ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Modals Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 4

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Explanations

1. Cold deserts, which don't receive much precipitation, _____ in snow.
✓ **E) can be covered**
Can + passive infinitive expresses general possibility: something that is sometimes true. Cold deserts are not always snowy, but snow cover is possible, so **can be covered** fits. Not **must be covered**, which means it is certain or necessary. Not **might have been covered**, which refers to the past.

2. The money in our pockets _____ far less today than it _____ ten years ago.
✓ **B) can buy / could**
Use **can** for ability or possibility in the present (**today**) and **could** for the past (**ten years ago**): **Money can buy less today than it could ten years ago.** The second **could** stands for **could buy**. Not **could buy / would**, because **would** does not express past ability here.

3. They reminded me that we _____ an early start the next morning, so we _____ late to bed.
✓ **C) would make / wouldn’t be**
In reported speech, **will** becomes **would**. The original words were **We will make an early start, so we won't be late to bed**, which become **we would make … we wouldn't be**. The past reporting verb **reminded** and **the next morning** are the clues. Not **must have made / can't be**, because these are deductions about the past, not a reported future plan.

4. Emergency supplies _____ the earthquake area as soon as possible with the help of the UN. It is crucial.
✓ **A) must reach**
Must expresses strong present necessity or obligation. The clues **as soon as possible** and **It is crucial** show the supplies need to arrive urgently. Not **should have reached**, which criticises something that did not happen in the past.

5. When I entered the kitchen, I realized that the chocolate cake was all gone! Someone _____ it.
✓ **C) must have eaten**
Must have + past participle is a confident deduction about the past. The cake is all gone, so the speaker is sure that **someone must have eaten it**. Not **should have eaten**, which means someone was supposed to eat it but didn't.

6. No one knows exactly who the first Americans were, but scientists exploring caves have found evidence that they _____ from Asia.
✓ **C) must have arrived**
Must have + past participle is a logical conclusion about the past based on evidence. The scientists **have found evidence**, so they conclude the first Americans **must have arrived** from Asia. Not **should have arrived** or **ought to have arrived**, which mean something was expected or desirable but did not happen.

7. After the spraying, when residents reported health problems, state health officials said the amount of insecticide applied in Monterey _____ severe health risks.
✓ **A) shouldn't have posed**
Should (not) have + past participle can express what was expected or probable in the past. The officials mean that, by their expectations, the amount of insecticide **should not have posed** serious risks, even though residents reported problems. Not **mustn't have posed**, because a negative deduction about the past uses **can't have**, not **mustn't have**. Not **needn't have posed**, which means something was done unnecessarily.

8. If the jury members _____ agreement, the case _____ retried before a new jury.
✓ **D) can’t reach / must be**
This is a real present/general condition: **If** + present (**can't reach**), then a present modal for obligation (**must be retried**). **Can't reach agreement** means the jury is unable to agree, and the rules then require a retrial. Not **can't have reached**, which is a deduction about the past and doesn't work after **if** here.

9. The people who lived there _____ everything they needed from the gifted forest.
✓ **B) could get**
Could expresses general ability or possibility in the past. The past verb **lived** sets the time, so the people **could get** everything they needed from the forest. Not **should get**, which suggests obligation or advice rather than ability.

10. If a store manager decides to take a shoplifter to court, the legal process _____ both time-consuming and expensive.
✓ **B) may be**
May expresses possibility: the legal process is possibly, but not certainly, slow and costly. **May be** fits a sentence describing what can happen if a manager goes to court. Not **must be**, which is too strong because it shows certainty or necessity.

11. Some European politicians, it seems, _____ spend billions on aid than allow poor-world farmers to sell attractively priced food to Europe's consumers.
✔ **A) would rather**
Would rather + base verb + **than** + base verb expresses preference: **would rather spend … than allow**. The bare infinitive **spend** and the word **than** are the clues. Not **would prefer**, which needs **to** + infinitive (**would prefer to spend … rather than allow**).

12. Governments _____ regions in their countries more autonomy so that they _____ and enjoy their own cultures rather than serving the centralized policies of the capital city.
✔ **E) should give / can protect**
Should gives the writer's recommendation (**Governments should give …**). **So that** + **can** expresses the purpose (**so that they can protect …**). Not **should have given / would have protected**, because these refer to the past, while the sentence makes a general present proposal. Not **can protected**, which is wrong because **can** takes the base form.

