ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Modality Advanced Level MCQs Test With Answers 2

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| 11 | **D** | 12 | **D** | 13 | **E** | 14 | **C** | 15 | **A** | 16 | **D** | 17 | **B** | 18 | **E** | 19 | **E** | 20 | **D** |
| 21 | **A** | 22 | **B** | 23 | **C** | 24 | **B** | 25 | **D** | 26 | **A** | 27 | **C** | 28 | **C** | 29 | **E** | 30 | **B** |
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## Explanations

**1.** You _____ your own canoe in order to join the canoe club. They cost a lot of money. You _____ mine whenever you want to canoe.
✓ **C) needn't buy / can borrow**
**Needn't** + infinitive means something is not necessary: you don't have to buy a canoe because it is expensive and you have another option. **Can borrow** gives permission: you may use mine whenever you like. Not **mustn't buy**, because that means buying is forbidden, which is not the idea here.

**2.** He is so poor now it's hard to believe that when he was young, he _____ down the street in his Rolls Royce or sometimes his Jaguar car.
✓ **B) would drive**
**Would** + infinitive describes repeated actions or habits in the past: **he would drive down the street**. The clue is 'when he was young' and 'or sometimes', which show a regular past habit. Not **should have driven**, which criticises a past action rather than describing a habit.

**3.** Just as my daughter was about to leave the house on her wedding day, my son spilt some tea on her dress. Fortunately, we _____ the stain with some special soap before the wedding took place.
✓ **A) were able to remove**
For a single successful action on one occasion in the past, use **was/were able to** (or **managed to**), not **could**. Here the stain was removed once, before the wedding, so **were able to remove** is right. Not **could remove**, because affirmative **could** is used for general past ability, not one specific achievement.

**4.** A: Is Julian not visiting Aunt May with us today?

B: Well, he has been called out to an emergency, but he _____ us there if he finishes early.
✓ **D) might join**
**Might** + infinitive expresses a future possibility that is uncertain. The condition 'if he finishes early' shows we are not sure, so **might join** fits. Not **could have joined**, which refers to a past possibility that did not happen.

**5.** A: What were you doing at the bank yesterday?

B: I _____ my bank manager for a loan to repair our house, and luckily, I managed to get it.
✓ **C) had to ask**
**Had to** is the past form of **have to/must** and expresses past obligation or necessity: to repair the house, it was necessary to ask for a loan. Not **must have asked**, which is a deduction about the past, but B is describing what they themselves did.

**6.** A: I can't believe Jane isn't here to collect her award.

B: She _____ the invitation. We definitely should have checked that she had got it.
✓ **E) must not have received**
**Must not have** + past participle is a negative deduction about the past: B is almost sure Jane didn't get the invitation. (In British English **can't have received** is also common.) The clue is 'we should have checked that she had got it'. Not **needn't have received**, which means receiving it was unnecessary.

**7.** A: Did you speak to Sam about the plans for the cake sale to raise money for charity?

B: Yes, I did, and she _____ bake some biscuits and cakes if she has time.
✓ **A) might be able to**
**Might be able to** combines possibility (**might**) and ability (**be able to**) in the future. The condition 'if she has time' shows it is not certain. Not **was able to**, which refers to the past.

**8.** Our plane _____ in Cairo hours ago, but we haven't even taken off from Heathrow yet.
✓ **A) was supposed to land**
**Was/were supposed to** expresses what was planned or expected but did not happen. The plane was scheduled to land hours ago, but 'we haven't even taken off yet'. Not **must have landed**, which is a deduction that it really did land.

**9.** This steak is a little bit undercooked for my taste. _____ putting it back under the grill for another five minutes?
✓ **B) Would you mind**
**Would you mind** + -ing is a polite request asking someone else to do something: **Would you mind putting it back?** Not **Do you mind if I**, which asks permission for the speaker's own action and needs a base verb (**if I put**).

**10.** A: I wonder why Mary didn't want to come shopping in Oxford Street with us.

B: I don't know. She _____ short of money these days because her new kitchen cost her a lot of money.
**✔ E) could be**
**Could** + infinitive is used for a present possibility or guess. B says 'I don't know', so a tentative guess is needed: **she could be short of money**. Not **can be**, which describes something that is sometimes true in general, not a guess about now.

