ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Conditionals and Wish Clauses Advanced Level MCQs Test With Answers 3

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Explanations

1. If I were you, I _____ a new car instead of struggling with this old one.
✔ **D) would buy**
If I were you is the classic way to give advice. It uses the second conditional: **if** + past (**were**) followed by **would** + base verb, so **would buy**. Not **bought**: the result clause needs **would**, not a past tense.

2. It's not long now before I start my new job in Melissa. I wish we _____ a suitable house for sale there, but it seems that we may have to hire one temporarily.
✔ **B) could find**
Wish + **could** + base verb expresses regret about a present or future ability that we lack: we are unable to find a house, so **I wish we could find**. Not **can find** or **will find**: after **wish** the verb moves back in time (**can** → **could**).

3. I'm sorry that I sent our driver for you. I wish I _____ you at the airport myself, but I had a meeting with the production team.
✔ **B) could have met**
The regret is about the past (**I sent our driver**, **I had a meeting**). For past ability we use **wish** + **could have** + past participle: **I wish I could have met you**. Not **would meet**: **wish** + **would** refers to present or future behaviour, not a past event.

4. Take a couple of extra traditional Turkish gifts with you in case you _____ any other members of the Scholz family during your aunt's funeral.
✔ **A) meet**
After **in case**, we use a present tense to talk about a possible future event: **in case you meet**. Not **will meet**: **will** is not used after **in case** (or after **if** and **when**) for the future.

5. If you give me your tape recorder and a cassette in plenty of time, then, of course, I _____ the lecture for you on the day of your aunt's funeral.
✔ **E) will record**
This is a first conditional, a real future possibility: **if** + present (**give**) followed by **will** + base verb, so **will record**. Not **would have recorded**: that belongs to an unreal past (third) conditional.

6. If I _____ you would be on your own all weekend, I _____ you over to our house.
✔ **C) had known / would have invited**
This is a third conditional about an unreal past: **if** + past perfect (**had known**) followed by **would have** + past participle (**would have invited**). I didn't know, so I didn't invite you.

7. I wish you _____ me from the station to inform me that you were on your way – I _____ the dinner ready for your arrival home.
✔ **E) had phoned / could have prepared**
Past regret takes **wish** + past perfect: **I wish you had phoned**. The implied result is also in the past, so we use **could have** + past participle: **could have prepared**. Not **would phone**: that expresses annoyance about present habits, not a past event.

8. I wish a flight to Istanbul _____ less than two hundred pounds, then we would fly there a lot more often.
✔ **D) cost**
Wish + past simple expresses a wish about a present situation: flights are expensive now, so **I wish a flight cost less**. Here **cost** is the past simple form. Not **costs**: after **wish** the present moves back to the past.

9. I wish I _____ to my friends in Germany every day without getting a huge telephone bill.
✔ **D) could talk**
The speaker regrets a present inability, so we use **wish** + **could** + base verb: **I wish I could talk**. Not **would talk**: we don't use **wish** + **would** about ourselves; **would** is for other people's behaviour.

10. I'm sure my daughter _____ university life if she _____, but she is so shy.
✔ **C) would enjoy / socialised**
This is a second conditional about an unreal present: **would** + base verb in the result clause and past simple in the **if** clause, so **would enjoy / socialised**. The clue is **she is so shy**: she doesn't socialise in reality.

11. If our caravan _____ with a shower, it _____ more practical for longer holidays.
✔ **B) were equipped / would be**
The caravan has no shower now, so this is a second conditional. It has a passive **if** clause (**were equipped**) and **would** + base verb in the result (**would be**). Not **equipped / could be**: the caravan is equipped by someone, so the verb must be passive.

12. Had the Millennium Dome not been built, 750 million pounds _____ on health and education.
✔ C) could have been spent
Had the Millennium Dome not been built is an inverted third conditional (= **If it hadn't been built**). The result is an unreal past possibility, and money is spent by someone, so it needs a passive: **could have been spent**. Not **must have been spent**: that expresses a deduction about the past, not an unreal result.

13. Apparently, a customer wanted to buy something in the window, but she had left by the time I arrived to open the shop. How I wish I _____ the bus.
✔ A) hadn't missed
The regret is about a past event (missing the bus made the speaker late), so we use **wish** + past perfect: **How I wish I hadn't missed the bus**. Not **wouldn't have missed**: **wish** is not followed by **would have** for our own past actions.

14. You _____ determined if you _____ to give up smoking permanently.
✔ B) have to be / want
This is a general truth or real condition, so both clauses use present forms: **You have to be determined if you want to give up**. Not **were to be / would want**: nothing here is hypothetical, and **would** is not used in the **if** clause.

15. My uncle keeps his share certificates and property deeds in a fireproof box in case a fire _____ out at his office.
✔ B) breaks
In case + present simple refers to a possible future event that we take precautions against: **in case a fire breaks out**. The main verb **keeps** is in the present, so **broke** doesn't fit, and **will** is not used after **in case**.

