ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Tenses – Passives (Intermediate / Upper-Intermediate) Test 8

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1	**D**	2	**B**	3	**A**	4	**C**	5	**C**	6	**B**	7	**C**	8	**B**	9	**C**	10	**B**
11	**D**	12	**B**																

Explanations

1. It has been predicted that within the next 50 years, scientists _____ a drug to prolong life up to 150 years or more.
✔ **D) will have produced**
Within the next 50 years points to an action that will be finished before a time in the future, so we use the future perfect: **will have produced**. Not **will be produced**, because that is passive and the scientists are the ones doing the producing.

2. We _____ at the Italian restaurant last night, but it was full, so we ate somewhere else.
✔ **B) were going to eat**
Was/were going to describes a past plan that did not happen. The clue is **but it was full, so we ate somewhere else**. Not **were eating**, because they never actually ate there.

3. The door _____ unless you _____.
✔ **A) won't open / push**
This is a first conditional with **unless** (= if not). The main clause uses **will/won't**, and the **unless** clause uses the present simple: **won't open … unless you push**. We don't use **will** after **unless** or **if**.

4. His parents _____ married for eight years when he was born.
✔ **C) had been**
The past perfect **had been** shows a state that continued up to a point in the past (**when he was born**). Not **were**, because **for eight years** measures time up to that earlier past moment.

5. By April 2030, he _____ for this organization for fifteen years.
✔ **C) will have been working**
By + a future time + **for fifteen years** shows the length of an action up to a point in the future. For this we use the future perfect continuous: **will have been working**. Not **had been working**, because that is for a point in the past.

6. He _____ from the company for several years before they found him out.
✔ **B) had been stealing**
The past perfect continuous **had been stealing** shows an action that continued for a period (**for several years**) before another past event (**before they found him out**). Not **has been stealing**, because the story is in the past.

7. He _____ a cold for the last three days.
✔ **C) has been fighting off**
For the last three days shows an action that started in the past and is still going on now. So we use the present perfect continuous: **has been fighting off**. Not **is fighting off**, because the present continuous is not used with **for** + a period up to now.

8. The Prime Minister refuses to enter into negotiations with the railwaymen until they _____ all _____ to work.
✔ **B) have / returned**
After time words such as **until**, we use a present tense, not **will**, even when we talk about the future. The present perfect **have returned** shows that the action must be completed first. Not **will have returned**, because **will** is not used after **until**.

9. In the years ahead, it seems likely that people _____ even greater control over nature.
✔ **C) will acquire**
It seems likely that introduces a prediction about the future, so we use **will** + infinitive: **will acquire**. Not **will be acquired**, because that is passive and people are the ones doing the acquiring.

10. You _____ pleased to hear that your father _____ to the committee.
✔ **B) will be / has been selected**
You will be pleased to hear is a fixed polite way to give good news. The father did not choose himself; someone else chose him, so we need the present perfect passive **has been selected** for recent news. Not **is selecting**, because that is active and has the wrong meaning.

11. Hardly _____ I _____ the phone down when it started ringing again.
✔ **D) had / put**
Hardly … when takes the past perfect, and when **hardly** starts the sentence, the word order is inverted: **Hardly had I put the phone down when…**. Not **did / put**, because the first action must be in the past perfect.

12. The day she agreed to marry him was the happiest he _____ ever _____ in his life.
✔ **B) had / had**
The sentence is in the past (**agreed**, **was**), so we use the past perfect to describe his whole life up to that moment: **the happiest he had ever had**. Not **has / have**, because **has** must be followed by the past participle **had**, and the story is told in the past.