ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

English Grammar MCQ Test With Answers Upper Intermediate – 11

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Explanations

1. You _____ another job pretty soon. I have a feeling that you're going to get fired before long.
✔ **E) 'd better start looking for**
Had better ('d better) is followed by the bare infinitive, without **to**: **You'd better start looking for another job.** It gives strong advice or a warning. Not **had better to start**, because **to** is never used after **had better**.

2. _____, he went to collect his payment.
✔ **A) Having finished his work successfully**
A perfect participle clause (**Having finished**) shows that one action was completed before the next, and it shares the subject of the main clause (**he**). Not **Although he had completed…**, because 'although' shows contrast, and finishing the work and collecting payment do not contrast.

3. I was under the impression that you, too, _____ along with us. I am sorry that you aren't.
✔ **A) were supposed to come**
Be supposed to means something was expected or arranged. After **I was under the impression that**, we use the past form **were supposed to come**. Not **were supposed to have come**, because that suggests the expectation was already unfulfilled at the time, while 'I am sorry that you aren't' refers to now.

4. It seems to me that they never gave a thought to probable future problems when the plans _____ five years ago.
✔ **E) were being laid down**
The past continuous passive **were being laid down** describes a process in progress at a past time (**five years ago**): while the plans were being made, nobody thought about future problems. Not **had been laid down**, because the plans were not finished before the thinking happened; the two things happened at the same time.

5. As far as I'm concerned, all he's good at _____ making up the most improbable excuses anyone has ever heard.
✔ **C) is**
The subject is the whole clause **all he's good at**, so the sentence needs a verb: **All he's good at is making up excuses.** Not **he is**, because the subject is already there; adding **he** again is wrong.

6. I'm simply surprised at your lack of authority over him. Why can't you _____ him eat his dinner?
✔ **C) make**
Make someone do something (bare infinitive, no **to**) means force them to do it, which fits **lack of authority**. Not **force**, **persuade**, **ask** or **tell**, because these verbs need **to**: **force him to eat**.

7. Have you heard the great news, Ali? The man, _____ refused your proposal last year, has been arrested for embezzlement of government funds.
✔ **A) whose daughter**
Whose shows possession: **the man whose daughter refused your proposal** = the man's daughter refused it. Not **that**, because **that** cannot be used in a non-defining clause between commas; **who have** is also wrong because **the man** needs **has**.

8. Would you believe it! _____ was none other than our poor old postman who had fallen into that pond still holding onto his mailbags.
✔ **B) It**
This is a cleft sentence: **It was … who …** puts the focus on one person. **None other than** adds surprise: **It was none other than our postman.** Not **Someone** or **Somebody**, because the sentence identifies a definite person, so it needs **It**.

9. ***The desperate voice over the phone says:***
Darling, I've got news for you: my niece Meltem, together with her husband, six children, two dogs and three cats, _____ come to stay with us for a whole month.
✔ **D) has**
With **together with**, the verb agrees with the first subject only (**my niece Meltem**), so it is singular: **has come to stay**. Not **have** or **are to**, because **her husband, six children…** added with **together with** do not make the subject plural.

10. No matter how hard I tried to make them understand, they just wouldn't take my word for _____ I said, _____ annoyed me very much.
✔ **A) what / which**
What means 'the thing that': **take my word for what I said**. The second gap is a non-defining clause after a comma that refers to the whole previous idea, so we use **which**: **…, which annoyed me**. Not **that**, because **that** cannot follow a comma in this way.

11. Yes, I know you're tired and sleepy, but let me remind you of one thing: If you _____ up all night to watch that stupid film, the world would look much brighter this morning, wouldn't it?!
✔ **C) hadn't stayed**
This is a mixed conditional: a past condition (**If you hadn't stayed up all night**, past perfect) with a present result (**would look … this morning**). Not **had stayed**, because the person did stay up, so the condition must be the opposite: **hadn't stayed**.

12. What a smart suit that is you've got on. It _____ cost you a fortune to buy.
✓ **E) must have**
Must have + past participle expresses a confident guess about the past: the suit looks expensive, so **it must have cost a fortune**. Not **should have** or **ought to have**, because these talk about what was right or expected, not about a logical conclusion.

13. The work had _____ under extremely difficult conditions.
✓ **C) to be done**
Had to + passive infinitive (**be done**) expresses past obligation where the work is the receiver of the action: **The work had to be done.** Not **had done** or **had completed**, because the work cannot do or complete anything itself.

14. They have the poor girl _____ the whole house twice a day.
✓ **E) clean**
Have someone do something (bare infinitive) means make or arrange for someone to do it: **They have the girl clean the house.** Not **cleaned**, because **have something cleaned** is used with an object thing, not with the person who does the work.

15. _____ two months at sea, he came back healthier than ever.
✓ **C) Having spent**
The perfect participle **Having spent** shows that the two months at sea were completed before he came back. Not **Having been spent**, because it is passive; **he** spent the time, so the active form is needed.

16. _____ rich people are, they never seem satisfied with their lot and are always anxious to make _____ more money.
✓ **A) No matter how / still**
No matter how + adjective + subject + verb means 'however': **No matter how rich people are…**. **Still more** means 'even more': **make still more money**. Not **Although**, because it cannot be followed directly by an adjective (**rich**).

17. His wife begged him not to drink too much _____ he would be driving them home after the party.
✓ **E) as**
As here means 'because' and gives the reason: she begged him not to drink **as he would be driving**. Not **so**, because **so** introduces a result, not a reason.

18. I'd like to have a word with you. Yes, but _____?
✓ **C) what do we have to talk about**
This is a direct question, so it needs question word order with **do**: **What do we have to talk about?** The preposition **about** goes at the end. Not **what we have to talk about**, because that is the word order of an indirect question, not a direct one.

19. The boss urged the staff _____ this splendid opportunity he was offering them.
✓ **C) not to miss**
We use **urge someone (not) to do something**. The negative infinitive puts **not** before **to**: **The boss urged the staff not to miss this opportunity.** The wrong option **to miss** means the opposite: the boss wanted the staff to take the opportunity, not to miss it.

20. The old vase slipped from her hands and fell to the floor, its pieces scattering everywhere _____ it hit the ground.
✓ **B) as**
As here means 'at the moment when': the pieces scattered **as it hit the ground**. Not **so that** or **so**, because these show purpose or result, not time.

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