ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Passive Voice Advanced Level MCQs Test With Answers 1

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Explanations

1. The results of the research _____ that, presently, several East Asian countries _____ rapidly.
✔ **B) indicate / are developing**
The research results still show this now, so we use the present simple **indicate**. **Presently** means 'at the moment', so the second gap needs the present continuous **are developing** for a process happening now. Not **were developing**, because the past tense clashes with **presently**.

2. Understandably, her friends _____ when Julia married someone else after being engaged to John for two years.
✔ **B) were surprised**
The friends felt the emotion, so we need the passive-type adjective **were surprised** (past, to match **married**). Not **surprised**, because the active verb needs an object: they surprised **someone**.

3. The facsimile _____ when the secretary returns from lunch.
✔ **A) will be sent**
A fax cannot send itself, so the verb must be passive. The time clause **when the secretary returns** refers to the future, so the main clause takes the future passive **will be sent**. Not **is going to send**, because it is active and would mean the fax sends something.

4. Animals _____ to survive in the wild, rather than kept in captivity.
✔ **C) should be helped**
Animals receive the help, so we need a passive form, and the sentence gives an opinion, so a modal of advice fits: **should be helped**. The parallel **rather than kept** is also passive. Not **ought to have helped**, because it is active and refers to the past.

5. Because James _____ to physical work, he _____ after he had spent a week on the farm.
✔ **E) wasn’t accustomed / was exhausted**
Be accustomed to means 'be used to', and **be exhausted** means 'be very tired'. Both use **be**, not **have**. The clue **had spent** puts the story in the past, so we need **wasn't accustomed / was exhausted**. Not **hadn't accustomed / had exhausted**, because these are active forms with a different meaning.

6. Films of violence _____ on television until after 9.30 at night, the time when the majority of children _____ to bed.
✔ **D) shouldn’t be shown / go**
Films are shown by TV channels, so the first gap is passive. The speaker gives a recommendation, so **shouldn't be shown** fits. The second gap describes a general habit, so it takes the present simple **go**. Not **cannot be shown / went**, because **went** is past while the rest of the sentence is about now.

7. Normal climbing boots slip in icy conditions, so climbers _____ iron plates with spikes, known as crampons, to their boots.
✔ **B) have to fix**
The climbers do the action, so the verb is active: **climbers have to fix crampons**. **Have to** shows necessity, caused by the icy conditions. Not **should be fixed** or **must be fixed**, because these passive forms would mean the climbers themselves are fixed to their boots.

8. “Fragile, handle with care” _____ on the package, but still the contents of the parcel _____ when it arrived.
✔ **C) was written / were broken**
Both events are in the past (**when it arrived**), and both subjects receive the action: the warning was written by someone and the contents were broken. So we use the past simple passive: **was written / were broken**. The plural **contents** takes **were**.

9. An apple tree _____ fruit until it is five to eight years old.
✔ **D) does not bear**
This is a general scientific fact, so we use the present simple. **Bear fruit** means 'produce fruit', and the tree does this itself, so the verb is active: **does not bear**. Not **will not be borne**, because it is passive and would mean the tree is carried.

10. The hill where Jane Austen set one of her romances _____ Box Hill because of the box trees which _____ there.
✔ **E) is called / grow**
People give the hill its name, so we use the present simple passive **is called**. Box trees grow naturally and still grow there now, so the second verb is active and in the present simple: **grow**. Not **calls / are grown**, because the hill does not call anything.

11. Your chances of success in an examination _____ if you _____ the course work thoroughly.
✔ **E) are enhanced / revise**
This is a zero conditional about a general truth: present simple in both clauses. Your chances are improved by your revision, so the first verb is passive, **are enhanced**. **You** do the revising, so the second verb is active, **revise**. Not **enhance / are revised**, because the passive would mean you are revised.

12. When he _____ in an essay on time for once, his professor _____ him a look of surprise.
✔ **A) handed / gave**
These are two completed actions in a past story, so both verbs are active and in the past simple: **handed** (in) / **gave**. He **handed in** the essay (gave it to the teacher), and the professor **gave** him a look. Not **was handed / was giving**, because the passive would mean someone handed him to somebody, and the past continuous does not fit a single completed reaction.

