **but** he will be busy. The clause after **but** shows the real situation. Not **will come**: it contradicts **but he will be taking his mother to hospital**.

32. She _____, but luckily, a lifeguard spotted her and rescued her.
✔ **D) could have drowned**
Could have + past participle describes a past possibility that did not happen: she **could have drowned**, but she was rescued. Not **might drown**: that refers to the present or future, but the event is in the past.

33. Kelly is very nervous about his examinations, especially as he knows that his parents _____ very disappointed if he _____ them.
✔ **E) will be / fails**
This is a first conditional about a real future possibility: **will be** in the main clause and the present simple **fails** in the if-clause. Not **were / would fail**: **would** is not used in the if-clause, and the situation is a real one.

34. He _____ them to promote him to manager; after all, he isn't even a qualified engineer.
✔ **E) can't have expected**
Can't have + past participle is a logical deduction that something was impossible in the past. The clue is **he isn't even a qualified engineer**. Not **needn't have expected**: it means the expectation was unnecessary, which does not fit the reasoning.

35. I don't believe the white of Pamukkale will be spoilt _____ the number of new hotels is restricted.
✔ **C) as long as**
As long as means 'on condition that': Pamukkale will stay unspoilt on the condition that hotel numbers are restricted. Not **unless**: it gives the opposite, illogical meaning (it would be spoilt only if hotels were **not** restricted).

36. _____ they offer him a partnership will the young architect stay with this firm.
✔ **E) Only if**
Only if at the start of a sentence causes inversion in the main clause: **Only if they offer him a partnership will he stay**. The inverted **will the young architect stay** is the clue. **Even if**, **Unless** and **Providing** are not followed by inversion.

37. We should be able to hire a car on the island, _____ you remember to take your driving licence.
✔ **A) provided**
Provided means 'on condition that': you can hire a car only if you take your licence. Not **in case**: it means 'as a precaution', which does not make sense with **remember to take**.

38. You shouldn't open the oven while a sponge cake is baking; _____, it will sink in the middle.
✔ **B) otherwise**
Otherwise means 'if you do (not)': if you open the oven, the cake will sink. It comes after a semicolon and is followed by a comma. Not **in case**: it needs a clause after it, not a comma.

39. You might get better results _____ you take your photographs with an automatic camera.
✔ **B) if**
Simple **if** introduces a possible condition: better results will be possible if you use an automatic camera. Not **in case**: it means 'as a precaution against something happening', which does not fit here.

40. We wouldn’t finish our assignment _____ we stayed up all night.
✓ **E) even if**
Even if means the result would stay the same whatever happened: staying up all night still wouldn't be enough. Not **as long as**: it means 'on condition that', which gives an illogical meaning.

41. _____ you are interested in taking lessons, I can give you their telephone number.
✓ **E) If**
Simple **If** introduces an open, real condition: if you are interested, I can give you the number. Not **Only if**: it makes the offer sound strangely restrictive.

42. So many people were killed in the fire _____ the stadium didn’t have enough emergency exits.
✓ **B) because**
Because introduces a reason: so many people died because there weren't enough emergency exits. The other options introduce conditions or precautions, which do not make sense for a past fact.

43. I’m afraid we won’t be able to come to your baby’s christening _____ we can find a babysitter. Our regular babysitter is on holiday.
✓ **C) unless**
Unless means 'if…not': we won't be able to come if we can't find a babysitter. Not **only if**: it gives the opposite meaning (they would come only if they found a babysitter, not stay away).

44. She described her new house _____ it were a palace.
✓ **C) as if**
As if + past simple (**were**) compares something to an unreal situation: her house is not really a palace. **Were** is used for all persons in this unreal meaning.

45. She hasn’t had much time to socialise _____ she took a part-time job besides her school studies.
✓ **B) since**
Since + past simple marks the starting point of a period that continues to now, used with the present perfect: **hasn't had…since she took a job**. Not **when**: it does not fit the present perfect in this way.

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