ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Tenses – Passives (Intermediate / Upper-Intermediate) Test 5

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Explanations

1. People say that Istanbul is one of the world's most interesting cities. Istanbul _____ one of the world's most interesting cities.
✔ **B) is said to be**
With verbs like **say**, **think** and **believe**, we can use the pattern subject + **is said to be**. The statement is about now, so we need present **is said**. Not **was said to be**, because people say it now, not in the past.

2. Long ago, people thought that the earth was flat. Long ago, the earth _____ flat.
✔ **B) was thought to be**
People thought that the earth was flat becomes **The earth was thought to be flat**. The clue **Long ago** shows the past, so we need **was thought**. Not **is thought to be**, because people don't think this today.

3. When I arrived, no arrangements _____.
✔ **A) had been made**
The arrangements should have been made before I arrived, so we use the past perfect passive **had been made**. The sentence already has **no**, so the verb must be positive. Not **hadn't been made**, because **no … hadn't** is a double negative.

4. The pilot _____ thought to _____ in the crash.
✔ **A) was / have died**
The pattern is **was thought to** + infinitive. The death happened before the thinking, so we use the perfect infinitive **to have died**: **The pilot was thought to have died**. Not **had**, because the passive needs **was thought**.

5. A: Who's going to meet him at the airport?

B: He _____ by our ambassador.
✔ **A) is going to be met**
The ambassador does the meeting, so we need a passive: **He is going to be met by our ambassador**. This matches **going to** in the question. Not **is going to meet**, because that is active and would mean he meets someone.

6. This week we've had the house _____ into by thieves.
✔ **C) broken**
Have something + past participle can describe something bad that happened to you: **We've had the house broken into**. So we need the past participle **broken**. Not **being broken**, because the break-in is finished.

7. A: What do they use this building for?

B: Well, years ago it _____ as a dance hall but now it _____ for offices.
✔ **C) was used / is used**
Years ago needs the past simple passive **was used**. **Now** describes a present fact, so we use the present simple passive **is used**. Not **has been used**, because the present perfect can't go with **years ago**.

8. A: Were you able to cure the patient?

B: He _____ already _____ by the time I got there.
✔ **B) had / been cured**
The cure happened before I got there, so we use the past perfect passive **had already been cured**. The clue is **by the time I got there**. Not **had / cured**, because that is active and has no object.

9. Uranus was the first planet _____ with a telescope.
✔ **C) to be discovered**
After **the first**, we use a **to**-infinitive. The planet didn't discover anything; someone discovered it, so the infinitive must be passive: **the first planet to be discovered**. Not **to discover**, because that is active.

10. They were unhappy with the way things _____.
✔ **B) were going**
The main verb **were** is in the past, so the description of the situation then also uses the past continuous: **the way things were going**. Not **are going**, because the sentence talks about the past.

11. Don't touch that electric stove while it _____.
✔ **C) is being repaired**
The repair is happening now, and the stove is repaired by someone, so we use the present continuous passive **is being repaired**. Not **was being repaired**, because **Don't touch** is about now.

12. He was 8 kilos overweight and _____ to go on a diet.
✔ **C) was advised**
The first verb is past (**was 8 kilos overweight**), and someone else gave the advice, so we use the past simple passive **was advised**. Not **had advised**, because that is active and means he gave the advice.

13. People like policemen _____ always _____ against flu.
✔ **B) are / vaccinated**
This is a general fact about a plural subject, so we use the present simple passive **are vaccinated**. **Always** goes between **are** and the past participle. Not **is**, because **people** is plural.

14. His novels _____ into eight languages.
✓ **D) have been translated**
The novels don't translate themselves, so we need a passive. **Novels** is plural, so we use the present perfect passive **have been translated**. Not **has been translated**, because the subject is plural.

15. We usually _____ the news on TV at eight o'clock, but tonight we _____ that new soap opera.
✓ **B) watch / are watching**
Usually shows a habit, so we use the present simple **watch**. **Tonight** shows a plan for this evening, so we use the present continuous **are watching**. Not **are watching / are watching**, because a habit needs the present simple.

16. He noticed that the room _____ recently.
✓ **C) hadn't been cleaned**
Noticed is past, and the cleaning (or lack of it) came before the noticing. So we use the past perfect passive **hadn't been cleaned**. Not **hasn't been cleaned**, because the present perfect doesn't fit after a past reporting verb.

17. I hate it when my boiled egg _____ properly.
✓ **B) isn't done**
I hate it when… describes something that often happens, so we use the present simple passive **isn't done**. Not **wasn't done**, because the sentence is about a general situation now.

18. A speech to the nation was _____ by the Prime Minister, but it had to be cancelled at the last minute because of a cabinet crisis.
✓ **D) to have been made**
Was to have been made is the passive form of **was to have done**. It shows that something was planned but didn't happen. The clue is **it had to be cancelled**. Not **has been made**, because the speech never took place.

19. He _____ empty the contents of his suitcases onto the counter.
✓ **B) was made to**
In the active, **make** has no **to**: **They made him empty…**. In the passive, **to** is needed: **He was made to empty…**. Not **was made** alone, because the passive of **make** + verb must include **to**.

20. The authorities feared the missing man was dead. The missing man was feared _____.
✓ **C) to be dead**
The pattern is subject + **was feared** + **to**-infinitive. The state is at the same time as the fearing, so we use **to be dead**. Not **dead** alone, because this pattern needs **to be**.

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