13. You _____ plenty of time in case the bus _____; otherwise, you'll risk missing your ferry.
✔ **D) had better allow / is delayed**
Had better gives strong advice about the present or future, and the warning **otherwise, you'll risk…** supports it. The bus is delayed by traffic or other causes, so we use the passive **is delayed**. After **in case** we use a present tense for the future. Not **must have allowed**, because that is a deduction about the past.

14. It's true that happiness _____ with money, but some money _____ life easier.
✔ **C) can't be bought / makes**
Happiness is the thing that is not bought, so we need a passive form. **Can't be bought** expresses impossibility. The second part is a general truth with an active verb, so it takes the present simple **makes**. Not **mustn't be bought**, because **mustn't** means it is forbidden, not impossible.

15. Cells _____ for the first time by the English scientist Robert Hooke, who, in 1665, _____ a book about his findings.
✔ **A) were described / published**
By the English scientist Robert Hooke shows the agent, so the first verb is passive: **were described**. Hooke himself wrote the book, so the second verb is active. The date **in 1665** requires the past simple: **published**. Not **had published**, because there is no earlier past event to refer back to.

16. Portland cement, when it _____ with water, _____ a paste that binds sand, gravel and stone into a rock-like mass called concrete.
✔ **E) is combined / forms**
This describes a general scientific process, so we use the present simple. The cement is mixed with water by someone, so the first verb is passive: **is combined**. The cement itself produces the paste, so the second verb is active: **forms**. Not **combines / has been formed**, because **has been formed** is passive and cannot take the object **a paste**.

17. The twentieth century, now nearing its end, _____ the century when mankind _____ to realise that the Earth's resources are limited.
✔ **C) has been / has come**
Now nearing its end shows that the century is not yet finished, so we use the present perfect: **has been**. The realisation has developed during this period and still matters now, so **has come to realise** also takes the present perfect. Not **was / was coming**, because the past simple would treat the century as finished.

18. Up to now, the equipment _____ regularly, but from now on, we _____ it before every outing.
✔ **D) hasn't been checked / are going to check**
Up to now links the past with the present, so we need the present perfect. The equipment is checked by people, so the verb is passive: **hasn't been checked**. **From now on** introduces a future plan, and **we** do the checking: **are going to check**. Not **hasn't checked**, because it is active and has no object.

19. Judging from the speed of mechanisation, it _____ that very few things in the world _____ by hand in the twenty-first century.
✔ **B) can be predicted / will be made**
The impersonal passive **it can be predicted that…** means 'we can predict that…'. Things are made by people, and **by hand** shows the method, so the second verb is future passive: **will be made**. Not **is predicting**, because **it** cannot do the predicting.

20. Considering the meagre resources we _____ with for the project, we _____ a wonderful job.
✔ **A) had been provided / did**
The resources were given to us before we did the work, so we use the past perfect passive **had been provided with**. The second verb is the active past simple **did**, for the finished job. **Meagre** means 'very small or not enough', which explains why the job was impressive. Not **have been provided / used to do**, because **used to** describes past habits, not one completed job.

21. Solutions to the problem of unemployment _____, but none of the measures that _____ so far has been very successful.
✔ **D) are being sought / have been tried**
Solutions are looked for by people, and the search is still going on, so we use the present continuous passive: **are being sought**. **So far** calls for the present perfect, and measures are tried by people, so the second verb is **have been tried**. Not **have sought**, because it is active and **solutions** cannot seek anything.

22. Africa's population growth rate is much higher than the world average and it _____ that, by the year 2050, Africa _____ for twenty-one per cent of the world's population.
✔ **E) is estimated / will account**
The impersonal passive **it is estimated that…** means 'experts estimate that…'. **By the year 2050** points to the future, and **account for** (meaning 'make up a share of') is active, so we use **will account**. Not **has estimated**, because it is active and **it** cannot do the estimating.

