ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

ESL B1 Level MCQ Test With Answers INTERMEDIATE TEST 2

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1	**B**	2	**D**	3	**A**	4	**C**	5	**B**	6	**D**	7	**D**	8	**C**	9	**A**	10	**C**
11	**D**	12	**B**	13	**C**	14	**D**	15	**B**	16	**C**	17	**A**	18	**C**	19	**C**	20	**C**
21	**B**	22	**A**	23	**C**	24	**D**	25	**B**	26	**D**	27	**B**	28	**D**	29	**A**	30	**C**
31	**B**	32	**C**	33	**A**	34	**D**	35	**E**	36	**E**	37	**B**	38	**D**	39	**C**	40	**A**

Explanations

1. B1 – MOCK EXAMINATION SECTION 1

Choose the correct alternatives to complete the sentences.

In general, he _____ about personal matters with strangers.
✓ **B) doesn’t speak**
In general shows a habit or general truth, so we use the present simple. For a negative with **he**, use **doesn't** + base verb: **he doesn't speak**. Not **isn't speaking**, because the present continuous is for actions happening now, not habits.

2. We _____ the gates to open at 7:00 yesterday but the concert was cancelled at the last moment.
✓ **D) were expecting**
The past continuous **were expecting** describes what we expected at a time in the past (**yesterday**) before something changed it (the concert was cancelled). Not **were expected**, because that is passive and would mean other people expected us.

3. He decided to leave the company because he _____ with his boss.
✓ **A) hadn’t been getting on**
The past perfect continuous **hadn't been getting on** shows a situation that went on for some time before a past decision (**decided to leave**). **Get on with someone** means to have a good relationship with them. **Didn't got on** is wrong because after **didn't** we use the base form **get**.

4. It’s hard to work nights when you _____ during the day.
✓ **C) aren’t used to sleeping**
Be used to means 'be familiar with something', and **to** here is a preposition, so it is followed by the -ing form: **aren't used to sleeping**. Not **aren't used to sleep**, because **used to** + base verb is only for past habits (**I used to sleep**).

5. I don’t mind _____ on the condition that you do the washing up!
✓ **B) cooking**
The verb **mind** is always followed by the -ing form: **I don't mind cooking**. Not **to cook**, because **mind** is never followed by **to** + verb.

6. SECTION 2

Choose the correct alternatives to complete the sentences.

When you meet the Queen, you _____ certain types of protocol.
✓ **D) have to observe**
Have to + base verb expresses an obligation that comes from rules or customs, such as royal protocol: **you have to observe**. Not **should to observe**, because **should** is followed by the base verb without **to**.

7. It’s relatively safe to visit that city. _____, you should avoid large crowds.
✓ **D) However**
However links two sentences with contrasting ideas and is followed by a comma at the start of the second sentence. The city is safe, but you should still avoid crowds. Not **Despite**, because it must be followed by a noun or -ing form, not a comma and a clause.

8. He asked me what time _____ because he had a train to catch.
✓ **C) the lesson would finish**
In reported questions we use normal statement word order (subject + verb) and move the tense back. **What time will the lesson finish?** becomes **what time the lesson would finish**. Not **does the lesson finish**, because reported questions do not use question word order.

9. I’m sure that if you _____ hard, you’ll see the results in one year.
✓ **A) practise**
This is a first conditional: **if** + present simple, **will** + base verb. So we say **if you practise hard, you'll see the results**. Not **will practise**, because we don't use **will** in the **if** clause.

10. Things seem _____ more expensive with each passing week!
✓ **C) to get**
The verb **seem** is followed by **to** + base verb: **Things seem to get more expensive**. Not **getting**, because **seem** is not followed by the -ing form.

11. SECTION 3

Choose the correct alternative to complete the second sentence so that the meaning remains the same as the first.

Somebody will explain your absence to the manager when he comes in on Monday. Your absence _____ to the manager when he comes in on Monday.
✔ **D) will be explained**
The active sentence uses **will explain**, so the passive is **will be** + past participle: **will be explained**. The time clue **when he comes in on Monday** shows the future. Not **is explained**, because that is present, not future.

