ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

ESL B2 Level MCQ Test With Answers HIGH INTERMEDIATE TEST 3

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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.

I'm going to have to apologise to him, _____?
✓ **C) aren't I**
The question tag repeats the auxiliary of the main clause: **I'm (am) going to → aren't I?** With **I am**, the negative tag is irregular: we say **aren't I**, not **amn't I**. Not **am I**, because a positive sentence needs a negative tag.

2. Some pipelines _____ and they've closed the road until the work _____.
✓ **B) are being laid / has been finished**
Pipelines can't lay themselves, so we need the passive. **Are being laid** (present continuous passive) shows the work is in progress now. After **until**, we use a present tense for the future, and the present perfect **has been finished** stresses that the work must be complete.

3. _____ suffering from jet lag, he wanted to go out and do some sightseeing around Sydney.
✓ **A) In spite of**
In spite of is a preposition, so it is followed by a noun or an -ing form: **In spite of suffering from jet lag**. **However** and **nevertheless** are adverbs that link two sentences, and they can't come before an -ing form like this. Not **Despite of**: we say **despite** or **in spite of**, never **despite of**.

4. He turned off his mobile phone _____ disturbed during the meeting.
✓ **B) so as not to be**
To express a negative purpose we use **so as not to** + infinitive (or **in order not to**). Here the infinitive is passive: **so as not to be disturbed**. **For not being** and **for not to be** are not used to show purpose.

5. She couldn't help _____ sorry for the man as he was so embarrassed by his mistake.
✓ **D) feeling**
Can't/couldn't help is followed by the -ing form: **She couldn't help feeling sorry**. It means she couldn't stop herself from feeling this way.

6. I _____ all of August with my parents in Wales this year.
✓ **B) will be spending**
The future continuous **will be spending** describes an activity that will be in progress over a period in the future (**all of August**). Not **will have spent**, because the future perfect needs a time point such as **by the end of August**.

7. Look! The warehouse over there is _____. Call the Fire Brigade immediately.
✓ **D) on fire**
The fixed expression is **on fire**, which means burning. We can also say **in flames**, but not **on flames** or **in fire**.

8. In the middle of his speech, he stopped _____ a sip of water.
✓ **B) to have**
Stop + to-infinitive means to stop one activity in order to do another: he paused his speech **to have** a sip of water. Not **having**: **stop + -ing** means to end an activity (**He stopped having water** = he no longer drank it).

9. By the end of the month, all tests on the new machine _____ and it will be ready for launching.
✓ **A) will have been completed**
By the end of the month is a clue for the future perfect, which is used for something completed before a future time. The tests are done by someone else, so we need the passive: **will have been completed**.

10. He _____ offered a job with better working conditions. Otherwise, he wouldn't have resigned.
✓ **C) must have been**
Must have + past participle is a confident guess about the past, and it is passive here because someone offered him the job: **He must have been offered a job**. The clue is **Otherwise, he wouldn't have resigned**, which shows we are talking about the past.

11. Isn't it high time he _____ to stand on his own two feet instead of relying on others?
✓ **B) learnt**
After **It's (high) time** + subject, we use the past simple with a present meaning: **It's high time he learnt**. This says that the action should already be happening. Not **learns**: the present simple is not used after this expression.

12. When he comes home from his holiday in Thailand, he'll be very surprised to see his front door _____ bright pink as a joke by his friends.
✔ **B) has been painted**
The door was painted by his friends, so we need the passive. The present perfect **has been painted** shows that the painting is finished and the result is visible when he returns: **see (that) his front door has been painted**. The other options are not correct verb forms.

13. His office light is on but he _____ late tonight! It's his wedding anniversary. He probably forgot to switch it off when he went home.
✔ **D) can't be working**
Can't be + -ing shows we are sure something is not happening now. The clue is **It's his wedding anniversary**, so he has surely gone home. Not **mustn't**: **mustn't** means something is not allowed, and it is not used for negative guesses.

14. When she was young, her mother _____ with the housework.
✔ **A) made her help**
Make someone do something takes the bare infinitive, with no **to** and no -ing: **her mother made her help**. **When she was young** refers to a finished past time, so we need the past simple, not the present perfect.

15. He wishes his neighbour _____ his son a set of drums for his birthday.
✔ **C) hadn't given**
We use **wish + past perfect** to express regret about something that has already happened: **He wishes his neighbour hadn't given his son a set of drums**. The drums have already been given. Not **wouldn't have given**: this form is not used after **wish**.

16. _____ in the country? I bet you're finding it quiet after living in the town centre for so many years!
✔ **C) Are you getting used to living**
Get used to + -ing describes the process of becoming familiar with something. The present continuous **Are you getting used to living** shows the change is happening now, and the clue is **you're finding it quiet**. **Used to** here is followed by -ing, not the infinitive, so **used to live** is wrong.

17. SECTION 3

Choose the correct alternative to complete the sentences.

He didn't turn a _____ when she told him she was leaving him. He must have been expecting it.
✔ **D) hair**
Not turn a hair means to show no emotion or surprise at all. Example: **She didn't turn a hair when she heard the news.** It fits here because **he must have been expecting it**.

18. As it was such a long journey, they _____ for a night about halfway there.
✔ **A) stopped off**
Stop off means to make a short stop somewhere during a journey. Not **ended up**, which means to finally arrive at a place you didn't plan to reach.

19. I tried to read the classic she lent me but I found it was too _____ and eventually gave up after about thirty pages. I decided that a good thriller was much easier to read!
✔ **C) heavy-going**
Heavy going describes something difficult, slow or boring to read or do. The clue is that the speaker gave up after about thirty pages and found a good thriller much easier to read. Not **easy-going**, which describes a relaxed, calm person.

