ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 075

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Explanations

1. Whoever _____ that picture was a fine artist.
✓ **D) had painted**
The sentence talks about a finished past action, so the verb after **whoever** must be in a past form. The past perfect **had painted** shows that the painting was done before the time we are talking about (**was a fine artist**). Not **was painted**, because that is passive, but **whoever** is the person who did the painting, so we need an active verb.

2. What _____ here before you arrived?
✓ **B) had happened**
The clue **before you arrived** shows an action earlier than another past action, so we use the past perfect: **had happened**. Not **happens**, because the sentence is about the past, not the present.

3. _____ ever painted an apartment before?
✓ **C) Had you**
Questions with **ever** and **before** need a perfect tense: **had** + subject + past participle (**Had you ever painted…?**). Not **Did you have**, because **did** cannot be followed by a perfect form like **have painted**.

4. She had _____ late before.
✓ **C) not been**
The negative past perfect is **had not** + past participle: **She had not been late before.** Not **not ever**, because the verb **been** is missing, so the sentence has no main verb.

5. The landlord _____ just rented the apartment before they called.
✓ **D) had**
The renting happened before another past action (**they called**), so we use the past perfect: **had just rented**. Not **has**, because the present perfect does not fit with a past time clue like **before they called**.

6. _____ ever driven a car like this before?
✓ **C) Have you**
With **ever … before** about life experience up to now, we use the present perfect question: **Have you ever driven…?** Not **Did you**, because **did** is followed by the base form (**drive**), not **driven**.

7. Who _____ talking to before I came?
✓ **D) had they been**
The clue **before I came** points to an action continuing up to a past moment, so we use the past perfect continuous: **had they been talking**. Not **have they been**, because the present perfect continuous connects to now, not to a past moment.

8. I _____ rather not work in this office. It is terribly cold.
✓ **A) would**
Would rather + base verb means 'prefer': **I would rather not work here.** Not **had**, because **had rather** is not used in modern English (we say **had better** for advice).

9. When _____ possible to get some more information?
✓ **A) Would it be**
In a question the auxiliary comes before the subject: **When would it be possible…?** Not **Would be it**, because the subject **it** must come between **would** and **be**.

10. The plan _____ will put a lot of people out of work.
✓ **A) to mechanize the factory**
The sentence already has a main verb (**will put**), so the gap needs only a phrase describing **the plan**. An infinitive does this: **The plan to mechanize the factory will put…** Not **is to mechanize the factory**, because then the sentence would have two main verbs.

11. The director _____ consulted about the plan.
✓ **B) should have been**
The director did not do the consulting, so we need a passive form: **should have been consulted** means it was the right thing to do, but it did not happen. Not **have been**, because the singular subject **the director** would need **has been**.

12. A: It’s too bad you can’t come tomorrow.

B: I _____ come, but I’d rather stay home.
✓ **A) can**
A says B **can't** come, and B corrects this: **I can come** (it is possible), **but I'd rather stay home** (I prefer not to). Not **do**, because B is talking about ability or possibility, not a habit.

13. Mace _____ a highly flavoured spice used in foods.
✓ **A) is**
The sentence needs a main verb: **Mace is a highly flavoured spice.** Not **which is**, because that makes a relative clause and leaves the sentence without a main verb.

14. Never _____ such a beautiful village before.
✓ **C) have I seen**
When a sentence starts with a negative word like **Never**, the auxiliary comes before the subject (inversion): **Never have I seen…** Not **I had seen**, because after **Never** at the start we need the inverted order.

15. _____ difficult to work when you are tired.
✔ **A) It is**
We use **It is** + adjective + **to**-infinitive to give an opinion about an action: **It is difficult to work.** The present **is** matches **you are tired**. Not **Its**, because **its** is a possessive, not **it is**.

16. _____ to read about the customs of other countries.
✔ **B) It was interesting**
It is used as an 'empty' subject that points forward to the infinitive: **It was interesting to read about…** Not **That was extremely interesting**, because **that** cannot point forward to an infinitive like this.

17. We have a lot of tasks this weekend, _____.
✔ **C) each one demanding great attention**
After the comma we need a phrase, not a new full sentence. The absolute phrase **each one demanding great attention** (noun + -ing form) adds detail about **tasks**. Not **each one is demanding**, because that joins two full sentences with only a comma.

18. Stratford-upon-Avon, the town _____ Shakespeare was born, is visited by thousands of tourists every year.
✔ **C) where**
We use the relative adverb **where** after a place noun when the clause already has a subject and verb: **the town where Shakespeare was born** (= the town in which he was born). Not **which was**, because **Shakespeare was born** already has its verb, and **which** would need a preposition (**in which**).

19. Physical therapy _____ assuage his pain and speed his recovery.
✔ **D) is expected to**
Therapy cannot expect anything itself; people expect it to help. So we need the passive **is expected to** + base verb: **is expected to assuage** (= people think it will reduce his pain). Not **expects to**, because that would mean the therapy is doing the expecting.

20. _____ is that there is a risk of heart attack for the elderly.
✔ **A) One important drawback of aerobics**
The gap is the subject of the verb **is**, so it must be a noun phrase: **One important drawback of aerobics is that…** Not **There is one important drawback of aerobics**, because that is already a full clause and cannot be the subject of **is**.

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