ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Modals and Auxiliary Verbs Test 3

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Explanations

1. It was too late! The doctor _____ help the patient. He told the family that they _____ too long before calling him.
✓ **C) couldn't / had waited**
Couldn't shows that the doctor was not able to help because it was too late. **Had waited** is the past perfect: the waiting happened before the doctor's visit. Not **wouldn't**, because that means he refused to help, not that he was unable to.

2. I _____ not have fried food this evening.
✓ **D) would rather**
We use **would rather** + base verb to talk about what we prefer. The negative is **would rather not** + verb: **I'd rather not have fried food.** Not **rather could**, because this phrase does not exist in English.

3. _____ you be joining us for dinner this evening?
✓ **A) will**
Will you be + -ing (the future continuous) is a polite way to ask about someone's plans: **Will you be joining us?** Not **may**, because we don't use **may you** to ask about someone's plans.

4. _____ it be possible that he left the wrong package here?
✓ **E) could**
Could is used to talk about a possibility: **Could it be possible that...?** Not **will**, because **will** talks about the future, and the sentence is about something that may already have happened (**he left**).

5. I _____ like to make an appointment to see the dentist this evening.
✓ **B) would**
Would like is the polite way to say what you want: **I would like to make an appointment.** Not **will**, because we don't say **I will like to...** when we make a polite request.

6. She knows that she _____ see me before the meeting tonight.
✓ **A) has to**
Has to shows obligation: it is necessary for her to see me before the meeting. It matches the present tense **knows** and the third person **she**. Not **would**, because there is no condition or past reporting that would make **would** correct.

7. _____ I borrow the car today? Mine isn't working.
✓ **C) may**
May I...? is a polite way to ask for permission: **May I borrow the car?** Not **must**, because **must** asks whether something is necessary, not whether you are allowed to do it.

8. The child asked her mother if she _____ come with her.
✓ **D) could**
In reported questions, **can** becomes **could**. The child's words were **Can you come with me?**, so we report them as **She asked if she could come with her.** The other options are not correct verb forms.

9. He is afraid that the manager _____ become angry so he _____ ask him for the day off.
✓ **B) might / may not**
Might shows a possibility: the manager may become angry. **May not** shows that it is possible he will decide not to ask for the day off. Not **could / isn't to**, because **isn't to** means 'is not allowed or supposed to', which does not fit the meaning.

10. "I wonder where Tom is. It is terribly late."
"Don't worry. He _____ held up by traffic."
✓ **B) could have been**
Could have been + past participle is a passive form for a possible past event: **He could have been held up** (delayed) **by traffic.** Not **might have**, because the passive needs **been**: **might have been held up**.

11. I _____ to take care of the baby for you while you're out.
✓ **E) shall be able**
Shall be able to is the future of **can**. It shows that the speaker will be able to help in the future: **I shall be able to take care of the baby.** Not **must have been able**, because that is a guess about the past.

12. I know that I _____ take the bus because I'm trying to save money, but I think I _____ take a taxi instead today.
✓ **A) should / will**
Should gives the sensible choice (taking the bus saves money). **Will** shows a decision the speaker makes now. The word **but** shows the contrast between what the speaker should do and what they will do. Not **shouldn't / will**, because the bus is the cheaper choice, so the speaker should take it.

13. You _____ have turned down the flame on the cooker. The meal _____ have burned then.
✓ **C) should / wouldn't**
Should have + past participle criticises a past action that did not happen. **Wouldn't have** + past participle gives the imagined result: if you had turned the flame down, **the meal wouldn't have burned**. Not **must / had**, because **had have burned** is not a correct form.

14. I _____ go to Ankara yesterday, so I _____ call you.
✓ **A) had to / couldn't**
Had to is the past of **have to** (obligation yesterday). **Couldn't** is the past of **can't**: because of the trip, I was not able to call you. Not **could / hadn't**, because **hadn't call** is not a correct form.

15. Every morning before leaving the house, you _____ make your bed. That is a rule of this house.
✓ **B) have to**
Have to shows a present obligation or rule. The clues **every morning** and **That is a rule** show a present habit and a present rule. Not **had to**, because that is the past form.

16. "_____ Ali have been here by now?"
"Yes, he said he'd be here at 3, it's about 4 now."
✓ **D) shouldn't**
Shouldn't… have been asks whether something expected has happened: Ali said he'd come at 3, so we expect him to be here by 4. Not **could**, because the reply shows that he was expected, not just that it was possible.

17. The person calling me _____ be the same person who has been calling you also.
✓ **A) must**
Must is used for a strong, logical guess about the present: **It must be the same person.** Not **have to**, because **The person… have to be** has the wrong verb form; it would need **has to**.

18. The youth was _____ to go out after 10 at night. His father was a very strict man.
✓ **B) not allowed**
Be not allowed to means you don't have permission: **He was not allowed to go out.** The clue is that his father was very strict. Not **couldn't**, because **was couldn't** is not correct; modals do not follow **was**.

19. I assume that it _____ make George very happy to learn that he has gotten the job.
✓ **D) will**
Will is used for a confident prediction about the future: **It will make George very happy.** Not **can't**, because the news is good and it would make him happy, not the opposite.

20. I _____ you didn't tell anyone about this incident quite yet.
✓ **C) would sooner**
Would sooner (like **would rather**) + subject + past simple expresses a preference about another person's action: **I would sooner you didn't tell anyone.** The past form **didn't** refers to the present or future here. Not **would** alone, because **I would you didn't…** is old-fashioned and not used today.

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