13. Rich people _____ permitted to buy educational advantages by sending their children to private schools or _____ all schools be run by the state?
✔ **A) should be / should**
The sentence presents two alternatives about what is right, so **should** is used in both parts. The second part is a question with inversion: **should all schools be run …?** Not **ought to**, because its question form would be **ought all schools to be run**, not **ought to all schools be run**.

14. Greenpeace operates internationally and _____ governments and large oil companies through feats of direct action which attract public sympathy.
✔ **D) is able to embarrass**
Be able to expresses present ability and matches the present simple **operates**. Greenpeace **is able to embarrass** governments through direct action. Not **would embarrass**, because nothing in the sentence sets up a hypothetical or past habit.

15. Do people have the right to smoke when children in the same house or colleagues in the same office _____ the smoke, whether they like it or not?
✔ **B) have to inhale**
Have to expresses necessity imposed by circumstances: the children and colleagues have no choice. The clue **whether they like it or not** shows that breathing the smoke is unavoidable, not merely possible. Not **might / may inhale**, which only express possibility.

16. Clients _____ the part of town where they want to be based if they want, though this _____ their choice of price-range.
✔ **A) can specify / may limit**
Can expresses permission or option: clients **can specify** the area if they want. **May** expresses possibility: this choice **may limit** the price range. Not **must specify**, because **if they want** shows it is optional, not compulsory.

17. During the twentieth century, women in Britain _____ vigorously for equal rights - the right to vote and the right to work in posts traditionally reserved for men.
✔ **C) had to campaign**
Had to + base verb expresses necessity in the past. Women were forced to campaign because they were not given equal rights. The time phrase **During the twentieth century** needs a past form. Not **must have campaigned**, which is a deduction about the past, whereas this is a historical fact. Not **must be campaigning**, which refers to the present.

18. Any kind of modification _____ without informing all the members at that meeting.
✔ **E) ought not to have been made**
Ought not to have + past participle criticises a past action. The modification was made without informing the members at **that** (past) meeting, and this was wrong. The passive **have been made** is needed because a modification is made by someone. Not **shouldn't have made**, because it is active and has no object.

19. The Supreme Election Council _____ the end results of the election at tomorrow's gathering.
✔ **B) is bound to verify**
Be bound to + base verb means something is certain to happen, or that someone is obliged to do it. With **tomorrow's gathering**, it shows the council will definitely verify the results. Not **might as well verify**, which means 'there is no better option', and not **would verify**, which needs a hypothetical or past context.

20. As an antielectron speeds along, it _____ come up against one of the trillions of ordinary electrons in its immediate neighbourhood. It will do that in perhaps a millionth of a second.
✔ **E) is bound to**
Be bound to + base verb means 'certain to happen'. The next sentence, **It will do that in perhaps a millionth of a second**, confirms that the collision is certain. Not **ought**, which needs **to** before the verb and expresses duty, not certainty. Not **was unlikely to**, which contradicts the next sentence and is in the wrong tense.

21. Scientists fear that a patient's immune system _____ stem cells unless they _____ genetically identical to the patient's other cells.
✔ **A) may reject / are**
May expresses possibility: scientists fear that rejection is possible. After **unless**, a present tense is used for a real condition (**unless they are genetically identical**). Not **could reject / had been**, because the past perfect does not fit a general present situation.

22. I _____ to make myself heard above the noise lest I _____ lost there.
✔ **B) had to shout / should get**
Had to expresses past necessity. **Lest** (formal, meaning 'so that … not') is traditionally followed by **should** + base verb or a subjunctive: **lest I should get lost**. Not **used to shout / would get**, because **would** is not used after **lest**.

23. We _____ that we, the adults, are out to educate a group that mostly does not want education, and tailor our work accordingly.
✓ D) should remember
Should + base verb gives advice or a recommendation about the present. The writer advises adults to **remember** this and **tailor our work accordingly**. Not **must have remembered**, which is a deduction about the past.

24. A spokeswoman said the company has identified only four deaths to date where its recalled heparin _____ a role.
✓ E) may have played
May have + past participle expresses possibility about the past. The company admits the heparin **possibly** played a role in those deaths, but it is not certain. Not **must have played**, which would be a confident deduction that a company spokeswoman is unlikely to make.

25. It was so dark that I fell down the stairs last night. I _____ the light.
✓ B) should have fixed
Should have + past participle expresses regret or criticism about something that wasn't done in the past. The speaker didn't fix the light and fell, so **I should have fixed the light**. Not **must have fixed**, which is a deduction that something happened.

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