16. New strict laws to combat illegal immigration into the UK mean that if a lorry driver _____ an illegal immigrant into the country, he personally _____ a £2000 fine.
✔ A) brings / faces
A law describes what always happens, so we use a zero conditional with the present simple in both clauses: **if a driver brings…, he faces a fine**. Not **would bring / had faced**: the situation is real, not hypothetical.

17. If ways of identifying criminals using DNA samples _____, the man who robbed the village bank five years ago would still be a free man.
✔ C) hadn't been developed
This is a mixed conditional: an unreal past condition (**hadn't been developed**, past perfect passive) leads to an unreal present result (**would still be a free man**). The methods were developed by scientists, so the verb must be passive. Not **wouldn't develop**: **would** is not used in the **if** clause, and the methods don't develop themselves.

18. I don't know why you waste your money on sports centre membership. If you _____ along the coastal path every morning, you _____ fit without spending a penny.
✔ D) ran / would get
The speaker gives hypothetical advice about the present, so this is a second conditional: **if you ran…, you would get fit**. Not **run / would have got**: the tenses don't match, and **would have got** refers to the past.

19. You had better complain to the manager if you think you _____ an unfair proportion of the work.
✔ E) have been given
The present perfect passive **have been given** describes a situation that started in the past and matters now: the work was given to you by someone. Not **had given**: it is active and past perfect, so it means you gave the work to others.

20. Today's golfers can wear shorts on many golf courses, but they wouldn't have been allowed into many clubhouses dressed like that had they been playing 50 years ago.
✔ D) wouldn't have been allowed
Had they been playing 50 years ago is an inverted third conditional, equivalent to **if they had been playing 50 years ago**. The sentence describes an unreal past situation and its hypothetical result, so we use **would have + past participle**. Since the golfers would have received or been denied permission, the passive construction is required: **wouldn't have been allowed**. The other options either use an inappropriate tense or fail to express the passive meaning.

21. I wish I _____ for dinner as it looks delicious, but unfortunately, I have to collect my mother from her sister's house now.
✔ E) could stay
The speaker can't stay now, so this is a present inability: **wish** + **could** + base verb, **I wish I could stay**. Not **would stay**: we don't use **wish + would** with **I** about our own actions. Not **had stayed**: that refers to the past.

22. I really wish my older sister _____ so good at everything. Now the teacher expects a lot from me too.
✔ A) weren't
Wish + past simple expresses a wish about a present situation. With **be**, **were** is often used for all persons in formal English: **I wish she weren't so good**. Not **isn't**: after **wish** the present tense moves back to the past.

23. You're so wasteful! I wish you _____ so much potato off with the skin. Haven't you heard the saying "waste not, want not"?
✔ B) wouldn't cut
Wish + **would/wouldn't** expresses annoyance at someone else's repeated behaviour that we want them to change: **I wish you wouldn't cut so much off**. The clue is **You're so wasteful!**. Not **don't cut**: present tenses are not used after **wish**.

24. If our health service were indeed excellent, Mrs Beard _____ two years for a hip replacement operation, during which time she has hardly been able to move.
✔ C) wouldn't have been waiting
This is a mixed conditional: an unreal present condition (**were excellent**) leads to an unreal result about a long action up to now. The continuous form **wouldn't have been waiting** stresses the two-year duration. Not **weren't waiting**: **would** is needed in the result clause.

25. I wish Turkish courses _____ at a college or university near my home, as I would like to continue my study of the language here in Shrewsbury.
✓ E) were offered
Wish + past simple expresses a wish about the present. The courses are offered by colleges, so the verb is passive: **I wish Turkish courses were offered**. Not **had offered**: it is active and refers to the past.

26. If we were to buy a boat, we _____ down the river at the weekends.
✓ D) could sail
If + **were to** + base verb makes a future situation sound more hypothetical. The result clause uses **would** or **could** + base verb: **we could sail**. Not **may have sailed**: that is a guess about the past.

27. If Atatürk _____ alive today, do you think he _____ flattered by the number of plaques, quotations and photographs displayed in his honour?
✓ A) were / would be
Atatürk is not alive today, so this is an unreal present situation and needs a second conditional: **If he were alive…, would he be flattered?**. **Were** is the preferred form of **be** in such clauses.

28. The ordinary people who live in the area _____ if a solution isn't found.
✓ C) will suffer
This is a first conditional about a real future possibility: **if** + present (**isn't found**) followed by **will** + base verb, so **will suffer**. Not **would suffer**: that would need a past tense in the **if** clause (**if a solution weren't found**).

