ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

ESL B2 Level MCQ Test With Answers HIGH INTERMEDIATE TEST 2

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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.

You never saw the photos we took last summer, _____?
✓ **A) did you**
A question tag uses the same auxiliary as the main verb. **saw** is past simple, so the tag uses **did**. The sentence is already negative (**never**), so the tag is positive: **did you?** Not **didn't you**, because **never** makes the sentence negative.

2. The program _____ when I walked into the office this morning.
✓ **A) was being uploaded**
The past continuous passive (**was being** + past participle) describes an action that was in progress when something else happened (**when I walked in**). The program did not upload itself, so we need the passive. Not **has been uploaded**, because the present perfect does not fit a finished past time like **this morning**.

3. _____ all night, he still had the energy to go and play football.
✓ **B) Even though he had been working**
Even though is followed by a full clause with a subject and verb (**he had been working**). The past perfect continuous shows a long action before another past moment. Not **Despite he had been working**, because **despite** is followed by a noun or -ing form (**Despite having worked**), not by a clause.

4. We left the house at 5:00 am _____ the early morning traffic.
✓ **D) in order to beat**
In order to + infinitive expresses purpose: we left early so that we could **beat** (avoid) the traffic. Not **because we beat**, because that gives a reason, not a purpose.

5. The boss suggested _____ on an assertiveness course.
✓ **C) going**
Suggest is followed by the -ing form (**suggested going**) or by a that-clause (**suggested that I go**). Not **me to go**, because **suggest** is never followed by object + infinitive.

6. The meeting starts at about 10:00 and Greg _____ the presentation shortly afterwards.
✓ **B) will be giving**
The future continuous (**will be giving**) describes an action that will be in progress at a certain time in the future (**shortly afterwards**). Not **has been giving**, because the present perfect cannot refer to the future.

7. The key _____ a successful business is knowing what your customers want.
✓ **C) to having**
The noun **key** is followed by the preposition **to** (**the key to success**). After a preposition we use the -ing form, so it is **the key to having**. Not **to have**, because here **to** is a preposition, not part of an infinitive.

8. She chose _____ to Rome instead of driving.
✓ **D) to fly**
Choose is followed by the to-infinitive: **She chose to fly**. Not **flying**, because **choose** does not take the -ing form.

9. By the end of the coming month, I can assure you we _____ the project.
✓ **B) will have finished**
The future perfect (**will have** + past participle) shows that an action will be complete before a future time. The clue is **By the end of the coming month**. Not **will be finished**, because **finish** needs an active verb with **the project** as its object.

10. They _____ a house already! They only started looking last week!
✓ **A) can't have bought**
Can't have + past participle shows we are sure something did not happen in the past. They only started looking last week, so it seems impossible. Not **mustn't buy**, because **mustn't** means it is forbidden, not that it is impossible.

11. David, it really is time you _____ to think about your future.
✓ **C) started**
After **it's time** + subject, we use the past simple to talk about the present: **It's time you started**. It suggests the action should already be happening. Not **are starting**, because this structure needs a past form.

12. Mr Smith's house _____ from top to bottom because his mother-in-law is coming for a visit.
✓ **D) has been cleaned**
The house cannot clean itself, so we need the passive. The present perfect passive (**has been cleaned**) shows a recent action with a result now: the house is ready for the visit. Not **is been cleaned**, because the correct passive forms are **is being cleaned** or **has been cleaned**.

13. You _____ me a hand with that work! You had nothing better to do.
✓ **B) could have given**
Could have + past participle criticises someone for not doing something possible in the past. The clue is **You had nothing better to do** (past). Not **could give**, because that refers to the present or future.

14. I don't remember _____ before. Who is he?
✓ **A) meeting him**
Remember + -ing means remembering something you did in the past: **I don't remember meeting him**. **Remember to do** means not forgetting a task, so **to meet with him** is wrong here.

15. I wish I _____ to increase profits by 30% at the last sales meeting!
✓ **B) hadn't promised**
To express regret about the past, we use **wish** + past perfect: **I wish I hadn't promised**. The clue is **at the last sales meeting**. Not **didn't promise**, because **wish** + past simple is used for the present.

16. When they return to Japan after living in the West, many Japanese people have to _____ in Japan again.
✓ **D) get used to living**
Get used to + -ing describes the process of becoming familiar with something. They must adapt again after living abroad. Not **be used to living**, because that describes a state that is already familiar, not a change.

17. SECTION 3

Choose the correct alternatives to complete the sentences.

Why did you _____ such a generous proposal?
✓ **C) turn down**
Turn down means to refuse an offer or proposal: **She turned down the job.** Not **turn back**, which means to go back the way you came.

18. I hate to _____ your plans but we just don't have the money to put them into practice.
✓ **B) pour cold water on**
Pour cold water on an idea or plan means to discourage it or say it won't work: **He poured cold water on my idea. Put out** is used for fires or cigarettes, not plans.

