ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

ESL B1 Level MCQ Test With Answers INTERMEDIATE TEST 1

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Explanations

1. B1 – MOCK EXAMINATION SECTION 1

Choose the correct alternatives to complete the sentences.

John _____ me to lend him money! It's so annoying.
✔ **C) is always asking**
Use **always** with the present continuous (**is always asking**) to complain about something annoying that happens again and again. The clue is **It's so annoying**. **Always** goes between **is** and the **-ing** form.

2. It _____ when I got up this morning, so I stayed at home.
✔ **A) was raining**
Use the past continuous (**was raining**) for an action in progress at a moment in the past. The clue is **when I got up this morning**. Not **has been raining**, because the time is finished and in the past.

3. I apologise for the mess. I _____ time to clear up after lunch yet.
✔ **D) haven't had**
Use the present perfect (**haven't had**) with **yet** for something that has not happened up to now. The mess is still here now, so it connects past and present. Not **hadn't had**, because we are talking about now, not an earlier past moment.

4. Where do you think _____ in twenty years' time?
✔ **B) you will be**
After **Where do you think...?** the second part is not a question, so we use normal word order: subject + verb (**you will be**). Not **will you be**, because the question form is already in **do you think**.

5. He stopped _____ years ago.
✔ **C) smoking**
Stop + -ing means to finish doing a habit: **He stopped smoking** = he doesn't smoke any more. Not **to smoke**: **stop to smoke** means to stop doing something else in order to smoke.

6. Section 2

Choose the correct alternative to complete each sentence.

She knew a little Spanish so she _____ to explain her problem to the police in Madrid.
✔ **C) was able**
Was able to is used for managing to do something on one particular occasion in the past. The gap is followed by **to**, so only **was able** fits. Not **could**, because **could** is not followed by **to**; **succeeded** needs **in explaining**.

7. Sam, _____ wife works with me, is going to the US on business.
✔ **A) whose**
Whose is the relative pronoun for possession: Sam's wife = the wife **whose** husband is Sam. Not **who's**, which means **who is**.

8. Mr Thompson's wallet _____ while he was travelling on the Underground yesterday.
✔ **D) was stolen**
The wallet did not do the action, so we need the passive: **was stolen**. Not **was robbed**: we **rob** a person or a place (a bank), but we **steal** a thing.

9. I _____ a new car this year if I were you.
✔ **B) wouldn't buy**
If I were you is the second conditional, used for advice, so the other part needs **would/wouldn't** + verb: **I wouldn't buy**. Not **won't buy**, which is for the first conditional.

10. He _____ tea with milk during his stay in the UK three years ago.
✔ **D) got used to drinking**
Get used to + -ing means to become familiar with something new: **He got used to drinking tea with milk**. Here **to** is a preposition, so it is followed by **-ing**, not the base form. Not **used to drinking**: **used to** (past habit) takes the base form.

11. Section 3

Complete the second sentence so that the meaning remains the same as the first.

They made a mistake when they added up the total. A mistake _____ when they added up the total.
✔ **B) was made**
The first sentence is in the past simple (**made**), so the passive is **was** + past participle: **A mistake was made**. Not **was been made**, which is not a correct form.

12. She was angry and put down the telephone receiver before he had finished speaking. She was angry and _____ up before he had finished speaking.
✔ **A) hung**
Hang up means to end a phone call by putting down the receiver. The past tense is **hung up**. Example: **She hung up on me.**

13. Thieves used force to enter the house while they were away. Thieves _____ into the house while they were away.
✔ **D) broke**
Break into a building means to enter it by force, usually to steal something. The past tense is **broke into**. Not **were forced**, which has the opposite meaning: someone forced the thieves.

14. “Where are you going to stay when you go to London?” Tom asked her.

Tom asked her where _____ to London.
✔ **C) she was going to stay when she went**
In reported questions we use normal word order (subject + verb) and move the tenses back: **are going to → was going to**, **go → went**, **you → she**. Not **was she going to stay**, because a reported question does not use question word order.

15. “OK. I’ll do it for you,” Sheila told him.

Sheila agreed _____ for him.
✔ **B) to do it**
Agree is followed by **to** + base form: **Sheila agreed to do it for him**. Not **doing it**, because **agree** does not take the **-ing** form.

16. I’m not sure this is my size. Can I put it on to see if it fits?

I’m not sure this is my size. Can I try _____ to see if it fits?
✔ **C) it on**
Try on means to put on clothes to see if they fit. With a pronoun, it goes between the verb and the particle: **try it on**. Not **on it**, because **try on it** is wrong with a pronoun.

17. The brochures are produced by a printer.

A printer _____ the brochures.
✔ **A) produces**
This changes the passive (**are produced by a printer**) into the active. The tense stays present simple, and **a printer** is singular: **A printer produces the brochures**. Not **is produced**, which is still passive.

18. He began driving six hours ago.

He _____.
✔ **B) has been driving for six hours**
Use the present perfect continuous (**has been driving**) for an action that started in the past and is still going on. Use **for** + a period of time: **for six hours**. Not **since six hours**, because **since** needs a point in time (**since 6 o'clock**).

19. The soldiers obeyed the officer’s orders.

The soldiers _____ out the officer’s orders.
✔ **B) carried**
Carry out orders means to do what you are told: **The soldiers carried out the orders**. Not **took out**, which means to remove something.

20. Although he had little money, he offered to pay for her lunch.

In spite _____ little money, he offered to pay for her lunch.
✔ **D) of having**
In spite of is followed by a noun or an **-ing** form: **In spite of having little money…**. Not **he had**, because **in spite of** cannot be followed by a subject and verb (that needs **although**).

