ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Modals (Elementary / Pre-Intermediate) Test 4

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Explanations

1. A: We must go soon, mustn't we?

B: Yes, we _____ go.
✔ **A) had better**
Had better + verb means it is a good idea to do something now: **We had better go.** It fits B's agreement with 'We must go soon'. Not **had to**, because that is about the past.

2. I _____ get up than stay in bed.
✔ **C) would rather**
Would rather + verb + **than** shows what we prefer: **I would rather get up than stay in bed.** The word **than** is the clue.

3. When I was a child, I _____ bite my nails.
✔ **B) used to**
Used to + verb is for a habit in the past that has stopped: **I used to bite my nails.** Not **was used to**, because that means 'accustomed to' and needs **-ing**.

4. Nobody _____ come yesterday.
✔ **C) could**
Could is the past of **can**: **Nobody could come.** Not **wasn't able to**, because **nobody** is already negative. Not **were able to**, because **nobody** takes a singular verb (**was**).

5. If I were you I _____ see a doctor.
✔ **A) would**
We give advice with **If I were you, I would** + verb: **If I were you, I would see a doctor.** Not **will**, because **If I were you** needs **would**, not **will**.

6. A: _____.

B: No, thank you. I've had enough.
✔ **D) Would you like some more?**
B says **I've had enough**, so A is offering more of something B has already had: **Would you like some more?**

7. This _____ be the right road. There is no other way.
✔ **B) must**
Must is used when we are sure something is true. The clue is **There is no other way**, so **This must be the right road.**

8. You _____ get the 9:45 train. You could get the 9:55 and still arrive in time.
✔ **A) don't have to**
Don't have to means it is not necessary. The 9:55 is also fine, so you **don't have to** get the 9:45. Not **mustn't**, because that means it is not allowed.

9. Hurry up! It is a quarter past! We really _____ be late.
✔ **C) mustn't**
Mustn't means it is important not to do something: **We mustn't be late.** Not **don't have to** or **needn't**, because they mean it is not necessary.

10. You _____ play an instrument to enjoy classical music.
✔ **A) don't have to**
Don't have to means it is not necessary: you can enjoy classical music without playing an instrument. Not **mustn't**, because that means it is not allowed.

11. A: I thought there was a cinema here.

B: There _____ be. It's now a supermarket.
✔ **C) used to**
Used to talks about a past situation that is no longer true: **There used to be a cinema.** The clue is **It's now a supermarket.**

12. A: Isn't there a toilet?

B: _____.
✔ **A) There must be one somewhere.**
Must shows we are sure: almost every building has a toilet, so **There must be one somewhere.**

13. You _____ hurry if you want to catch that bus.
✔ **C) had better**
Had better + verb gives strong advice for now: **You had better hurry.** Not **has got to**, because **you** needs **have**, not **has**.

14. Last year Janet _____ run 800 meters in 2 minutes 45; now she _____ do it in 2 minutes 20.
✔ **C) could / can**
Could is for ability in the past (**Last year**), and **can** is for ability now (**now**). Not **was able to / is able**, because **is able** needs **to**.

15. I've got a toothache. I _____ go to the dentist.
✔ **B) must**
Must shows that something is necessary now: **I must go to the dentist.** Not **needed to**, because that is past.

16. I _____ to study for tomorrow's exam.
✔ **A) don't need**
Don't need to means it is not necessary: **I don't need to study.** Only **need** is followed by **to** here. **May not**, **couldn't** and **will not** are used without **to**.

17. A: Why didn't you come to the concert last night?

B: Because I _____ visit a friend in the hospital.
✓ **A) had to**
Had to is the past of **must / have to**. The question is about **last night**, so: **I had to visit a friend.**

18. A: I'm putting on weight.

B: You _____ go on a diet.
✓ **D) should**
Should + verb gives advice: **You should go on a diet.** Not **ought**, because it needs **to** (**ought to go**).

19. You _____ to write and thank him.
✓ **C) ought**
Ought to + verb gives advice: **You ought to write and thank him.** The **to** after the gap is the clue. **Must** and **should** are used without **to**, and **you** needs **have**, not **has**.

20. Jack is preparing for his exams. We _____.
✓ **B) ought not to disturb him**
Jack is studying, so it is a bad idea to interrupt him: **We ought not to disturb him. Ought not to** means it is better not to do something.

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