ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Gerunds and Infinitives Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 4

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1	**C**	2	**C**	3	**A**	4	**B**	5	**E**	6	**C**	7	**B**	8	**A**	9	**B**	10	**B**
11	**A**	12	**D**	13	**A**	14	**D**	15	**E**	16	**A**	17	**A**	18	**A**	19	**D**	20	**C**
21	**E**	22	**E**	23	**C**	24	**A**	25	**E**										

Explanations

1. _____ as severely obese, a person must have a body mass index of 40 or more, which is roughly 100 pounds overweight for an average adult man.
✔ **C) To be classified**
The gap expresses purpose or condition (**in order to be classified**), so we need a to-infinitive. The person is classified by others, so it must be passive: **To be classified**. Not **Being classified**: an -ing clause describes a state or a reason, not the requirement for reaching a status.

2. _____ a little bit of history, it was thought to be impossible in any computer system _____ a window with a functioning channel.
✔ **C) To give / to have**
To give a little bit of history is a fixed introductory infinitive phrase, like **to be honest** or **to sum up**, that comments on what follows. After **it was thought to be impossible**, the real subject is a to-infinitive: **impossible ... to have a window**. Not **Given**: **given** means 'considering', which does not fit here.

3. For more severe illnesses, medication is likely _____, but this may be supplemented with psychotherapy.
✔ **A) to be needed**
Be likely is followed by a to-infinitive. Medication does not need anything itself; patients need it, so the infinitive must be passive: **is likely to be needed**. Not **to need**, which would mean the medication needs something.

4. We regret _____ that all buses to Nottingham will experience delays due to bad weather conditions.
✔ **B) to announce**
Regret + to-infinitive is used to give bad news politely, often with verbs like **announce**, **inform** and **say**: **We regret to announce...** Not **regret announcing**: **regret + -ing** means being sorry about something you did in the past, and the delays here are still in the future.

5. Your proposals deserve _____ in detail.
✔ **E) to be considered**
Deserve is followed by a to-infinitive. The proposals are considered by someone else, so the passive infinitive is needed: **deserve to be considered**. In British English **deserve considering** is also possible, but **being considered** and **considered** are not used after **deserve**.

6. My brother and I meant _____ some studying last night, but Alicia called and we both spent half an hour on the phone.
✔ **C) to do**
Mean + to-infinitive means 'intend': **We meant to do some studying** (we planned to, but Alicia's call stopped us). Not **meant doing**: **mean + -ing** means 'involve', as in **This job means getting up early**.

7. The company has considered _____ a new group of engineers to its office in Brazil.
✔ **B) sending**
Consider is followed by a gerund, not an infinitive: **has considered sending**. Not **to send**, which is a common mistake. Compare **I'm considering moving abroad**, not **considering to move**.

8. Her refusal _____ the violence left her open to the charge of positive support for the campaign.
✔ **A) to condemn**
The noun **refusal** takes a to-infinitive, just like the verb **refuse**: **her refusal to condemn the violence**. Other nouns of this type are **decision to**, **attempt to** and **failure to**. Not **condemning**: **refusal** is not followed by an -ing form.

9. A new tax that is thought _____ protests _____ soon.
✔ **B) to cause / will be introduced**
Be thought + to-infinitive reports an opinion. The tax has not been introduced yet, so the protests are expected in the future: **is thought to cause protests**. The main verb needs a future passive because of **soon**: **will be introduced soon**. Not **to have caused**, because a tax that has not been introduced cannot have caused protests already.

10. _____ the impact of educational options, researchers took into account the fact that students participating in school choice were likely _____ from nonparticipants in terms of motivation.
✔ **B) To estimate / to differ**
The first gap expresses purpose, so we use a to-infinitive: **To estimate** the impact... means 'in order to estimate'. **Be likely** is followed by a to-infinitive: **were likely to differ**. **Differ** is an intransitive verb, so it has no passive form: **to have been differed** and **being differed** are wrong.

11. The first boss _____ all the employees _____ late in the workshop was James Drilldown.
✓ **A) to make / stay**
After **the first (person)**, we use a to-infinitive: **the first boss to make...** means 'the first boss who made...'. **Make + object + bare infinitive** means force someone: **make all the employees stay**. Not **staying**: **make** is never followed by an -ing form in this meaning.

12. Some contractors in Iraq _____ _____ deceptive, bait-and-switch hiring practices and charging recruiting fees that indebted low-paid migrant workers.
✓ **D) have been found / using**
The present perfect passive **have been found** shows the result of an investigation. **Be found + -ing** means someone was discovered while doing something: **have been found using deceptive practices**. The parallel **charging** confirms that the -ing form is needed. Not **to be used**: the contractors use the practices, so a passive form is wrong.