21. The passage is mainly about the speed limits, not about Ireland changing to the metric system.
✔ **B) False**
The statement is false. Paragraph 1 says **Ireland has just become fully metric**, and the whole text is about this change: the new kilometre signs, the publicity campaign, the police and the comparison with the UK. The speed limits are only one part of the story.

22. Some drivers went down a dead-end street at 80 kph.
✔ **C) Doesn’t say**
Paragraph 1 says only that **one speed sign gave an 80 kph speed limit down a dead-end street**. It does not say that any drivers actually drove there at that speed, so the text **doesn't say**.

23. The Irish government thinks they have adequately publicized the change and the new signs.
✔ **A) True**
Paragraph 2 describes a nationwide campaign with newspaper and TV advertisements and brochures. It says **the government believes this will be enough**. So the government thinks the change was **adequately** (well enough) publicized.

24. For more than twenty years, _____.
✔ **B) the distances on road signs were in kilometres, while speed signs were in miles**
Paragraph 1 says Ireland had **distances in kilometres and speed limits in miles per hour** for over twenty years. Not the option about speed limits in kilometres per hour: speed limits were in miles until the recent change.

25. Which is correct?
✓ **A) People were informed by various means before the speed signs were changed.**
Paragraph 2 says there was a campaign with **newspaper and television advertisements and brochures before the new signs were introduced**. So people were informed by various means. The 100 kph sign outside a school was a mistake, not a rule.

26. Northern Ireland's transport department _____.
✓ **C) have warned drivers coming from Northern Ireland to be careful**
Paragraph 2 says **Northern Ireland's transport department has also launched a campaign encouraging drivers to be extremely careful when they cross the border**. So it has warned drivers going from Northern Ireland into the Republic to be careful.

27. Some of the police _____.
✓ **A) are still using instruments which measure speed in miles**
Paragraph 3 says **half their instruments for measuring speed still register them in miles per hour**. So some police officers still use instruments that measure speed in miles. Not **tolerant**: the text says they have **no intention of being lenient**.

28. Which is correct?
✓ **C) When Ireland first converted distances into kilometres, they did not change all the road signs immediately.**
Paragraph 4 says that in 1983 **any new signs were in kilometres while the old ones still reported the distance in miles**, so not all the road signs were changed immediately. Not **Ireland became fully metric in 1983**: paragraph 1 says Ireland **has just become** fully metric. It is schools, not children, that have been teaching the metric system for thirty years.

29. The British government _____.
✓ **B) has no intention of changing the system used on the roads for the moment**
Paragraph 5 says a spokesman stated **it was improbable that Britain would change in the near future**. So the British government does not plan to change its road system for the moment. Not **will probably change**, which is the opposite.

30. Which is correct?
✓ **C) Irish drivers drive on the same side of the road as the British.**
The last sentence says the Irish still have a British **legacy** (something left from the past): **they drive on the left**. So Irish drivers drive on the same side of the road as the British.

31. Section 6

(Please note: The following questions are part of a cloze test. They are interrelated, meaning that the information provided in each question is connected to the others.)

Complete the conversations with the words in the box.

Woman: Oh no! The lift's out of _____ again!
✓ **C) order**
Out of order means a machine is not working. Example: **The lift is out of order, so we must use the stairs.**

32. Man: Don't lose your _____.
✓ **B) temper**
Lose your temper means to suddenly become very angry. **Don't lose your temper** = stay calm.

33. Man: You're always saying you don't get enough exercise. Look on the _____ side - going up and down the stairs between offices will be _____ for you.
✓ **D) bright**
Look on the bright side means to think about the good part of a bad situation. Example: **Look on the bright side – at least nobody was hurt.**

34. Man: Look on the _____ side - going up and down the stairs between offices will be _____ for you.
✓ **E) good**
Be good for you means to be healthy or useful for you. Walking up and down the stairs is exercise, so it **will be good for you**.

35. Woman: Yes, I know it will, but I'm up to my _____ in work and I haven't got time to waste. This week is getting worse and worse.
✓ **B) eyes**
Be up to your eyes in work is an idiom that means to be extremely busy. The clue is **I haven't got time to waste**.

36. Man: Why do you say that?

Woman: Well, I got back from a business trip to Milan last Tuesday. When I went to baggage _____, my suitcase wasn't there!
✓ **A) reclaim**
Baggage reclaim is the place at an airport where you collect your suitcases after a flight.

37. Man: What did you do?

Woman: Well, I filled in a long _____.
✓ **D) form**
Fill in a form means to write your information in the spaces on an official paper. Example: **I filled in a form to report my lost suitcase.**

38. Woman: They said my case had probably been left in Brussels when I had to change planes. They told me they would do their best to get it to me by the end of the week. I hope they find it; I had my best suit and my notes in it. I think I caught a cold in Milan too. I've been feeling under the _____ since I got back.
✓ **A) weather**
Feel under the weather means to feel a little ill. The clue is **I think I caught a cold**.

39. Man: You should stay at home if you're unwell. Look, could you do me a _____?
✓ **D) favour**
Do someone a favour means to help someone. **Could you do me a favour?** is a polite way to ask for help.

40. Man: If you're going up to the second floor, could you give this file to Jim? I went for a walk in the country a couple of days ago and I fell and twisted my _____. It's getting better, but going up and down the stairs won't do it any good.
✓ **E) ankle**
Twist your ankle means to hurt the joint between your foot and your leg by turning it suddenly. The clue is **I fell** and **going up and down the stairs won't do it any good**.