23. Following stricter “drink driving” regulations, the number of accidents which _____ drunk drivers _____ significantly.
✔ B) involve / has been reduced
Accidents **involve** drunk drivers, so the first verb is active present simple: **involve**. The number has been lowered by the new rules, with a result now, so we use the present perfect passive: **has been reduced**. The subject **the number** is singular, so it takes **has**.

24. I managed to translate most of the letter for you, but I _____ stuck on one or two sentences.
✔ C) got
Get stuck means 'be unable to continue'. The translation is finished (**managed**), so this is a completed past action and takes the past simple **got**. Not **was getting**, because the past continuous suggests an unfinished background action.

25. The world’s first dental school, Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, _____ by two Americans, Horace Hayden and Chapin Harris, in 1840.
✔ C) was founded
The school was set up by two people, and **by two Americans** names the agent, so we need a passive form. The date **in 1840** requires the past simple: **was founded**. Not **was founding**, because it is active and continuous.

26. The works of Shakespeare _____ into every major language in the world.
✔ B) have been translated
The works are translated by people, so the verb is passive. The result is true now, at an unspecified time, so we use the present perfect passive: **have been translated**. Not **had translated**, because it is active and in the past perfect.

27. He _____ about this meeting for weeks, so I don’t know why he _____ anything for it yet.
✔ D) has known / hasn’t prepared
For weeks shows a state continuing up to now, so we use the present perfect **has known**. **Yet** in a negative sentence also takes the present perfect: **hasn't prepared**. Not **is known**, because it is passive and would mean he is known by others.

28. There were such a lot of different things to do at the resort where we _____ our holiday that none of us _____.
✔ A) spent / was bored
The story is in the past (**There were**). We spent the holiday ourselves, so the verb is active past simple: **spent**. **Be bored** describes a feeling, so we use **was bored**, singular after **none of us** in formal style. Not **were spending / bored**, because **bored** alone would be an active verb needing an object.

29. A place _____ for you, Madam, as soon as you _____ the deposit.
✔ E) will be reserved / have paid
The place will be reserved by the staff, so the main clause uses the future passive **will be reserved**. After **as soon as** we do not use **will**; the present perfect **have paid** shows the payment must be finished first. Not **has been reserved / will pay**, because **will** cannot follow **as soon as**.

30. There is no way you _____ all of your project in an hour, so you _____ the most important points and talk about those.
✔ E) can cover / had better choose
There is no way you can cover… expresses impossibility, using the active verb because **you** do the covering. **Had better choose** gives strong advice as a result. Not **must cover / will be chosen**, because **you** do the choosing, so the passive is wrong.

31. If a person _____ in more food than required to meet the body’s needs, the excess calories _____ to fat.
✔ B) takes / are converted
This is a zero conditional about a general fact, so both clauses take the present simple. The person eats, so **takes in** is active. The calories are changed by the body, so **are converted** is passive. Not **is taken / convert**, because **is taken** would mean the person is taken.

32. Because I _____ up in a house next to the main railway line, I rarely get disturbed by noises during the night.
✔ A) was brought
Bring up means 'raise a child'. The speaker was raised by their parents, so the verb is passive: **was brought up**. It happened in the past and explains a present habit. Not **used to bring**, because it is active and would mean the speaker raised someone.

33. Women _____ dress design until the last half of the 19th century.
✔ C) dominated
Dominate means 'control' or 'be the most important in'. Women controlled dress design, so the verb is active. **Until the last half of the 19th century** is a finished past period, so we use the past simple **dominated**. Not **were dominated**, because the passive would mean women were controlled by dress design.

34. Luckily, he realised that he had forgotten his passport in time to return to the hotel and collect it; otherwise, we _____ for the flight.
✔ D) couldn’t have been accepted
Otherwise introduces an unreal past result: what would have happened without the passport. The airline accepts passengers, so we need a passive form: **couldn't have been accepted**. Not **needn't have accepted**, because it is active and means 'it wasn't necessary'.

35. Everybody was very concerned when one of the representatives _____ halfway through the main course.
✔ E) collapsed
The main clause is in the past (**was very concerned**), and the collapse was a single completed event, so we use the past simple **collapsed**. Not **has collapsed**, because the present perfect does not fit a past story.