13. We suggest some ways to overcome the challenges, from _____ state bureaucracies to _____ public awareness that investments shouldn't be justified on their academic benefits alone.
✓ **A) reorganizing / raising**
From and **to** are prepositions here (from X to Y), and a verb after a preposition takes the -ing form: **from reorganizing... to raising...** Not **to raise**: in this structure **to** is a preposition, not part of an infinitive.

14. Studies that are under development aim _____ leaders _____ an assortment of public and private responses related to housing and government performance.
✓ **D) to help / strengthen**
Aim is followed by a to-infinitive: **aim to help**. **Help + object** can take a bare infinitive or a to-infinitive: **help leaders strengthen** or **help leaders to strengthen**. Of the options, only **to help / strengthen** is correct. Not **strengthening**: **help** is not followed by an object + -ing.

15. To help the new city _____ its challenges, the project was estimated _____ at least $33 billion in private investment over the next ten years.
✓ **E) meet / to require**
Help + object takes a bare infinitive (or a to-infinitive): **help the new city meet its challenges**. **Be estimated + to-infinitive** reports an estimate. Because the money is needed in the future, a simple infinitive is used: **was estimated to require**. Not **to have required**, which would refer to something that already happened.

16. In the grand drama of geologic time, palaeontologists have seen countless species _____ and _____ the stage.
✓ **A) enter / exit**
See + object + bare infinitive describes a complete action that someone witnessed: **have seen countless species enter and exit the stage**. The -ing form (**see them entering**) would show an action in progress, but that is not offered with the right form here. Not **entered / exited**: past forms cannot follow **see + object** in the active voice.

17. It is unreasonable _____ the returns for a program serving a disadvantaged population _____ when the same program serves a broader population.
✓ **A) to expect / to be matched**
It is unreasonable + to-infinitive uses **it** as a preparatory subject: **It is unreasonable to expect... Expect + object + to-infinitive** gives the second gap. The returns are matched by something, not doing the matching, so it is passive: **to expect the returns... to be matched**. Not **expecting**: after **It is + adjective**, the to-infinitive is the normal pattern.

18. We have to plan ahead and recognize what we need _____ _____ the potential damage and loss.
✓ **A) to do / to limit**
Need is followed by a to-infinitive: **what we need to do**. The second infinitive expresses purpose: **to limit the damage** means 'in order to limit'. Not **to do / limit**: a purpose clause needs **to**.

19. During the 17th century, people left England _____ from religious persecution.
✓ **D) to escape**
A to-infinitive after a main clause can show purpose, meaning 'in order to': **people left England to escape from religious persecution**. Not **escaping**: an -ing form would describe a simultaneous action, not the reason they left.

20. _____ a strong country means _____ a leader among its neighbours.
✓ **C) Being / being**
A gerund is the natural choice for an activity or state used as a subject: **Being a strong country...** When **mean** has the sense 'involve' or 'have as a result', it is followed by an -ing form: **means being a leader**. Not **to be** after **means**: **mean + to-infinitive** usually means 'intend', as in **I meant to call you**.

21. _____ quite truthful with you, the meal you made was too awful _____.
✓ **E) To be / to be eaten**
To be (quite) truthful/honest with you is a fixed introductory infinitive phrase. **Too + adjective + to-infinitive** shows that something is not possible: **too awful to be eaten**. The passive is used because the meal is eaten by someone; **too awful to eat** is also common. Not **to be eating**: a continuous infinitive makes no sense after **too awful**.

22. When left unchecked, small forest fires become more intense, difficult _____, and likely _____ out and spread.
✓ **E) to control / to break**
Adjectives like **difficult** take a to-infinitive: **difficult to control**. **Be likely** also takes a to-infinitive: **likely to break out and spread**. Simple infinitives are used because these are general facts. Not **controlling**: **difficult** is not followed by an -ing form in this pattern.

23. In the 1930s, physicists devised machines for _____ subatomic particles by electromagnetic forces and making them _____ faster and faster.
✓ **C) pushing / go**
After the preposition **for**, we use the -ing form: **machines for pushing... and making... Make + object + bare infinitive** means 'cause something to do': **making them go faster**. Not **going**: **make** is not followed by object + -ing.

24. Our city became the first in the country _____ single-use plastic bags as the mayor signed a measure _____ what she called "a plastic flood."
✓ A) to ban / to end
After **the first** (and words like **the last** or **the only**), we use a to-infinitive: **the first in the country to ban**. A to-infinitive after a noun can show purpose: **a measure to end...** means 'a measure intended to end'. Not **banning**: **the first** is not followed by an -ing form in this pattern.

25. The World Health Organisation, trying to attract attention to the threat, has called on governments _____ their pandemic plans _____ the health consequences.
✓ E) to update / to minimise
Call on + someone + to-infinitive means 'officially ask someone to do something': **called on governments to update their plans**. The second infinitive shows purpose: **to minimise the health consequences** means 'in order to minimise'. Not **update**: **call on** is not followed by a bare infinitive.

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