19. The singer had had dreams of great success when he was younger but he _____ singing at weddings and private parties.
✓ **D) ended up**
End up + -ing means to finally be in a situation you did not plan: **He ended up singing at weddings.** The clue is the contrast with his early **dreams of great success**.

20. You wouldn't believe how easy it is to use this program; it's _____!
✓ **A) a piece of cake**
The idiom **a piece of cake** means something very easy: **The test was a piece of cake. Not my cup of tea** means something you don't like, so **a cup of tea** does not fit.

21. He's too bossy! He's only been working here a short time and he's already trying to _____ everything!
✓ **B) take over**
Take over means to take control of something: **She took over the company.** It fits **bossy**. Not **bring out**, which means to produce or show something.

22. My boss obviously doesn't trust him; he _____ everything he does!
✓ **D) checks up on**
Check up on someone means to watch or check what they do because you don't trust them. Not **controls on**, because **control** does not take **on**.

23. The rumour of his resignation _____ and soon everybody was talking about it.
✓ **B) spread like wildfire**
Spread like wildfire means news or rumours travel very quickly to many people. The clue is **soon everybody was talking about it**. **Went round like fungus** is not an English idiom.

24. The estate agent took them to see a house but its shabby and dirty exterior _____ before they'd even opened the door.
✓ **B) put them off**
Put someone off means to make them dislike something or lose interest: **The dirty kitchen put me off.** The shabby exterior made them not want the house. Not **ran them down**, which means to criticise them.

25. John used to be so active before getting married; now he's such a _____!
✓ **B) couch potato**
A **couch potato** is a lazy person who spends a lot of time sitting and watching TV. It contrasts with **so active**. Not **high flyer**, which is a very successful person.

26. We don't have all day! _____ which one you want!
✓ **D) Make up your mind**
Make up your mind means to decide: **Make up your mind which one you want!** Not **Bear in mind**, which means to remember or consider something.

27. In August, large numbers of Italians _____ the beach.
✓ **C) head for**
Head for means to go towards a place: **They headed for the beach.** Not **go for**, which means to choose or try to get something.

28. _____ people turned up for the meeting that it was cancelled.
✓ **A) So few**
We use **so** + **few/many/little/much** + noun + **that** to show a result. **People** is countable, so we use **few**: **So few people came that...** Not **Such few**, because **such** is not used with **few**, and not **So little**, because **little** is for uncountable nouns.

29. The purpose of the text is to _____.
✓ **B) give students a balanced idea of what working in the City really involves**
The text describes both the good sides (challenging work, generous pay) and the bad sides (stress, long hours, unpaid overtime) of working in the City, and then gives advice. So it gives a balanced picture. Not **convince young people that a career in the City is the best path**, because the text warns about many problems.

30. For many young people, two attractive aspects of working in the City are _____.
✓ **D) challenging work and good pay**
Paragraph 1 says a career in the City, **with its challenging work and generous pay packets**, is attractive to many young people. **Generous pay** means good pay.

31. Which statement is correct?
✓ **C) Stress encourages unhealthy habits among those who work in the City.**
Paragraph 1 says that in the City, stress **is contagious and can encourage unhealthy habits**. The other statements are wrong: insurance does include mental health care, and returning to work brings back the same problems.

32. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as one of the negative aspects of working in the City?
✓ **C) Aggressive and competitive co-workers.**
The text mentions very early starts, **mandatory socializing** and overtime that is **usually unpaid**. It never mentions aggressive or competitive co-workers.

33. According to the text, team-building exercises and events are _____.
✓ **C) good or bad depending on one's attitude**
Paragraph 4 says these events **can be great fun or a horrendous prospect, depending on your mood and attitude**. So they can be good or bad depending on one's attitude.

34. Many young people initially plan to _____.
✓ **A) only work in the City for a few years**
The man in his late thirties says graduate trainees plan **to do five or maybe ten years in the City and then leave**, so they plan to work there only for a few years. The flat and private schools are what keeps them there later, not their first plan.

35. Many find it difficult to leave a job in the City because _____.
✓ **B) they have grown accustomed to a certain lifestyle**
The text says it is easy **to get trapped once you're used to the money and the lifestyle**. **Grown accustomed to** means the same as **got used to**. Not **they fear being trapped**, because the text says they really are trapped by the lifestyle.

36. Doing an internship is a good idea because _____.
✓ **C) it shows employers you are serious about your intentions**
The last paragraph says an internship will boost your CV **because it will show that you are serious**. It will also show you what life is really like in the sector, so it does not hide the negative side.

37. According to the text, specific qualifications _____.
✓ **D) are good to have but not always mandatory**
The text says **Some jobs require specific qualifications but most top employers will accept any degree subject**. So specific qualifications are useful but usually not necessary. Not **are essential to getting any job**, because most employers accept any degree.

38. According to the text, the most important thing is _____.
✓ **B) to mix well with colleagues**
The last paragraph says **Fitting in with other people is what really counts**. **Fit in** means to get on well and feel part of a group, which is the same as mixing well with colleagues.

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