**11.** I _____ to the office to send e-mail any longer. The company has bought me a laptop computer and a mobile phone which can be used for electronic mail and the Internet.
**✔ D) don't have to return**
**Don't have to** means something is no longer necessary. With 'any longer' and the new laptop and phone, returning to the office is not necessary now. Not **needn't have returned**, which refers to an unnecessary action in the past.

**12.** You _____ so envious of your brother. He is successful because, unlike you, he works extremely hard.
**✔ D) shouldn't be**
**Shouldn't** + infinitive gives advice or criticism about present behaviour: it is wrong to be envious, because your brother earns his success. Not **may not be**, which only expresses possibility.

**13.** Oh dear, we seem to have run out of salt. I _____ to the corner shop before dinner.
**✔ E) will have to go**
**Will have to** expresses a future necessity that arises from the situation: there is no salt, so it will be necessary to go to the shop. Not **needn't go**, which means the opposite.

**14.** I can't understand why Dad is now so careful with his money. He _____ such a generous person.
**✔ C) used to be**
**Used to** + infinitive describes a past state that is no longer true: Dad was generous before, but now he is careful with money. Not **would be**, because **would** for past habits is not normally used with state verbs like **be**.

**15.** Trade is so poor these days! We _____ just two cars since I started working here a month ago.
**✔ A) have been able to sell**
**Have been able to** is the present perfect of **can**, used for ability over a period up to now. The clue is 'since I started working here a month ago', which needs the present perfect. Not **had to sell**, which expresses obligation, not ability.

**16.** A: _____ we drive to Sultan Ahmet in our new car?

B: Well, I _____ take the ferry to avoid the traffic.
**✔ D) Shall / would sooner**
**Shall we…?** makes a suggestion. **Would sooner** (= would rather) + base verb expresses preference: **I would sooner take the ferry**. Not **Can / would like**, because **would like** needs **to** before the verb.

**17.** I was going to write my essay about the British nuclear tests in the Australian desert, but I _____ the topic when I _____ much information about them.
**✔ B) had to change / couldn't find**
**Had to** expresses past necessity: you were forced to change the topic. **Couldn't find** expresses inability in the past; **could** is fine in the negative for a single occasion. Not **have changed / wasn't able to find**, because the present perfect does not fit the finished past story.

**18.** _____ you do me a favour, please? _____ you ask Mrs Green if the interview room is available?
**✔ E) Could / Would**
**Could you…?** and **Would you…?** are both polite ways to ask someone to do something. Not **May / Could**, because **may** asks permission for the speaker (**May I…?**) and is not used with **you** for requests.

**19.** I was falling asleep while I was typing my speech last night. The only way I _____ awake was by drinking lots of strong coffee.
**✔ E) was able to stay**
**Was able to** expresses ability on a specific past occasion: last night, drinking coffee was the only way I managed to stay awake. Not **ought to stay**, which is advice, not past ability.

**20.** _____ you hold this shelf here while I go and get my hammer?
**✔ D) Will**
**Will you…?** is an informal way to ask someone to do something: **Will you hold this shelf?** Not **Shall**, because **Shall** is used with **I** or **we** for offers and suggestions, not with **you** for requests.

**21.** The tyres of my car _____ thin already. I only replaced them in January. I'll have to buy better quality ones next time.
**✔ A) shouldn't have worn**
**Shouldn't have** + past participle shows something happened that was not expected or right: the tyres were replaced only in January, so they were not expected to wear thin yet. Not **needn't have worn**, which talks about an unnecessary action.

**22.** According to their letter, we _____ them with a copy of our company's accounts before we can order any cars on contract hire.
**✔ B) have to supply**
**Have to** expresses obligation, often a rule from someone else: their letter says it is necessary to send the accounts before ordering. Not **may have supplied**, which is a guess about the past.

**23.** I suppose I _____ to type his report for him, but, at the time, I didn't know how important it was.
**✔ C) could have offered**
**Could have** + past participle describes a past possibility that was not used: I was able to offer to type the report, but I didn't. **I suppose** and **I didn't know how important it was** show mild regret. Not **was able to offer**, because that would mean the offer really happened.