12. The police will investigate the crime. The police will _____ the crime.
✔ **B) look into**
The phrasal verb **look into** means 'investigate' or 'examine carefully': **The police will look into the crime.** Not **give up**, which means 'stop trying'.

13. I wasn't expecting him to arrive unexpectedly like that. I wasn't expecting him to _____ like that.
✔ **C) turn up**
Turn up means 'arrive or appear, often unexpectedly': **He turned up at my door at midnight.** Not **get over**, which means 'recover from something'.

14. "Do you want to go to the cinema with me?" he asked her. He asked her whether _____ to the cinema with him.
✔ **D) she wanted to go**
In reported yes/no questions we use **whether/if** + statement word order (subject + verb), and the tense usually moves back: **Do you want** becomes **she wanted**. Not **did she want to go**, because reported questions do not use question word order.

15. "No! Not me! I didn't take your money," he told his colleague. He denied _____ his colleague's money.
✔ **B) taking**
The verb **deny** is followed by the -ing form: **He denied taking the money.** Not **to take**, because **deny** is never followed by **to** + verb.

16. My computer stopped working at the moment when I needed it most.

My computer _____ at the moment when I needed it most.
✔ **C) broke down**
Break down means 'stop working' and is used for machines such as computers and cars: **My car broke down on the motorway.** Not **closed down**, which is used for businesses that stop operating.

17. There have been many changes made to the musical arrangement.

They _____ many changes to the musical arrangement.
✔ **A) have made**
The first sentence is a passive in the present perfect (**have been made**), so the active form keeps the same tense: **They have made many changes.** Not **made**, because the past simple changes the tense of the original.

18. They started to go to the Health Spa in 2003. They _____ 2003.
✔ **C) have been going to the Health Spa since**
The present perfect continuous with **since** shows an activity that started in the past and is still going on: **They have been going to the Health Spa since 2003.** Not **for**, because **for** is used with a period of time (**for ten years**), not a starting point like 2003.

19. I hope you don't mind taking care of my dog while I'm away.

I hope you don't mind _____ my dog while I'm away.
✔ **C) looking after**
Look after means 'take care of': **Can you look after my cat?** Not **taking after**, which means 'look or behave like an older family member' (**She takes after her mother**).

20. They played the match in spite of the rain.

They played the match _____.
✔ **C) even though it was raining**
In spite of + noun has the same meaning as **even though** + clause: **even though it was raining**. Not **despite it was raining**, because **despite**, like **in spite of**, must be followed by a noun or -ing form, not a full clause.

21. According to the text, _____.
✔ **B) it can be difficult to recover from the shock of a crime**
Paragraph 1 says that **it is hard for the victims of criminal actions to find their serenity again**. This means it is difficult to recover from the shock of a crime. The text says crimes happen **all over the world**, but not that one criminal is robbing shops everywhere, and it never mentions the police.

22. The woman _____.
✔ **A) was visiting her friend in her shop**
Paragraph 2 says **My best friend and I were in her shop** and **I'd decided to go and see her**, so she was visiting her friend. She had been shopping earlier, but she was not a customer in this shop.

23. Which statement is correct?
✔ **C) The man immediately seemed unusual to the speaker and her friend.**
Paragraph 3 says **There was something about him that was strange** and **He didn't look like one of her usual customers**. So the man seemed unusual from the start. Nothing in the text says the owner knew him or pushed an alarm.

24. The speaker understood that the man had a gun when _____.
✔ **D) he took his hand out of his pocket**
Paragraph 3 says **he pulled his hand out of his pocket. We were shocked to see he had a gun!** Before that, **We couldn't see what it was**, so she did not see the gun in his pocket.

25. The speaker found it particularly frightening that _____.
✔ **B) the man seemed so calm**
Paragraph 4 says **The really terrifying thing was that he seemed so calm**. Not **agitated**, which means nervous and upset, the opposite of calm.

