ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

English Grammar MCQ Test With Answers Advanced – 14

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Explanations

1. He came in as quietly as he could _____ not to wake the children.
✔ **B) so as**
So as (not) to + infinitive expresses purpose, like **in order (not) to**: **He came in quietly so as not to wake the children. Because of** needs a noun, and **although** and **whether or** cannot come before **not to**.

2. _____ off the ground _____ the work was resumed.
✔ **D) No sooner was the frost / than**
No sooner … than means that one event happened immediately after another. When **No sooner** starts the sentence, the subject and verb are inverted: **No sooner was the frost off the ground than the work was resumed. As soon as** has no inversion and is not followed by **as**.

3. We have been able to obtain no information _____ his whereabouts.
✔ **D) as to**
As to is a formal preposition meaning 'about' or 'concerning': **no information as to his whereabouts**. **According to** means 'as stated by', which does not fit after **information**.

4. _____ this country is currently enjoying a rapidly expanding market, we can offer unique competitive prices, _____ keeping the highest quality.
✔ **A) Owing to the fact that / while**
Owing to the fact that introduces a reason clause, like **because**. **While** + -ing (**while keeping**) adds an action happening at the same time. **Because / and** fails because **and keeping** is not parallel with **we can offer**.

5. He's going _____ this afternoon.
✔ **E) to have his hair cut**
The causative **have + object + past participle** means someone else does a service for you: **He's going to have his hair cut** (by a hairdresser). The word order is **have** + **his hair** + **cut**, after **going to**.

6. Ali regretted the whole affair. He was thinking that those words _____.
✔ **D) had better not have been spoken**
Had better is followed by a bare infinitive with no **to**. To talk about the past in the passive, use **had better not have been** + past participle: the words **had better not have been spoken**, which shows regret. **Had better not to be spoken** is wrong because of **to**.

7. I didn't know whether you had to have one of these or not. If you _____ one, however, I would have given it to you freely.
✔ **B) had had to have**
This is a third conditional about the past (**I would have given**), so the if-clause needs the past perfect. The past perfect of **have to have** is **had had to have**. **Had to have** is only the past simple, and **had had** changes the meaning to 'owned'.

8. If it hadn't been for their help, we _____ here now.
✔ **C) wouldn't be**
This is a mixed conditional: a past condition (**If it hadn't been for their help**) with a present result (**now**). The result clause uses **would** + bare infinitive: **we wouldn't be here now**. Not **wouldn't have been**, because **now** refers to the present.

9. _____ you are a married man, you'll have a lot more responsibilities from now on.
✔ **D) Now that**
Now that means 'because something is now true' and introduces a clause: **Now that you are a married man, … Consequently** and **Besides** are linking adverbs and cannot join two clauses like this.

10. I'd rather you _____ it now.
✔ **C) didn't do**
After **would rather** + a different subject, we use the past simple to talk about the present or future: **I'd rather you didn't do it now. Hadn't done** would refer to the past, which does not fit with **now**.

11. What did you think of the film _____?
✔ **E) you saw last week**
This is a defining relative clause with the relative pronoun left out: **the film (that) you saw last week**. The object **it** must not be repeated, because the relative clause already refers to **the film**.

12. _____ two months camping in the mountains, he came back healthier than ever.
✔ **A) Having spent**
The perfect participle **Having spent** shows that the first action was completed before the second (**he came back**). The subject **he** did the spending, so the active form is needed. **Having been spent** and **Being spent** are passive and would mean the man himself was spent.

13. Not only _____ our display windows, but they also choose the different kinds of materials to be used in the background.
✓ **C) do professional interior decorators design**
When **Not only** begins a sentence, the subject and auxiliary are inverted, as in a question: **Not only do professional interior decorators design our display windows, but they also …** The order is **do** + subject + main verb.

14. Wow! Never in my life _____ such an unusual feat of memory!
✓ **A) have I witnessed**
When a negative adverbial such as **Never in my life** begins a sentence, the subject and auxiliary are inverted: **Never in my life have I witnessed …** The present perfect fits because it refers to my whole life up to now. **I have witnessed** has the normal word order, which is wrong after **Never** at the start of a sentence.

15. If only _____ blurted out those words, none of this would've happened.
✓ **B) I hadn't**
If only + past perfect expresses regret about the past: **If only I hadn't blurted out those words.** The result clause **would've happened** confirms that the sentence refers to the past.

16. Yes, I know you're tired this morning; but, if you'd stayed at home instead of going to that stupid party, you _____ to bed so late.
✓ **D) wouldn't've gone**
This is a third conditional about an unreal past: **if you'd stayed at home …, you wouldn't have gone to bed so late. Wouldn't've** is the spoken contraction of **wouldn't have**. Not **would have gone**, because the meaning must be negative: the person did go to bed late.

17. If I'd realized this before, I _____ in such a mess now.
✓ **A) wouldn't be**
This is a mixed conditional: a past condition (**If I'd realized this before**) with a present result (**now**). The result clause uses **would** + bare infinitive: **I wouldn't be in such a mess now.** Not **wouldn't have been**, because **now** points to the present.

18. _____ an unmarried mother herself, she would sympathize with you and appreciate your problems.
✓ **D) Being**
The participle clause **Being …** gives the reason for the main clause. It means 'Because she is an unmarried mother herself, she would sympathize.' **To be** at the start would express purpose or condition, which does not fit here.

19. It must have been an interesting performance. I would like _____ it, too. I'm sorry I missed it.
✓ **B) to have seen**
Would like + perfect infinitive (**to have seen**) expresses a wish about the past that did not come true. The clue is **I'm sorry I missed it**. Not **to see**, because the performance is already over.

20. Isn't it about time _____ taking things seriously?
✓ **E) you started**
It's (about/high) time + subject + past simple means something should already be happening: **Isn't it about time you started taking things seriously?** The other possible pattern is **for you to start**, not **for you starting**.

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