**24.** A: Why is Mom still in the hospital? She _____ home today.

B: They wanted to do some more tests.
✔ **B) was supposed to come**
**Was supposed to** expresses a plan or expectation that did not happen: Mom was expected to come home today, but she is still in the hospital. Not **must have come**, which is a deduction that she did come home.

**25.** I'd like to have some people for dinner tonight, but it is too late to ask anyone because they _____ their plans already.
✔ **D) may have made**
**May have** + past participle is a guess about something that has possibly already happened: people have possibly made plans already. Not **are making**, because 'already' points to a completed action, not one in progress.

**26.** George _____ better in the tennis tournament than I thought he _____ because he got through to the finals.
✔ **A) must have played / could**
**Must have** + past participle is a confident deduction about the past: he reached the final, so he surely played well. **Than I thought he could** uses past **could** for ability. Not **will have played / ought to**, because **will have played** refers to the future.

**27.** Ever since he took on this part-time job, he _____ enough time on his studies.
✔ **C) hasn't been able to spend**
**Ever since** + past tense needs the present perfect in the main clause, and **can** has no perfect form, so we use **hasn't been able to spend**. Not **wasn't able to spend**, which is past simple and does not connect to now.

**28.** Now that they have raised the prices at the gym, I _____ going there or I'll have difficulty paying it.
✔ **C) had better stop**
**Had better** + base verb gives strong advice about the present or future, often with a warning: **...or I'll have difficulty**. Not **must have stopped**, which is a deduction about the past.

**29.** My brother's eyesight is perfect, but I _____ glasses since I was seven years old.
✔ **E) have had to wear**
**Have had to** is the present perfect of **have to**, for a necessity that started in the past and continues now. The clue is 'since I was seven'. Not **have to wear**, because **since** needs the present perfect.

**30.** Would you mind if I _____ these trade magazines home to read? I never get time to read them in the office.
✔ **B) took**
After **Would you mind if I...?** we normally use the past simple, which makes the request more polite: **Would you mind if I took...?** Not **taking**, which follows **Would you mind** without **if I** (**Would you mind me taking...?**).

**31.** I am really surprised that Robby hasn't signed up yet for the skiing holiday this year. He _____ the first to book every year.
✔ **E) used to be**
**Used to** + infinitive describes a past habit or state that is no longer true: in past years he was always first to book, but this year he hasn't signed up. Not **may have been**, which is only a guess, while the speaker knows it happened every year.

**32.** Your mother _____ a restaurant. She is such a wonderful cook. If she opened a restaurant, I'm sure it would be full every night.
✔ **C) should open**
**Should** + infinitive gives advice or a recommendation: she is a wonderful cook, so opening a restaurant is a good idea. Not **would open**, which needs a condition and does not give advice.

**33.** We _____ offices soon. I saw the boss this morning viewing the new office block next to the station.
✔ **D) may be moving**
**May be** + -ing expresses a possible future arrangement: seeing the boss viewing a new office block is a clue, but not proof. Not **had better move**, which is advice, not a guess.

**34.** A: Peter in the accounts department retired yesterday.

B: He _____ permanently yesterday. I saw him at his desk only this morning.

A: Oh well, he had his retirement presentation yesterday, but perhaps that was because the chairman was here. Maybe he is leaving on Friday.
✔ **A) can't have left**
**Can't have** + past participle is a negative deduction about the past: B is sure Peter didn't leave yesterday because B saw him at his desk this morning. Not **hasn't left**, because the present perfect cannot be used with 'yesterday'.

**35.** A: Did you have a busy day at the shop? If you did, you _____ rushed off your feet without me there.

B: No, I wasn't. It was quite a quiet day.
✔ **A) must have been**
**Must have been** is a deduction about the past: if it was busy, you were surely very busy without me. **Rushed off your feet** means extremely busy. Not **might be**, which refers to the present, not to the day that has finished.

**36.** I was just about to buy a new pair when the police rang to say my handbag had been found with my glasses still inside. So I _____ a new pair after all.
✔ **E) didn't need to buy**
**Didn't need to** + infinitive means something was not necessary, and usually it was not done: the speaker was about to buy glasses but didn't because the bag was found. Not **needn't have bought**, which means she bought them although it was not necessary.