26. The man did NOT take _____.
✓ **D) objects from the shop**
Paragraph 4 lists what he took: money from the cash desk, money from their bags and their jewellery. The text never says he took objects from the shop.

27. Until the end, the robber remained _____.
✓ **B) calm and efficient**
The text says he **seemed so calm**, gave **precise orders** and **was unemotional while he was bringing his "job" to a conclusion**, so he stayed calm and efficient. Not **silent**, because he spoke and gave them orders.

28. From the moment the man left the shop, the speaker believes _____.
✓ **D) she has become more afraid**
Paragraph 5 says **I do not feel safe** and **I often check to see if someone is following me**, so she has become more afraid. She checks if someone is following her, but she does not say the robber is following her.

29. Which information is NOT in the text?
✓ **A) The speaker is helping the police to find the robber.**
The police are never mentioned in the text. The other options are in the text: she avoids certain parts of town, she doesn't carry valuables, and she says **We were lucky**.

30. The speaker is angry with the robber because _____.
✓ **C) she lost her peace of mind because of his actions**
The last paragraph says **I blame this man, not for having taken my jewellery, but for having taken away my innocence**. She has lost her feeling of safety, or peace of mind. Not **he took valuable personal belongings**, because she says this is not the reason.

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 conversation.

Kerry: Do you think the music that young people are so _____ on today is as good as the music we were listening to _____ in the 1970s?
✓ **B) keen**
We say **be keen on something**, meaning 'like something very much': **Young people are keen on this music.** The preposition **on** after the gap is the clue.

32. Kerry: Do you think the music that young people are so _____ on today is as good as the music we were listening to _____ in the 1970s?
✓ **C) back**
Back + a time in the past (**back in the 1970s**) means 'at that time in the past' and stresses that it was long ago. The other words do not fit before **in the 1970s**.

33. Phil: It's rather a difficult question to answer. If I say "no", then someone in their _____ can accuse me of being another _____ person who can't see anything good in what's happening today.
✓ **A) early twenties**
Someone in their early twenties means a person aged about 20 to 23. The phrase **in their** before the gap needs an age expression. **Middle-aged** is an adjective, so it cannot follow **in their** without a noun.

34. Phil: If I say "no", then someone in their _____ can accuse me of being another _____ person who can't see anything good in what's happening today.
✓ **D) middle-aged**
Middle-aged means 'aged about 45 to 60'. It describes the kind of older person who, according to young people, **can't see anything good** in today's music. The gap needs an adjective before **person**.

35. Phil: It's just my _____ opinion but no, I don't think the music is as good today as it was then.
✓ **E) personal**
My personal opinion is a common phrase meaning 'what I myself think'. It shows the speaker is only giving his own view.

36. Kerry: Yes, I have to _____ with you.
✓ **E) agree**
Agree with someone means 'have the same opinion'. Kerry then says the music isn't as good today, the same as Phil. Not **argue**, because she does not disagree with him.

37. Kerry: It just doesn't seem to be as catchy or vital and I think the most _____ thing is that it's here today and gone tomorrow.
✓ **B) worrying**
Worrying means 'making you feel concerned'. Kerry is concerned that today's music is **here today and gone tomorrow**, meaning it doesn't last. The phrase **the most … thing** needs an adjective.

38. Kerry: Most of it is so _____; there doesn't seem to be much originality in it!
✓ **D) mass-produced**
Mass-produced means 'made in large numbers, all the same'. It matches the clue **there doesn't seem to be much originality in it**.

39. Phil: I think there's a lot of very _____ and unusual music to be found on the Internet but it's hard to find without a record company promoting it. Unfortunately, most of these artists never become famous.
✓ **C) interesting**
Interesting fits with **and unusual**: both are positive adjectives describing original music on the Internet. Not **excited**, because **-ed** adjectives describe how people feel, not things.

40. Kerry: Well, I don't care if young people think Pink Floyd are _____. I love listening to them on my iPod!
✓ **A) old-fashioned**
Old-fashioned means 'no longer modern or popular'. Pink Floyd were a 1970s band, so young people may think they are old-fashioned. Kerry doesn't care, because she still loves them.