ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Tenses – Passives (Intermediate / Upper-Intermediate) Test 4

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Explanations

1. A: _____ we _____ somewhere before?

B: Yes, I _____ you at your sister's wedding.
✔ **B) Haven't / met / saw**
Use the present perfect **Haven't we met** to ask about experience at any time up to now. B's answer gives a finished past time (**at your sister's wedding**), so it needs the past simple **saw**. Not **Didn't / met**: after **did** we use the base form (**meet**), not **met**.

2. The weather _____ worse last year than I _____ it to be.
✔ **A) was / had expected**
Last year needs the past simple **was**. The expecting happened before the weather turned out worse, so we use the past perfect **had expected**. Not **have expected**: the present perfect doesn't fit a past story.

3. I _____ hungry at four because I _____ a big lunch at one.
✔ **A) wasn't / had had**
At four o'clock (past) I **wasn't** hungry. The lunch at one happened earlier than that, so we use the past perfect **had had**. Not **was**: a big lunch means you were not hungry.

4. I woke up feeling tired this morning because I _____ very well.
✔ **C) hadn't slept**
The bad sleep happened before I woke up this morning, which is a past moment, so we use the past perfect **hadn't slept**. Not **haven't slept**: the present perfect does not link to the past moment **woke up**. **Hadn't been slept** is passive, and the speaker is the one who slept, so it is wrong.

5. Go out and get some fresh air! You _____ here reading all morning.
✔ **D) have been sitting**
The present perfect continuous **have been sitting** describes an activity that started earlier and is still going on or has just stopped, with a present result. The clue is **all morning**, plus the advice to go out now. Not **had been sitting**: that refers to a time before another past moment.

6. A: Why are you crying?

B: Well, I _____ up onions for the last five minutes.
✔ **A) have been cutting**
For the last five minutes shows an action that started in the past and continues up to now. Its result (the crying) is visible now, so we use the present perfect continuous **have been cutting**. Not **am cutting**: the present continuous is not used with **for** + a period up to now.

7. A: Did you spend your holiday in Miami?

B: No. I was _____ it there, but I changed my mind and went to Antalya instead.
✔ **C) to have spent**
Was/were to have + past participle describes a plan in the past that did not happen: **I was to have spent it there** = I planned to spend it there, but I didn't. Not **to be spent**: that is passive, but here the speaker does the spending.

8. I don't think your brother _____ rid of his bad cold.
✔ **C) has got**
Get rid of means 'become free of'. The present perfect **has got rid of** links a past change to now. After **I don't think**, we keep the next verb positive, so not **hasn't got** or **won't get**: that would be a double negative.

9. Transport systems _____ likely to change in the future. One probable difference is that there _____ more electric vehicles.
✔ **B) are / will be**
Transport systems is plural, so we say **are likely to change**. For a prediction about the future we use **there will be**. Not **will** in the first gap: **will likely** is followed by the base form (**will likely change**), not **to change**. **There are** also does not fit a future prediction.

10. The men were to _____ but the manager decided to give them a second chance.
✔ **A) have been dismissed**
Were to have been + past participle is a past plan that didn't happen, in the passive. The men were going to be dismissed, but they weren't. Not **be dismissing**: that is active and continuous, but the men didn't dismiss anyone.

11. Mike _____ in a travel agency for six months in 1990. He already had some experience of the tourist industry because he _____ in a Tourist Information office in Bristol two years before.
✔ **D) worked / had worked**
A finished period in the past (**for six months in 1990**) takes the past simple **worked**. The earlier job came before that time (**two years before**), so it takes the past perfect **had worked**. Not **has worked**: the present perfect can't be used for a past time.

12. The film _____ already _____ when we sat down.
✔ **C) had / started**
The film started before we sat down, so we use the past perfect **had started**, with **already** between **had** and the participle. Not **has started**: the present perfect doesn't fit a past story with **sat down**.

13. It is due _____ in five years' time.
✔ **D) to be completed**
Be due to + infinitive means 'is planned or expected to happen'. The thing itself doesn't complete anything; someone completes it, so we need the passive infinitive **to be completed**. Not **be completed**: **due** must be followed by **to**.

14. I _____ her a week ago but she _____ yet.
✔ **A) wrote / hasn't answered**
A week ago is a finished past time, so we use the past simple **wrote**. **Yet** goes with the present perfect in negatives: **she hasn't answered yet**. Not **didn't answer**: in British English **yet** is not normally used with the past simple.

15. A: What happens to traffic in a traffic jam?

B: It _____ up.
✔ **A) is held**
The question asks about something that generally happens, so we use the present simple passive **is held up**. **Hold up** means 'delay'. Not **will hold**: it is active, and traffic doesn't hold anything.

16. No one brought up that question at the meeting. That question _____ up at the meeting.
✔ **D) wasn't brought**
No one brought up is past simple with a negative meaning. In the passive that becomes **wasn't brought up**. Not **was brought**: it is positive, but nobody raised the question.

17. By the end of this century most of the world's oil supplies _____.
✔ **D) will have been used up**
By the end of this century needs the future perfect for an action completed before a future time. The oil doesn't use anything; people use it, so we need the passive **will have been used up**. Not **will have used up**: that is active.

18. My brother _____ in a restaurant for the summer, but he _____ it very much.
✔ **B) is working / doesn't like**
For the summer shows a temporary situation happening now, so we use the present continuous **is working**. **Like** is a state verb, so it stays in the present simple: **doesn't like**. Not **has been working / didn't like**: the two tenses don't match the present situation.

19. Someone saw him. He was driving a Renault Manager. He _____ a Renault Manager.
✔ **B) was seen driving**
Someone saw him driving in the passive becomes **He was seen driving**: past simple passive (**was seen**) + **-ing**. Not **saw driving**: that is active and has no object.

20. There has been a serious accident on the E5, and a section of the motorway _____ to traffic.
✔ **B) has been closed**
This is news with a present result, like **There has been** earlier in the sentence. So we use the present perfect passive **has been closed**. Not **are closed**: **a section** is singular.

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