**37.** A: Why is she still perspiring? She _____ too hot. I've taken her jumper off.

B: In that case, she _____ a fever. You'd better take her temperature.
✔ **A) can't be / must have**
**Can't be** is a negative deduction (I'm sure she isn't too hot, her jumper is off), and **must have** is a positive deduction (I'm sure she has a fever). Not **shouldn't be / had**, because **had** is past simple and does not express a deduction about now.

**38.** Please, Mum, _____ I watch the film tonight? I have finished all my homework.
✔ **B) may**
**May I...?** is a polite way to ask for permission. Not **should**, which asks for advice, not permission.

**39.** I really missed Istanbul, where I lived when I was younger. On summer evenings, we _____ along the coast by the Sea of Marmara when the sun was setting behind Kınalıada.
✔ **C) would walk**
**Would** + infinitive describes a repeated action in the past: **On summer evenings, we would walk…**. 'On summer evenings' shows a regular habit. Not **had walked**, which is the past perfect and shows an earlier action, not a habit.

**40.** A: Julester looks so slim.

B: Has she been dieting?

A: Not that I am aware of.

B: Well, she _____ very hard then. She goes horse riding, doesn't she?
✔ **A) must have been exercising**
**Must have been** + -ing is a deduction about an activity going on over a period up to now: she isn't dieting, so she has surely been exercising hard. Not **will have been exercising**, which looks forward to a future time.

**41.** You _____ a tie on Friday. They don't let men into the restaurant unless they are wearing a tie.
✔ **B) have to wear**
**Have to** expresses obligation that comes from a rule: the restaurant doesn't let men in without a tie. Not **can wear**, which only gives permission, not obligation.

**42.** Jennifer _____ the promotion that she is expecting as she hasn't reached her sales target yet.
✔ **E) may not get**
**May not** + infinitive expresses a future possibility in the negative: since she hasn't reached her target, it's possible she won't get the promotion. Not **shouldn't have got**, which refers to the past.

**43.** Mom, according to what the doctor instructed you to do, you _____ any salt on your food. You know! If you insist on eating that much salt, you are bound to have another heart attack!
✔ **E) aren't supposed to put**
**Aren't supposed to** expresses what you are not allowed to do according to rules or instructions, here the doctor's orders. Not **don't have to put**, which means it is not necessary but still allowed.

**44.** Alfred _____ his ankle badly as we _____ in the mountains last Saturday.
✔ **D) sprained / were hiking**
A short past action interrupting a longer one: past simple (**sprained**) for the event and past continuous (**were hiking**) for the background activity. 'Last Saturday' shows a finished past time. Not **has sprained**, because the present perfect cannot be used with 'last Saturday'.

**45.** _____ I look after Catty for a couple of hours so that you and Kevin can go to the cinema?
✔ **E) Shall**
**Shall I…?** is used to make an offer: **Shall I look after Catty?** Not **Would**, because **Would I…?** is not used to offer help.

**46.** During the strike of the railway workers, many commuters _____ a taxi to and from work, sharing it between three or four people so that they could afford it.
✔ **B) had to hire**
**Had to** expresses past necessity: because of the strike, commuters were forced to hire taxis. The clue is the past context (**During the strike**, **could afford**). Not **ought to hire**, which gives advice and does not describe what people were forced to do in the past.

**47.** We _____ by the river, but unfortunately, the riverside car park was full.
✔ **D) were going to park**
**Was/were going to** expresses a past plan or intention that did not happen: we planned to park there, but the car park was full. Not **had parked**, which would mean we actually parked there.

**48.** You _____ some more appointments to get some more business. You're never going to achieve your sales target at this rate.
✔ **C) should make**
**Should** + infinitive gives advice: making more appointments is the right thing to do, because 'you're never going to achieve your sales target at this rate'. Not **would make**, which needs a condition and does not give advice.

**49.** You haven't got time to do the gardening. I think you _____ a gardener, don't you?
✔ **A) ought to employ**
**Ought to** + infinitive gives advice, like **should**: hiring a gardener is a good idea because you have no time. Not **must have employed**, which is a deduction about the past.

**50.** I'm glad that you _____ your father to let you come on this trip with us. It wouldn't be so enjoyable without you!
✔ **D) were able to persuade**
**Were able to** expresses success on a specific past occasion: you managed to persuade your father. Not **could have persuaded**, which means it was possible but did not happen, and the speaker is glad it did happen.