ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Tenses Multiple Choice Test 5

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1	**C**	2	**C**	3	**D**	4	**D**	5	**B**	6	**B**	7	**C**	8	**D**	9	**D**	10	**B**
11	**D**	12	**A**	13	**D**	14	**B**	15	**E**	16	**E**	17	**E**	18	**C**	19	**A**	20	**D**

Explanations

1. Oh, no! My favourite dish _____.
✔ **C) has been broken**
The dish broke a moment ago and the result is visible now (**Oh, no!**), so we use the present perfect passive: **has been broken**. **Dish** is singular, so it takes **has**. Not **have been broken**, because **have** goes with plural subjects.

2. I _____ to speak to her about this situation after I _____ with her instructors about it.
✔ **C) am planning / talk**
The present continuous **am planning** describes a plan I have now. After time words like **after**, **when** and **before**, we use the present simple for the future, not **will** or **might**: **after I talk with her instructors**. Not **plan / might talk**, because modal verbs are not used after **after** in a future time clause.

3. I _____ to the bazaar and back by the time you _____ here.
✔ **D) will have been / get**
The future perfect **will have been** shows an action that will be finished before a point in the future. After **by the time**, we use the present simple: **by the time you get here**. **Been ... and back** means a completed trip. Not **will have gone / go**, because **gone** means the person is still away, and **go here** is wrong.

4. The amount of time _____ on cooking is not at all proportional to the amount of time we _____ to eat what is prepared.
✔ **D) spent / take**
Spent is a past participle with a passive meaning: **the time (which is) spent on cooking**. The second gap describes a general truth, so it needs the present simple: **the time we take to eat**. Not **spent / took**, because the sentence talks about what is generally true (**is not**, **is prepared**), not about the past.

5. The interesting ideas _____ by my students could not _____.
✔ **B) presented / be ignored**
Presented by my students is a shortened passive clause (**the ideas which were presented**). The ideas did not ignore anything; someone ignored them, so after the modal **could not** we need the passive infinitive **be ignored**.

6. During the emergency, they _____ to restore electricity with the help of an emergency backup system that the engineers _____ many years earlier.
✔ **B) were able / had installed**
Were able to talks about a past ability on one particular occasion. The engineers installed the system before the emergency (**many years earlier**), so we use the past perfect **had installed**. Not **having installed**, because a relative clause after **that** needs a full verb.

7. Many people _____ the extracts of various plants to help people who _____ ill.
✔ **C) have used / were**
The present perfect **have used** describes something people have done many times up to now. **People** is plural, so the second gap needs **were**, not **is**. Not **were using / is**, because **people who is** is wrong.

8. The librarians at our town library _____ the books and records in alphabetical order so that we _____ them more easily.
✔ **D) are going to arrange / can find**
Are going to arrange shows a plan for the future. After **so that**, we often use **can** to show the purpose: **so that we can find them more easily**. Not **were to arrange / had to find**, because **had to find** means we were forced to find them, which does not show a purpose.

9. Photocopying services _____ available just about everywhere these days.
✔ **D) are**
These days shows a present situation, and the subject **photocopying services** is plural, so we use **are**. Not **is**, because **services** is plural. Not **were**, because the sentence talks about now, not the past.

10. Steven and Joseph _____ that they _____ more than they had originally _____.
✔ **B) noticed / were studying / planned to**
The main verb is past: **noticed**. The studying was in progress at that time, so we use the past continuous **were studying**. The plan came earlier, so it needs the past perfect **had originally planned to**. The **to** stands for **to study**.

11. Many teenagers in this country _____ to spend their summer holidays relaxing and enjoying themselves. They _____ work.
✔ **D) can't afford / have to**
Can't afford to means they don't have enough money to do something. Because of this, they are forced to work, so we use **have to work**. Not **are affording**, because **afford** is not normally used in the continuous form.

12. Every year the alumni of our high school and university _____ to a gathering of old classmates.
✔ **A) are invited**
Every year shows a regular, repeated event, so we use the present simple. The alumni do not invite; they receive the invitation, so the verb is passive: **are invited**. Not **invites**, because that is active and singular.

13. Although the carpenter _____ to deliver my order in one month's time, he _____ actually _____ until two months later.
✔ **D) had promised / didn't / come**
The promise came before the later event in the past, so we use the past perfect **had promised**. The second part needs the past simple negative: **he didn't actually come until two months later**. Not **had promise**, because the past perfect needs the past participle **promised**.

14. We _____ lunch at McDonald's but it was so crowded that we _____ to go to Pizza Hut instead.
✔ **B) were going to have / decided**
Was/were going to + verb shows a past plan that did not happen: **We were going to have lunch at McDonald's, but...** The change of plan was a single past action, so we use the past simple **decided**. Not **were deciding**, because a quick decision is not described with the continuous form.

15. As the weather _____ exceptionally cold, the farmers _____ difficulty harvesting their crops.
✔ **E) was / were having**
The story is in the past, so we use **was** (**weather** is singular and uncountable). The past continuous **were having difficulty** shows a problem that continued over a period of time. Not **is / ...**, because the second part of the sentence is also about the past.

16. The new strains of bacteria that _____ in recent research _____ by the scientists of the Johnson Foundation, who _____ these bacteria will be helpful in the struggle against certain types of insects.
✔ **E) were found / are going to be studied / are hoping**
The bacteria were discovered in the past, so we use the past simple passive **were found**. The future plan needs the passive **are going to be studied**. **Are hoping** matches **will be helpful**. Not **had been found / were being studied / hoped**, because **hoped** would need **would be helpful**, not **will**.

17. After I _____ home, I _____ my wallet to make sure I _____ my money.
✔ **E) got / checked / hadn't lost**
The actions happened one after another in the past, so we use the past simple: **got**, **checked**. Losing the money would have happened before checking, so we use the past perfect **hadn't lost**. The negative is needed because I was hoping the money was still there.

18. My children _____ to have pancakes for breakfast but I can only _____ them on Sunday mornings.
✔ **C) love / make**
The sentence describes a general situation now, so we use the present simple **love**. After the modal **can**, we use the base form of the verb: **can only make**. Not **would love**, because the children always love pancakes; it is not a wish.

19. The new city council _____ to make an amendment to the law which _____ the opening of shops on Sundays.
✔ **A) proposed / had regulated**
The proposal is a finished past action, so we use the past simple **proposed**. The law existed and regulated the shops before the proposal, so we use the past perfect **had regulated**. Not **has proposed / was regulated**, because **was regulated** is passive, but the law itself regulates the shops.

20. The garden party at the Joneses' _____ the best party I _____ to recently.
✔ **D) was / have been**
The party is over, so we use the past simple **was**. After a superlative (**the best party**), we often use the present perfect to mean 'in my experience up to now': **I have been to**. **Recently** is also a clue for the present perfect. Not **is / will be**, because the party has already happened.

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