20. The train was hot and I was exhausted, and I _____ and missed my station.
✔ **D) dropped off**
Drop off (informal) means to fall asleep, especially without intending to. Example: **I dropped off in front of the TV.** Not **overslept**, which means sleeping too long in the morning and waking up late.

21. Hello! I was at _____ and decided to pay you a visit.
✔ **B) a loose end**
Be at a loose end means to have nothing to do. That is why the speaker decided to visit. Not **in a tight corner**, which means being in a difficult situation.

22. Since he moved to London, I only see him once in _____ when he comes to visit his grandparents.
✔ **C) a blue moon**
Once in a blue moon means very rarely. Not **while**: the idiom is **once in a while** (= sometimes), and it needs the article **a**.

23. The children are getting very restless! Why don't they go out to play and let _____?
✔ **A) off steam**
Let off steam means to get rid of energy or strong feelings through activity. It fits the **restless** children. Not **let the cat out of the bag**, which means to reveal a secret.

24. You'll have to shout. She's as deaf as a _____.
✔ **C) post**
The fixed simile is **as deaf as a post**, which means completely deaf. Compare **as blind as a bat**, which is about sight, not hearing.

25. Those children are completely out _____! Why don't their parents make them behave better?
✔ **D) of control**
Out of control means behaving badly and impossible to manage. Not **out of order**: this is the correct form (not **of orders**), and it means broken or unacceptable.

26. Some important scientific breakthroughs come about purely _____ while scientists are aiming at doing something different.
✔ **B) by accident**
By accident means by chance, without planning. The clue is **while scientists are aiming at doing something different**. **Chancy** is an adjective meaning risky, and **at loggerheads** means in strong disagreement.

27. I wish he wouldn't keep clicking his pen. It's getting _____.
✔ **B) on my nerves**
Get on someone's nerves means to annoy someone. Example: **His constant whistling gets on my nerves.** Not **get something off my chest**, which means to tell someone about a worry.

28. Sheila has such a _____ belief that she's no good at maths that she refuses even to attempt to understand it.
✓ C) deep-rooted
Deep-rooted describes a belief or feeling that is very strong and hard to change. The clue is that she **refuses even to attempt** maths. **Long-term** describes time, not the strength of a belief.

29. **Strange images in photos and films _____.**
✓ D) cannot always be easily explained
Paragraph 2 says **a few of the unexpected additions to photos and films defy an easy explanation**. So they **cannot always be easily explained**. The options with **always** are too strong: the text gives tricks of light and digital trickery only as possible explanations.

30. **Tiger Bay _____.**
✓ B) has changed its character since the area was redeveloped
The text says Tiger Bay is **now redeveloped into a fashionable area** but was **once a slum area notorious for murders**. So its character has changed. The options about murders, violence and poverty describe the past, not the present.

31. **The woman filmed in the Tiger Bay area was mysterious because _____.**
✓ C) the image was incomplete and it seemed to disappear
The text says **only three-quarters of the lady was visible** and that she seemed to float **before vanishing into thin air**. So the image was incomplete and it disappeared. The text only suggests she **may have been an extra**, not a principal actor.

32. **Some of the strange images captured on film _____.**
✓ B) are not historical in character
Paragraph 3 begins **Ghostly images are not confined to the historical**. It then gives the New Jersey 'ET' image and the strange lights as examples. The beam of light was next to the figure, not around it, and the photos were taken **at varying times**, not at the same time.

33. **Which statement is correct?**
✓ D) The people who took the Tantallon Castle photos were unaware there was another figure present when they took the photos.
Paragraph 4 says both photos contain ghostly figures **which had not been seen by the people taking the pictures**, so the photographers were unaware of them. The figures are different (Tudor clothes vs 15th-century clothes), and the second photo was taken **at the same location as the first**. The castle is a 14th-century fortress; the text does not say it was ruined in the 14th century.

34. **The first Tantallon Castle photo _____.**
✓ A) is not as inexplicable as the second
A sceptic explained the first photo as a woman with a shopping bag, and the text adds **The second picture is more mystifying**. So the first is less puzzling than the second. The shopping-bag woman is only the sceptic's view, and the photo taken last May is the second one.

35. **The second Tantallon Castle photo _____.**
✓ B) was voted the most 'convincing' in the Web competition
The text says the second Tantallon photo **won the competition by getting 39% of the votes** for the **most convincing picture**. It was taken about thirty years after the first, and **no costumed mannequins or guides were at the castle**.

36. **Professor Wiseman _____.**
✓ D) is dubious about the existence of ghosts
Professor Wiseman says he **was a sceptic about ghosts**, so he is **dubious** (doubtful) about their existence. He only suggests possible explanations (**I suppose… Another possibility…**), so he is not **sure** of anything, and only the second photo puzzles him.

37. **Amongst the other photos submitted was one of _____.**
✓ B) two children on a cannon seen through a soldier without a head
The text describes **the transparent figure of a headless ghost dressed in an old-fashioned army coat standing in front of two children playing on a cannon**. Because the figure is transparent, the children are seen through it. The child's face was **between** the friends' legs, not on them.

38. **Belief in the ghostly images seems to depend on _____.**
✓ C) whether a person is predisposed to believe in ghosts and mysteries
The last paragraph says interpretations **depend on whether the person looking at the photo is a believer or a non-believer in ghosts**. **Predisposed to believe** means already inclined to believe, which matches this idea.

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