29. I wish I _____ to the shop for mint. If I had, my lentil soup _____ nice.
✓ C) had run / would have tasted
The regret is about the past, so **wish** takes the past perfect: **I wish I had run to the shop**. The second sentence is a third conditional (**If I had…**), so its result is **would have tasted**. Not **ran / tasted**: that would refer to the present.

30. If only you _____ this Japanese lacquered table with a harmful liquid, we _____ it for more than 1000 pounds, but now it won't be worth anything.
✓ B) hadn't cleaned / could sell
If only + past perfect expresses strong regret about the past: **If only you hadn't cleaned it**. This is a mixed conditional: the past action affects the present, so the result is **could sell** (now). The clue is **but now it won't be worth anything**.

31. I wish you _____ a camera already as my cousin works in a camera shop and can get up to twenty-five per cent staff discount.
✓ C) hadn't bought
The camera has **already** been bought, so the regret is about the past: **wish** + past perfect, **I wish you hadn't bought**. Not **wouldn't buy**: that refers to present or future behaviour, but the purchase is finished.

32. The boat wouldn't have sunk if it _____ so many passengers at the time.
✓ E) hadn't been carrying
This is a third conditional about an unreal past: the result is **wouldn't have sunk**, so the **if** clause takes the past perfect. The continuous form **hadn't been carrying** shows an action in progress **at the time**. Not **must not have carried**: modals of deduction are not used in the **if** clause.

33. I'm sitting here in my car wishing the breakdown truck _____.
✓ D) would arrive
Wish + **would** expresses impatience about something we want to happen but that is outside our control: **wishing the truck would arrive**. Not **arrives** or **will arrive**: present and future forms are not used after **wish**.

34. I think Jake wishes he _____ to keep the family home, but such a big house with land costs a lot to maintain.
✓ D) could afford
Jake can't afford the house now, so this is a present inability: **wish** + **could** + base verb, **he wishes he could afford**. Not **would afford**: we use **could** for ability, and **would** is not used when the subject is the same person who wishes.

35. I _____ to go to the antique auctions in town on Friday if I can get the day off.
✓ B) would like
Would like is a polite way to say what you want. It is often used with a real condition: **I would like to go… if I can get the day off**. Not **liked**: that is past and doesn't express a wish for the future.

36. I'll allow you to go to the park _____ you come home before it gets dark.
✓ C) as long as
As long as means 'only on the condition that': you can go if you come home before dark. Not **even if**: that would mean the condition doesn't matter, which makes no sense here.

37. _____ they improve the quality of their products will we order any more handbags from them.
✓ B) Only if
Only if at the start of a sentence causes inversion in the main clause: **Only if they improve… will we order**. The clue is the inverted **will we**. Not **Unless**: it is not followed by inversion, and the meaning would be reversed.

38. You shouldn't wash your car with washing-up liquid; _____, you'll damage the paintwork.
✓ A) otherwise
Otherwise means 'if you do / if not' and links a warning to its consequence. It comes after a semicolon and is followed by a comma. Not **unless**: it is a conjunction and can't stand alone between commas like this.

39. Your advertisement might look more attractive _____ it were printed in colour.
✓ A) if
This is a second conditional: **might** + base verb with **if** + past (**were printed**). Not **in case**: it is used for precautions and is not followed by **were** in this way.

40. I wouldn’t be able to afford an Armani suit _____ I ate bread and water for a month.
✔ E) even if
Even if means the result stays the same whatever happens: no matter how much I saved, I still couldn't afford the suit. Not **only if**: that gives the one condition needed, which reverses the meaning.

41. _____ you are as bored at work as you say, why don’t you look for a more interesting job?
✔ B) If
If here introduces a fact the speaker accepts as true (= 'given that'), followed by advice. Not **Even if**: it suggests the result happens despite the condition, which doesn't fit a suggestion based on that condition.

42. A lot of people bought shares in the company _____ the newspaper predicted it would be successful.
✔ C) because
The sentence gives a reason for a past action, not a condition, so we need **because**. The newspaper's prediction caused people to buy shares. Not **if**: the buying actually happened, so it wasn't conditional.

43. I’m afraid we won’t be able to come to Devon _____ the repairs to our car can be completed in time. The garage is waiting for parts at the moment.
✔ A) unless
Unless means 'if... not': we won't come if the repairs can't be completed. The clue is that the garage is still waiting for parts. Not **if**: that would mean the finished repairs stop us coming, which is illogical.

44. She described her holiday job at the factory _____ it were torture.
✔ D) as though
As though (= **as if**) + past (**were**) compares something to an unreal situation: the job wasn't really torture, but she talked about it that way. Not **even if**: it introduces a condition, not a comparison.

45. He has been busy most weekends _____ he started voluntary work for the hospital radio station.
✔ C) since
Since + past simple marks the starting point of a period that continues to now. That is why the main clause uses the present perfect **has been busy**. Not **until**: it marks an end point and doesn't fit with the present perfect here.

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