ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Tenses Multiple Choice Test 1

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11	**B**	12	**C**	13	**A**	14	**E**	15	**B**	16	**C**	17	**A**	18	**D**	19	**D**	20	**B**
21	**B**																		

Explanations

1. All the expenses for the scientific explorations in the area _____ by a number of private institutions.
✔ **E) are borne**
The expenses do not pay for themselves; someone else pays them, so we need the *__passive:__ be + past participle **(**are borne**).** Bear **here means 'pay for' or 'carry the cost of'. Not** have borne **or** had borne*: these are active forms, and the expenses are not doing the action.

2. I have noticed that since I _____ the university, my life _____ much more interesting.
✔ **E) entered / has become**
After **since** we use the *__past simple for the starting point (__since I entered**). The main clause uses the present perfect (**has become**) for a change that started then and continues now. Not** have entered / becomes*: entering the university was a finished past action.

3. While I _____ for my aunt outside the shop, someone _____ my purse.
✔ **C) was waiting / grabbed**
Use the *__past continuous for a longer background action (__was waiting**). Use the past simple for a short action that happened in the middle of it (**grabbed**). The word** while* is the clue.

4. This is the twentieth patient the doctor _____ today.
✔ **C) has examined**
After **This is the first/second/twentieth…** we use the *__present perfect (__has examined**). The word** today **shows the time period is not finished yet. Not** have examined**: the subject** the doctor* is singular.

5. The loud applause _____ how deeply the music _____ the audience.
✔ **B) showed / affected**
Both actions are finished events in the past, so both verbs are in the *__past simple: the applause__ showed **how deeply the music** affected **the audience. Not** shows / would affect**: the present tense and** would* do not fit a single finished past event.

6. Andre's car _____ because he had forgotten to lock it.
✔ **C) was stolen**
The car did not steal anything; someone stole it. So we need the *__past simple passive:__ was stolen**. The forgetting happened earlier, which is why it is in the past perfect (**had forgotten**). Not** had stolen*: this is active and means the car stole something.

7. When I _____, Bert _____ almost half of the report.
✔ **D) arrived / had written**
The writing happened before the arriving. Use the *__past simple for the later action (__arrived**) and the past perfect for the earlier one (**had written**). Not** had arrived / wrote*: this order would mean Bert wrote after I arrived.

8. As a comedian, he is no longer appreciated, but, ten years ago, people _____ at his jokes.
✔ **A) used to laugh**
Used to + infinitive describes a past habit or situation that is no longer true (**people used to laugh**). The sentence says he is **no longer appreciated**, which shows the contrast with now. Not **are used to laughing**: this means 'be accustomed to', and it is in the present.

9. By the time school opens again, I _____ in this restaurant for eight weeks.
✔ **B) will have worked**
By the time + a future point shows an action that will be complete by then. This needs the *__future perfect:__ will have worked**. For eight weeks tells us how long the action will have lasted at that point. Not** would have worked*: this is used for unreal or past-in-the-future situations.

10. We _____ Paris late as we _____ by fog.
✔ **E) reached / were delayed**
Both events are finished past actions, so both verbs are in the *__past simple. The fog delayed us, so the second verb is passive:__ were delayed**. Not** must have reached / delayed**:** delayed* would be active here, which is wrong because the fog did the delaying.

11. If only we _____ the holiday better, we _____ all the major cities of Germany.
✔ **B) had planned / could have visited**
If only + *__past perfect (__had planned**) expresses regret about the past. The result is also unreal and in the past, so it uses** could have + past participle **(**could have visited**). This is a third conditional. Not** planned / visit*: these forms do not refer to an unreal past.

12. While I _____ through some old papers, I _____ this photograph of your brother.
✔ **C) was looking / found**
The *__past continuous (__was looking**) gives the longer background action. The past simple (**found**) is the short action that happened during it.** While* signals the longer action.

13. If I were you, I _____ to a smaller house.
✓ **A) would move**
If I were you is used to give advice and is followed by **would + infinitive**: **I would move**. This is a second conditional. Not **moved**: the past simple goes in the **if**-clause, not the main clause.

14. This time next year, her parents-in-law _____ with us.
✓ **E) will be staying**
This time next year refers to an action that will be in progress at a moment in the future. This needs the ***future continuous:** will be staying**. Not** would stay*: this is not a conditional sentence.

15. Recently, a new way of treating this disease _____.
✓ **B) has been developed**
Recently with a result that matters now calls for the ***present perfect. The way of treating the disease does not develop itself; scientists develop it, so the verb is passive:** has been developed**. Not** had developed*: this is active and past perfect, but there is no earlier past point in the sentence.

16. After I _____ my suitcase, I remembered that I had forgotten to put in my toothbrush.
✓ **C) had locked**
Locking the suitcase happened before remembering. The earlier past action takes the ***past perfect:** had locked**. Not** have locked**: the present perfect cannot be used with the past time of** remembered*.

17. The telephone _____ by someone called Bell.
✓ **A) was invented**
The telephone did not invent anything; Bell invented it. So we need the ***past simple passive:** was invented**. The phrase** by someone **shows who did the action. Not** invented*: this is active and would mean the telephone did the inventing.

18. This is the first letter he _____ since he went abroad in February.
✓ **D) has written**
This is the first… is followed by the ***present perfect (**has written**).** Since **+ a past time also shows a period that continues up to now. Not** wrote**: the past simple does not go with** This is the first... **and** since*.

19. I shall walk to the theatre unless it _____ heavily.
✓ **D) rains**
Unless means 'if not'. Like **if**, it takes the ***present simple when it talks about the future:** unless it rains**. Not** will rain**: we do not normally use** will **after** unless **or** if* in this kind of sentence.

20. The doctor asked her whether she _____ an operation before.
✓ **B) had had**
This is **reported speech** after a past verb (**asked**). The doctor's direct question was **Have you had an operation before?** After a past reporting verb, the present perfect usually moves back to the past perfect: **had had**. The word **before** means 'before the time of asking', which is why the past perfect fits. Not **is having**: the present continuous describes an action happening now and does not go with **before**.

21. They _____ us only one letter since they _____ married.
✓ **B) have written / were**
In the main clause, the ***present perfect (**have written**) covers the period from a past point until now. After** since**, the past simple (**were married**)** gives that starting point, which is the wedding. **Not** wrote / were**: the past simple in the main clause does not go with** since*.

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