ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

ESL B2 Level MCQ Test With Answers HIGH INTERMEDIATE TEST 1

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Explanations

1. **B2 MOCK EXAMINATION - Use of English and Reading Sections**

SECTION 1

Choose the correct alternatives to complete the sentences.

Everybody's left the building, _____?
✓ **B) haven't they**
Everybody takes a plural question tag (**they**). **Everybody's left** means **Everybody has left**, so the tag uses **haven't**: **haven't they?** Not **doesn't he**, because the verb is **has**, not **does**.

2. The furniture was moved while some shelves _____ on the wall.
✓ **D) were being put up**
The shelves didn't put themselves up, so we need the passive. **While** shows an action in progress in the past, so we use the past continuous passive: **were being put up**. Not **were putting up**, which is active and would mean the shelves were doing the work.

3. _____ it was late, he decided to call her.
✓ **B) Though**
Though (= although) is a conjunction and can be followed by a full clause: **Though it was late, …**. **In spite of** needs a noun or **-ing** form (**In spite of the late hour**). **However** and **Nevertheless** link two separate sentences and cannot introduce a clause like this.

4. The long truck carrying the airplane travelled by night _____ daytime traffic.
✓ **C) so as not to slow down**
To express a negative purpose we use **so as not to** + infinitive (or **in order not to**): **so as not to slow down daytime traffic**. The other options are not correct English structures for purpose.

5. She regretted not accepting the promotion, even if it would have meant _____ to another town.
✓ **A) moving**
The verb **mean**, when it expresses a result or consequence (= involve), is followed by the **-ing** form: **It would have meant moving**. **Mean** + infinitive (**to move**) has a different meaning: to intend.

6. While we are putting up the decorations tomorrow afternoon, she _____ some party food.
✓ **C) will be preparing**
The future continuous (**will be preparing**) describes an action that will be in progress at a certain time in the future. Here the clue is **while we are putting up the decorations tomorrow afternoon**. Not **will have prepared**, which means the action will be finished before that time.

7. He can't be blamed _____ to phone; he's got a lot on his mind.
✓ **B) for forgetting**
The verb **blame** takes the preposition **for**. A preposition is followed by the **-ing** form, so we say **blame someone for doing something**: **He can't be blamed for forgetting**. Not **of forgetting**, which is the wrong preposition.

8. He was made _____ up the mess in the kitchen after he attempted to make a cake.
✓ **D) to clear**
In the active, **make** is followed by the bare infinitive (**They made him clear up**). In the passive, **to** is needed: **He was made to clear up the mess**. Not **clear**, which is only correct in the active.

9. By the time they arrive next Saturday, we _____ painting the guest room.
✓ **D) will have finished**
By the time + a future time is a clue for the future perfect (**will have finished**). It shows an action that will be complete before a point in the future, here **next Saturday**. Not **had finished**, which refers to the past.

10. You _____ your uncle. He died a year before you were born.
✓ **C) can't have met**
Can't have + past participle shows we are sure something did not happen in the past. Your uncle died before you were born, so meeting him was impossible: **You can't have met him**. **Mustn't have** is not used for this kind of negative deduction in British English.

11. I think it's time they _____ me a rise!
✓ **D) gave**
After **It's time** + subject, we use the past simple to talk about the present or future. It suggests that something should already be happening: **It's time they gave me a rise**. Not **would give**, which is not used after **It's time**.

12. The castle _____ to the public since it was declared unsafe.
✓ **A) has been closed**
Since + a past event shows a situation that started in the past and continues now, so we use the present perfect. The castle cannot close itself, so the verb is passive: **has been closed**. Not **was closed**, because the past simple doesn't connect the past to now.

13. It was very kind of you, but you _____ a meal for us. We could have gone to a restaurant.
✓ **C) needn't have cooked**
Needn't have + past participle means someone did something, but it was not necessary. Here you cooked the meal, but you didn't have to, because **we could have gone to a restaurant**. **Didn't need to cook** usually suggests the action was not done.

14. She doesn't _____ looking after the baby for us next Saturday, does she?
✓ **B) mind**
Mind + **-ing** (= object to, be unhappy about) fits the polite meaning here: **She doesn't mind looking after the baby, does she? Object** needs **to** (**object to looking after**), and **stand** is normally used with **can't** (**She can't stand …**).

15. That gadget was a complete waste of money. I wish I _____ it.
✓ **D) hadn't bought**
To express regret about the past, we use **wish** + past perfect: **I wish I hadn't bought it**. The clue is that the gadget **was** a waste of money, so the purchase is already in the past. Not **didn't buy**, which is used for wishes about the present.

16. If he wants people to trust him, he'll have _____ the truth.
✓ **B) to get used to telling**
In **get used to**, the word **to** is a preposition. It is followed by a noun or the **-ing** form: **get used to telling the truth**. Not **get used to tell**, because **to** here is not part of an infinitive.

17. Section 3

Choose the correct alternatives to complete the sentences.

This continuous rain is _____. It makes me feel really depressed.
✓ **C) getting me down**
Get somebody down means to make someone feel sad or depressed. The clue is **It makes me feel really depressed**. Not **let me down**, which means to disappoint someone by failing to do what they expected.

18. I hope they _____ the business. They deserve some success in life.
✓ **A) make a go of**
Make a go of something means to make it successful. The clue is **They deserve some success in life**. **Set up** only means to start a business, not to make it succeed.

19. The robber was taking down the picture when the alarm _____.
✓ **D) went off**
When an alarm starts ringing, we say it **goes off**: **The alarm went off**. **Break out** is used for wars, fires or diseases, not alarms.

