ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 088

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Explanations

1. Why _____ sent late?
✓ **D) was the order**
In a passive question with a question word, the order is **question word + was + subject + past participle**: **Why was the order sent late?** Not **the order was**, because that is statement word order.

2. _____ the stamps put on the package or in it?
✓ **C) Are**
This is a present simple passive question: **are + subject + past participle**. **The stamps** is plural and **put** is the past participle, so we need **Are**. Not **Do**, because **do** is not used to form passive questions.

3. Kevin’s suitcase _____ examined already by the customs officer.
✓ **D) has been**
This is the present perfect passive: **has been + past participle**. The word **already** and the agent **by the customs officer** show a finished passive action. Not **has**, because **has examined** is active and the suitcase cannot examine anything.

4. Much of the work _____ done yesterday.
✓ **B) was**
Yesterday shows the past, so we use the past simple passive: **was + past participle**: **Much of the work was done yesterday.** Not **will be** or **won't be**, because they refer to the future.

5. Was the package _____ carefully?
✓ **C) opened**
This is a past simple passive question: **was + subject + past participle**, so we need **opened**. Not **opening**, because **was ... opening** would be active and would mean the package was doing the opening.

6. Traffic was bad because the highway _____ repaired.
✓ **B) was being**
The past continuous passive (**was being + past participle**) describes an action in progress at a past time. The repairs were happening while the traffic was bad: **the highway was being repaired**. Not **being** alone, because it needs the helping verb **was**.

7. They were in danger of _____.
✓ **D) being injured**
After a preposition such as **of**, we use the **-ing** form. In the passive, this is **being + past participle**: **in danger of being injured**. Not **been injured**, because **been** cannot follow a preposition.

8. The English test was _____ yesterday.
✓ **D) given**
Was + past participle forms the past simple passive: **The test was given yesterday** (someone gave the test). Not **giving**, because **was giving** is active and a test cannot give anything.

9. _____ her never-ending energy, the project turned out to be a failure.
✓ **C) Despite**
Despite is followed by a noun phrase (**her never-ending energy**) and shows contrast: she had a lot of energy, but the project failed. Not **Although**, because **although** must be followed by a full clause with a subject and verb (**Although she had a lot of energy, ...**).

10. _____ happened after she left the house is difficult to explain.
✓ **D) What**
What means "the thing that". Here it starts a noun clause that is the subject of the sentence: **What happened ... is difficult to explain.** Not **That**, because **that** cannot be the subject inside its own clause in this way.

11. _____ was to have dinner after the movie.
✓ **D) What I wanted to do**
The subject is a **what**-clause, and its tense must match the main verb **was**: **What I wanted to do was to have dinner.** Not **What I want**, because the present tense **want** does not fit with the past tense **was**.

12. _____ best is riding horses.
✓ **B) What she likes**
What she likes best is a noun clause meaning "the thing she likes most". It is the subject of **is**: **What she likes best is riding horses.** Not **She likes**, because that would give the sentence two main verbs. Not **What she is like**, because that describes her character.

13. We heard that _____ called the mayor.
✓ **D) she had**
Called here is a past participle, so it needs **had** to form the past perfect: **she had called**. After a past reporting verb (**heard**), the past perfect shows an earlier action. **Would**, **will** and **are** cannot be followed by **called** in this active meaning.

14. Did Smith tell the reporter that the small boats _____?
✓ **D) were crowded**
Were crowded is a passive or adjective form meaning "full of people": **the small boats were crowded**. Not **were crowding**, because the active form needs more information about where they crowded (**crowding into the harbour**).

15. _____ next year, the highway will have been started.
✓ **C) By**
The future perfect (**will have been started**) goes with **by** + time, meaning "not later than": **By next year, the highway will have been started.** Not **Until**, because **until** means an action continues up to that time.

16. _____ its fragile appearance, a newborn infant is extremely sturdy.
✓ **A) In spite of**
In spite of + noun phrase shows contrast: the baby looks fragile, but it is actually very sturdy. Not **Although**, because it must be followed by a clause with a verb (**Although it looks fragile, ...**).

17. They will _____ to build the highway by next year.
✓ **B) have started**
By next year points to the future perfect: **will have + past participle**, so the answer is **will have started**. Not **had started**, because **will** cannot be followed by **had**.

18. The smoke _____ from the oil refinery distorts the view.
✓ **B) that is rising**
The main verb of the sentence is **distorts**, so the gap needs a relative clause that describes **the smoke**: **The smoke that is rising from the oil refinery distorts the view.** Not **is rising**, because then the sentence would have two main verbs.

19. The landlord _____ just rented the apartment when I got there.
✓ **D) had**
The past perfect (**had + past participle**) shows an action finished before another past action: the landlord rented the flat before I arrived. **Just** goes between **had** and the participle. Not **was**, because **was just rented** is passive, but the landlord did the renting.

20. Nucleoproteins are the essential chemicals _____ living matter duplicates itself.
✓ **D) with which**
We say that living matter duplicates itself **with** these chemicals, so the relative clause needs the preposition: **the chemicals with which living matter duplicates itself**. Not **which all**, because the clause needs the preposition **with** before **which**.

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