ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Modals and Auxiliary Verbs Test 2

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

Explanations

1. Now that you have a job, you _____ be more responsible. You _____ sleep till noon any more. You _____ start work at 8 in the morning. You _____ dress in a suit and tie. You _____ act like a schoolboy any longer.
✓ **A) must / can't / have got to / must / can't**
Rules and obligations use **must** and **have got to**. A thing that is not allowed or not possible uses **can't**. Now that you have a job, you **must** be responsible, you **can't** sleep till noon, you **have got to** start at 8, you **must** wear a suit and you **can't** act like a schoolboy.

2. If people acted better towards each other there _____ less grief in the world.
✓ **B) would be**
This is the second conditional, used for an imagined situation: **If** + past simple (**acted**), then **would** + verb. So: **there would be less grief**. Not **won't be**, because **will/won't** belongs to the first conditional (**If people act…**).

3. After all the success you have achieved, you _____ proud of yourself.
✓ **D) should be**
Should + verb gives advice or says what is right or expected: after so much success, it is right that you **should be proud** of yourself. Not **can't be**, because that means it is impossible, which goes against the meaning of the sentence.

4. She _____ have gone to the doctor. All she _____ done was to rest for a few days.
✓ **C) needn't / should have**
Needn't have + past participle means someone did something that was not necessary: she went to the doctor, but it wasn't needed. **Should have** + past participle says what would have been the right thing to do: **All she should have done was to rest**.

5. I _____ have been more pleased. The results of my work _____ by all my superiors.
✓ **E) couldn't / were praised**
Couldn't have been more pleased means 'I was as pleased as possible'. The second gap needs the past passive, **were praised**, because the results received the action and the story is in the past. Not **are praised**: it is in the present, and **would have been** does not fit the first gap.

6. I _____ called a taxi. The bus had not come yet so I still had time to catch the bus.
✓ **B) needn't have**
Needn't have + past participle means you did something, but it wasn't necessary. I called a taxi, but the bus hadn't come yet, so there was time to catch it: **I needn't have called a taxi**. Not **needn't**, because it must be followed by the base form (**needn't call**), not **called**.

7. I _____ to see him. The secretary took care of my problems.
✓ **A) didn't need**
Didn't need to + verb means something wasn't necessary in the past. The secretary solved my problems, so **I didn't need to see him**.

8. I _____ you to pick up that snake!
✓ **B) dare**
Dare someone to do something means to challenge someone to do something brave or dangerous: **I dare you to pick up that snake!** Here **dare** is a normal verb in the present simple, followed by an object and **to**.

9. If I were you, I _____ go in to see the boss at the moment. He's very busy and probably won't listen to you.
✓ **D) shouldn't**
If I were you, I shouldn't / wouldn't… is used to give advice. **I shouldn't** in this pattern is British English and means the same as **I wouldn't**. The boss is busy, so the advice is not to go in. Not **would rather**, because it does not fit after **If I were you** and it gives the opposite advice.

10. _____ there be anything else, sir?
✓ **A) will**
Will there be anything else? is a polite fixed question used by waiters and shop staff to ask about the customer's next wish. Not **should**, because **Should there be anything else…** starts a formal 'if' clause, not a question.

11. I _____ speak Spanish 10 years ago, but I _____ now.
✓ **E) couldn't / can**
Could is the past of **can** for ability. **Ten years ago** shows the past, so **I couldn't speak Spanish**. **Now** shows the present, so **but I can now**.

12. Michael is such a clever student that he _____ do well in university next year.
✓ **C) should**
Should can show what we expect to happen, based on what we know: Michael is very clever, so he **should do well** next year. Not **can't**, because that means it is impossible, which goes against 'such a clever student'.

13. The teacher told the children that they _____ look both directions before crossing the street.
✓ **A) had to**
In reported speech, **must** or **have to** usually becomes **had to**. The teacher said 'You must look both ways', so it is reported as **they had to look**. Not **couldn't**, because the teacher gave a rule, not a ban.

14. I have a bad headache. I _____ be able to finish reading this report until I feel better.
✓ **E) won't**
Won't be able to is the future of **can't**, used for an ability we will not have in the future. With a bad headache, **I won't be able to finish** the report until I feel better. **Can** and **could** are never followed by **be able to**.

15. You _____ talk to each other if you want to settle your dispute. You _____ get anywhere if you both refuse to discuss the matter.
✓ **B) should / won't**
Should gives advice: **You should talk to each other**. **Won't** makes a prediction about the result: if you both refuse to talk, **you won't get anywhere**. Not **have to / will**, because **will get anywhere** doesn't make sense after 'refuse to discuss'.

16. I'm not sure where I lost my wallet. I _____ forgotten it in the department store.
✓ **C) might have**
Might have + past participle is used to guess about the past when you are not sure: **I might have forgotten it**. The clue is **I'm not sure**. Not **might**, because **might** needs the base form (**might forget**), not **forgotten**.

17. We _____ get in touch with Julie. There is a water leak in her apartment and she _____ come home so that we _____ get in and repair it.
✓ **B) must / has to / can**
Must shows a strong need felt by the speaker: **We must get in touch with Julie**. **Has to** shows a need caused by the situation (the leak): **she has to come home**. **So that we can** shows purpose and possibility: **so that we can get in**.

18. She _____ at the pool when I called. I thought she was at home but no one answered the phone.
✓ **E) must have been**
Must have been is used for a confident guess about the past based on evidence: no one answered the phone, so she **must have been** at the pool. Not **must be**, because **when I called** shows the past.

19. Who _____ the filing this afternoon? It's all still here! People _____ be more responsible about their work.
✓ **E) should have done / ought to**
Should have done asks who had the duty to do something that was not done. The files are all still here, so nobody did the filing. **Ought to** means the same as **should** and gives advice or criticism: **People ought to be more responsible**.

20. You _____ be more careful. It isn't advisable to play with strange animals.
✓ **B) have to**
Have to shows that something is necessary. Playing with strange animals is not a good idea, so **You have to be more careful**. Not **needn't**, because that says being careful is not necessary, which is the opposite of the meaning.

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