ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

English Level Test Upper-Intermediate B2

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Explanations

1. I _____ to be picking Tom up at the station but I've lost my keys.
✓ **A) am supposed**
Be supposed to means that something is planned or expected, but often doesn't happen. Here the speaker should pick Tom up but can't, because the keys are lost. Not **am obliged**, which means you are forced to do something and usually takes **to** + verb, not this sense of a broken plan.

2. A: How about going to Colours Nightclub?

B: There's no _____ I'm going there. It's awful!
✓ **B) way**
There's no way (+ clause) is an informal fixed phrase that means 'definitely not': **There's no way I'm going there!** The other nouns don't make this expression.

3. By the age of 18, I _____ not to go to university.
✓ **A) had decided**
By + a past time (**by the age of 18**) shows that the action was finished before that point, so we use the past perfect: **had decided**. Not **decided**, because the past simple does not show the 'before then' idea that **by** needs.

4. I'm afraid your car _____ repaired before next week.
✓ **D) can't be**
Can't be + past participle is a passive form that says something is impossible in the future: **your car can't be repaired before next week**. Not **hasn't been**, because the present perfect does not go with a future time like **before next week**.

5. The amount of organically grown food on sale has _____ enormously in recent years.
✓ **C) increased**
Increase can be used without an object and means 'become bigger': **The amount has increased enormously.** Not **raised**, because **raise** needs an object (**They raised prices**), so it can't describe the amount itself.

6. Can you believe it? A woman has been _____ for hacking into the computer of her online virtual husband.
✓ **C) arrested**
Arrested for + -ing means taken away by the police because of a crime: **arrested for hacking**. The other verbs need different prepositions: **accused of**, **suspected of**, **charged with**. So they don't fit with **for**.

7. You may borrow my laptop _____ you promise to look after it.
✓ **C) as long as**
As long as means 'only if' and introduces a condition: you can borrow it **as long as** you take care of it. Not **unless**, which means 'except if' and gives the opposite meaning.

8. It's a huge painting. It _____ taken ages to complete.
✓ **A) must have**
Must have + past participle shows a logical conclusion about the past. The clue is **a huge painting**, so the speaker is sure it took a long time. Not **can't have**, which means the speaker is sure something did NOT happen.

9. Pierre tends to put _____ dealing with problems, rather than dealing with them immediately.
✓ **B) off**
Put off (+ -ing) means 'delay or postpone': **He puts off dealing with problems.** The clue is **rather than dealing with them immediately**. Not **put down**, which means criticise or write something down.

10. If the taxi hadn't stopped for us, we _____ standing in the rain.
✓ **B) would still be**
This is a mixed conditional: a past condition (**If the taxi hadn't stopped**) with a present result (**we would still be standing**). Use **would** + be + -ing for the imagined present situation. Not **will still be**, because the situation is unreal, not a real possibility.

11. My mother's Italian, so _____ the language has been quite easy for me.
✓ **D) learning**
A gerund (-ing form) is the most natural subject of a sentence: **learning the language has been easy**. Not **to learn**: an infinitive subject at the start is possible but very formal and unusual here.

12. _____ I had the talent, I still wouldn't want to be a movie star.
✓ **B) Even if**
Even if introduces an imagined condition that doesn't change the result. The clue is **still wouldn't**: I don't want to be a star in any case. Not **Provided that**, which means 'only if' and doesn't fit with **still**.

13. The factory workers threatened _____ on strike if they didn't get a pay rise.
✓ **B) to go**
Threaten is followed by **to** + infinitive: **They threatened to go on strike.** Not **going**, because **threaten** does not take an -ing form.

14. I was about to go to sleep when it _____ to me where the missing keys might be.
✓ **D) occurred**
It occurred to me (that/where ...) means 'the idea suddenly came into my mind'. Not **remembered**, because you say **I remembered**, not **it remembered to me**.

15. There's going to be a new department at work. They've asked me to _____ it up.
✓ **B) set**
Set up means 'start or organise something new', for example a company or department: **They've asked me to set it up.** Not **take up**, which means start a hobby or fill time or space.

16. If the film is a _____ success, the director will get most of the credit.
✓ **A) big**
A big success is a common collocation meaning 'very successful': **The film was a big success.** Not **high** or **large**, which don't go with **success**. **Great success** is also common but is not an option.

17. By the end of today's seminar, I will _____ to each of you individually.
✓ **B) have spoken**
By + a future time takes the future perfect (**will have** + past participle) for an action finished before that time: **I will have spoken to each of you**. Not **will have been speaking**, because the focus is on finishing each conversation, not on how long the speaking lasts.

18. This is a photo of my little sister _____ ice cream on the beach.
✓ **B) eating**
After a noun, an -ing participle can describe what the person is doing: **my sister eating ice cream** (= who is eating). Not **was eating**, because the sentence already has a main verb (**is**) and a second finite verb can't follow a noun like this.

19. Our students take their responsibilities very _____.
✓ **C) seriously**
Take something seriously is a fixed collocation meaning 'treat it as important'. Not **thoroughly**, which means 'carefully and completely' and doesn't go with **take**.

20. Pia was _____ delighted with the birthday present.
✓ **D) absolutely**
Delighted is an extreme adjective (= very pleased), so it goes with **absolutely**, not with grading words like **very** or **fairly**: **absolutely delighted**. Not **completely**, which is not a usual collocation with **delighted**.

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