ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

English Grammar MCQ Test With Answers Advanced – 12

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1	C	2	B	3	B	4	A	5	E	6	C	7	E	8	C	9	A	10	A
11	D	12	E	13	B	14	D	15	A	16	A	17	C	18	A	19	E	20	E

Explanations

1. On top of the hill _____.
✓ **C) stood an enormous Seljuk citadel**
When a sentence begins with a phrase of place (**On top of the hill**), the verb often comes before the subject: **stood an enormous Seljuk citadel**. This inversion is typical of formal and descriptive writing and puts the new information at the end. **Standing** gives no finite verb, and **did stand** is wrong because this inversion uses the main verb itself, not an auxiliary. In the other options, **enormous** cannot follow **stood** like that.

2. Between the two mountains _____.
✓ **B) flows a little creek**
After a fronted phrase of place (**Between the two mountains**), English can put the verb before the subject: **flows a little creek**. This full-verb inversion is used in descriptive writing. **Flowing** leaves the sentence without a finite verb, and **does flow** is wrong because this inversion never uses **do**. **There** is redundant because the place has already been given.

3. She dyed her hair and wore dark glasses _____ people wouldn't recognize her.
✓ **B) so that**
So that introduces a purpose clause with its own subject and verb: **so that people wouldn't recognize her**. Not **in order to**, because it must be followed by a bare infinitive, not by a full clause with a subject.

4. _____ rich people are, they always seem anxious to make _____ more money.
✓ **A) However / still**
However + adjective means 'no matter how': **However rich people are** = no matter how rich they are. **Still** before a comparative means 'even': **still more money**. Not **Whatever**, because it goes with a noun, not an adjective like **rich**.

5. I'm surprised to hear that you've seen him here in İzmir, because he _____ to be abroad these days.
✓ **E) is supposed**
Be supposed to means 'people believe or expect': **he is supposed to be abroad** = I thought he was abroad, so the speaker is surprised. **Is estimated** is used for numbers and amounts, and **proposed**, **suggested** and **ordered** do not give this meaning.

6. I remember _____ to a big mosque in İstanbul as a small child.
✓ **C) being taken**
Remember + -ing refers to a memory of a past event. A passive gerund is needed because someone else took the speaker: **I remember being taken there as a child**. Not **to take them**, because **remember to do** means not forgetting a future duty.

7. **Mother:** Why did you throw that stone through that window?

Son: Another boy _____ me do it.
✓ **E) made**
Make someone do something (bare infinitive) means 'force someone to do it': **Another boy made me do it. Told** and **encouraged** need **to**: **told me to do it**, **encouraged me to do it**.

8. Who is that? I say, who is it? Don't worry. It's only _____.
✓ **C) me**
When identifying ourselves in natural English, we use the object pronoun after **be**: **It's only me.** (**It is I** sounds very formal.) The other options make no sense as an answer to **Who is it?**

9. The doctor recommended that I _____ more careful with my diet.
✓ **A) be**
After verbs like **recommend**, **suggest** and **insist**, formal English uses the subjunctive, which is the base form of the verb for every person: **recommended that I be more careful**. British English can also use **should be**, but **am**, **was** or **will be** are wrong here.

10. Never before in my life _____ before a crooked man!
✓ **A) have I had to bow**
When a negative adverbial like **Never before** begins the sentence, the auxiliary comes before the subject, as in a question: **Never before have I had to bow**. The present perfect fits **in my life** (up to now). The options without inversion (**I should have bowed**) are wrong after **Never before**.

11. _____ the point of going by car if you won't be able to find a place to park it when we get there?
✓ **D) What's**
What's the point of + -ing? is a fixed expression meaning 'there is no good reason to do this': **What's the point of going by car if we can't park?** None of the other options form this fixed question.

12. Thank you. It is very kind _____ so.
✓ **E) of you to say**
The pattern for describing someone's behaviour is **It is + adjective + of + person + to-infinitive**: **It is very kind of you to say so.** Not **for you**, which is used with adjectives about the situation, such as **easy** or **necessary**.

13. She _____ goes out nowadays.
✓ **B) hardly ever**
Hardly ever means 'almost never': **She hardly ever goes out.** Not **barely never**, because **barely** is already negative, so this would be a double negative.

14. They were wondering what _____.
✓ **D) it was that the man wanted to have**
In an indirect (embedded) question, normal statement word order is used: subject + verb. That gives **what it was that the man wanted to have**. The options **was it**, **did the man want** and the others keep question word order, which is wrong after **They were wondering**.

15. _____ a married man, you'll have a lot more responsibilities from now on.
✓ **A) As**
As + noun means 'in the role or position of': **As a married man, you'll have more responsibilities.** **Been** would need **Having been**, which suggests he is no longer married, and **On top of** means 'in addition to'.

16. Oh, I am really sorry. I wish I _____ that vase.
✓ **A) had never attempted to lift**
To express regret about the past, use **wish + past perfect**: **I wish I had never attempted to lift that vase.** Not **wouldn't have broken**, because **wish** is not followed by **would have** when the subject is the same person (**I wish I**).

17. Oh, how I wish now I _____ there with you last night!
✓ **C) had been**
The speaker is wishing now (**now**) about a past event (**last night**), so the past perfect is needed: **I wish I had been there.** Not **were/was**, because these express a wish about the present.

18. Oh, how I wished you _____ there with me last night!
✓ **A) were**
Here the wishing is also in the past (**wished**) and happens at the same time as the situation (**last night**). For a wish about something at the time of the wish, use the past simple after **wish**, with **were** in careful style: **how I wished you were there**. Not **will be**, **are** or **have been**, because **wish** is never followed by these forms, and **you was** is never correct.

19. They had the poor man _____ the toilets twice a day.
✓ **E) clean**
The causative **have someone do something** uses the bare infinitive: **They had the poor man clean the toilets.** Not **cleaned**, which is used in the pattern **have something done** (**They had the toilets cleaned**).

20. O.K., boys. It's high time we all _____ home now.
✓ **E) went**
It's (high) time + subject + past simple is used to say that something should happen now: **It's high time we all went home.** Even though the meaning is present, the verb is in the past. Not **go**, which is not used in this structure.

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