20. My mother always _____ of me when I go home to visit.
✓ **B) makes a fuss**
Make a fuss of somebody means to give them a lot of attention and show that you care about them. Example: **My grandmother always makes a fuss of the children. Take the biscuit** means to be the most annoying or surprising thing.

21. That factory _____ a thousand computers a day.
✓ **C) turns out**
Turn out can mean to produce something, especially in large numbers: **The factory turns out a thousand computers a day**. **Bring in** means to earn money or introduce something, not to manufacture.

22. The new law will be _____ in January.
✓ **B) brought into force**
Bring something into force means to make a law or rule start to apply officially. In the passive, it becomes **The new law will be brought into force in January**. Not **come out**, because **will be come out** is not grammatical.

23. While I was in the junk shop I _____ this old bowl. Do you think it could be valuable?
✓ **D) came across**
Come across something means to find it by chance: **I came across this old bowl in a junk shop**. **Run over** means to hit someone or something with a vehicle.

24. It's no good trying to change her. She's _____.
✓ **A) set in her ways**
Set in your ways describes someone who has fixed habits and doesn't want to change them. The clue is **It's no good trying to change her**. **Put her back up** means to annoy her, which doesn't fit.

25. _____ up! Things can't be as bad as all that.
✓ **D) Cheer**
Cheer up! is what we say to someone to make them feel happier. The clue is **Things can't be as bad as all that**. **Look up** is used for a situation that is improving (**Things are looking up**), not as an order to a sad person.

26. When their relationship ended, she _____ everything that reminded her of him.
✓ **B) got rid of**
Get rid of something means to throw it away or remove it because you don't want it. Example: **She got rid of all his old letters. Run out of** means to have none left, which doesn't fit the meaning.

27. When he realized what horrible things went into sausages, it _____ sausages for life!
✓ **B) put him off**
Put somebody off something means to make them dislike it or stop wanting it. Learning what went into sausages **put him off sausages for life**. **Set him off** means to make him start doing something, such as laughing or crying.

28. After so many years of marriage, they _____.
✓ **C) take each other for granted**
Take somebody for granted means not to appreciate a person because they are always there. This often happens **after so many years of marriage**. **Go without saying** means something is obvious, and it doesn't describe people.

29. Last Tuesday evening ____.
✓ C) was not the first time the ship had attempted to depart
Paragraph 2 says the ship **should have left nine days before** but **had got no further than the Isle of Wight** and returned for repairs. So Tuesday was not its first attempt to leave. The flags were **all over the ship**, not all over the docks, and the cruise was originally scheduled nine days earlier.

30. The Aurora ____.
✓ B) had cost £200 million to build
Paragraph 1 calls the ship **the £200 million Aurora**, which means it cost £200 million. **Nine days** refers to how late the ship was (**nine days behind schedule**), not to when it was built or how long it was prepared.

31. The Aurora ____.
✓ D) was forced to abort a cruise last year because of an infectious disease on board
Paragraph 2 says the ship **last year cut short a cruise after a third of its passengers were struck by a virus**, which is an infectious disease on board. The virus affected the passengers, not the ship's controls, so the first option is wrong.

32. Which statement is correct?
✓ A) The attempt to make up for the delay by having comedians brought in was not successful.
Paragraph 2 says **In vain the organisers attempted to console the long-suffering passengers by bringing in a group of well-known comedians**. **In vain** means without success. The text gives the amounts the passengers drank, but it doesn't say the drinks ran out or that the comedians brought them.

33. On Tuesday, ____.
✓ B) everybody had been sure they would finally depart
Paragraph 3 says **it had been confidently announced the vessel would depart that evening**, and a big send-off was organised. The engineers did start the engines; that is when they found the propulsion unit was still faulty. The coral reefs are where the passengers **should** have been, not what they expected to see in Southampton.

34. The passengers were assured that ____.
✓ A) the cruise would take place with some modifications
Paragraph 4 mentions **assurances that the round-the-world, 104-night cruise was still on, even if the timetable would have to be adjusted**. In other words, the cruise would happen, but with some changes (modifications). The 104 nights describe the length of the cruise, not time spent in Southampton.

35. A lot of passengers ____.
✓ C) changed their minds about going on the cruise
Paragraph 4 says **the false start was the last straw for many passengers**, so many decided to leave the ship and not go on the cruise. **The last straw** is an idiom for the final problem that makes someone give up. It has nothing to do with real straws.

36. Of the passengers who decided to disembark, ____.
✓ D) some decided to have a holiday elsewhere
Paragraph 4 says Mr and Mrs Stacy left, **planning a two-week break in the sun to replace their abandoned cruise**, so some passengers chose a holiday somewhere else. Not the Chile option, because it was the passenger's **girlfriend** who was going to fly to Chile and join the ship.

37. Which statement is correct?
✓ B) Mr Baker was irritated with the lack of information.
Paragraph 5 says Mr Baker was **understandably annoyed** and complained, **They should have let us know what was going on long before this point**. This shows he was irritated by the lack of information. Not the last option, because the text says passengers feared the **ship** would never leave, not that they themselves couldn't leave later.

38. Officials ____.
✓ C) had some doubts that the cruise would be successfully completed
The last paragraph says the shipowners **were not entirely confident that the world cruise would go forward** and that **It could yet turn back**. So officials had doubts. The ship left with 385 fewer than the original 1,759 passengers, and the text says only that it **could** turn back, not that it probably would.

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