ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Passive Voice Advanced Level MCQs Test With Answers 2

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Explanations

1. I hope the new timetable _____ by Friday as I want to start a driving course next week, but I need to know which afternoon I will be off before I can enrol on it.
✔ **C) will have been announced**
By Friday points to an action that will be complete before a time in the future, so we use the future perfect passive: **will have been announced**. The timetable does not announce anything; somebody announces it, so the verb must be passive. Not **is going to announce**, because that is active.

2. Obviously, the management _____ that we _____ the new conditions without questioning the consequences.
✔ **B) assume / will accept**
Both verbs are active. The management **assume** (present simple for a current belief), and **we** will do the accepting, so **will accept** gives the expected future result. Passive forms such as **are accepted** would mean that we ourselves are accepted, which makes no sense here.

3. Look! The other team must be about to play their substitute because he _____ warmed up at the side of the pitch.
✔ **D) is getting**
Look! shows the action is happening now, so we need the present continuous. **Get** + past participle forms a passive, and **get warmed up** means 'get ready for play'. So **is getting warmed up** means it is happening at this moment. Not **gets**, because the present simple is for habits, not actions in progress.

4. To the ancient Romans, a census _____ simply counting the people and valuing their estates for the purpose of taxation, but today the range of information collected by a census taker is very wide, and the statistics gathered _____ to many uses.
✔ **A) meant / are put**
The first gap is active past simple: for the Romans, a census **meant** (= signified) counting people. The second gap needs the present simple passive, **are put**, because the statistics are used by people (**put something to use**) as a general fact today. Not **was meant**, because the passive of **mean** here would mean 'was intended', which changes the sense.

5. I really dislike _____ to work on Sundays because I feel torn between my family and work.
✔ **C) being asked**
Dislike is followed by a gerund (-ing form). The speaker is the one who receives the request, so we need the passive gerund: **being asked**. Not **asking**, because that would mean the speaker asks other people.

6. The FBI _____ that he knew where the body _____.
✔ **E) suspected / was buried**
The FBI is the subject doing the suspecting, so the first verb is active past simple: **suspected**. The body did not bury itself; somebody buried it, so the second verb is past simple passive: **was buried**. Not **was suspected**, because the FBI is not the one under suspicion.

7. Animal lovers would like industrial testing on animals _____ to medical experiments.
✔ **D) to be limited**
The pattern is **would like** + object + **to**-infinitive. The testing is limited by someone else, so we need the passive infinitive: **to be limited**. Not **to have limited**, because that is an active perfect form and the testing cannot limit anything.

8. The end of slavery in America _____ by the adoption of the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution on 18th December 1865.
✔ **E) was achieved**
A finished action at a definite past time (**on 18th December 1865**) needs the past simple. The end of slavery was achieved by the amendment (**by** + agent), so the verb is passive: **was achieved**. Not **has been achieved**, because the present perfect cannot be used with a specific past date.

9. Medicines and chemical cleaning liquids _____ out of children's reach.
✔ **A) should be kept**
Medicines and liquids cannot keep anything; people keep them, so we need a modal passive: **should be kept** (modal + **be** + past participle). This gives advice about a general rule. Not **need to keep**, because that is active and would mean the medicines keep something.

10. The United Kingdom _____ a period of time until 1995 to clean up its beaches by the European Union, but Morecambe Bay in Lancashire was so dirty that it _____ two more years to bring the area up to the required standard.
✔ **A) was given / was allowed**
Both verbs are past simple passive. The UK **was given** time by the European Union (**by** + agent), and the bay was so dirty that it **was allowed** two more years. These are verbs with two objects, and the person or place receiving becomes the subject of the passive. Not **has been given**, because the whole story is in the past.

11. Five armed men _____ a Zurich Post Office last night in a van which _____ as a Post Office repair vehicle.
✔ B) robbed / was disguised
The men did the robbing, so the first verb is active past simple: **robbed** (a finished action **last night**). The van did not disguise itself; it had been made to look like a repair vehicle, so the second verb is passive: **was disguised**. Not **were robbed**, because that would mean the men were the victims.

12. Advertising is very old. Examples of advertising _____ as far back as ancient Greece, where criers _____ out messages about their clients' wares to the public.
✔ E) can be found / shouted
Examples are found by people, so the first verb is passive. **Can be found** expresses possibility in the present: we are able to find them today. The criers did the shouting themselves, so the second verb is active past simple: **shouted**. Not **were shouted**, because the criers were not shouted.

13. The coach driver couldn't see through the window because it _____ properly.
✔ D) hadn't been cleaned
The window was dirty because of something that did not happen earlier, so we need the past perfect. Someone cleans a window, so it must be passive: **hadn't been cleaned**. Not **hasn't cleaned**, because it is active and in the wrong tense.

14. Portugal's government _____ down by a military coup in 1974 and the new administration _____ the rights of Portuguese African territories to independence.
✔ C) was brought / recognised
The government was removed by a coup (**by** + agent) in 1974, so the first verb is past simple passive: **was brought down**. The new administration took the action itself, so the second verb is active past simple: **recognised**. Not **has been brought**, because a definite past year needs the past simple.

15. In order to keep his land fertile, a farmer _____ animal, plant or chemical fertilisers.
✔ B) has to use
The farmer is the subject who uses the fertilisers, so we need an active form. **Has to use** expresses necessity as a general truth: farmers need fertilisers to keep land fertile. Not **must be used** or **can be used**, because they are passive and would mean the farmer is used. **Is used to use** is wrong because **be used to** is followed by an -ing form (**is used to using**).

16. During some of the war years, my father and his brother were separated _____ their parents because they were evacuated from London to the countryside.
✔ D) from
The fixed pattern is **be separated from** someone or something: **They were separated from their parents**. Not **with**, which is not used after **separated** in this sense.

17. In our company the sales representatives and the managers are provided _____ a company car.
✔ A) with
The pattern is **provide someone with something**, and in the passive this becomes **be provided with**: **They are provided with a car**. Not **for**, which is used in the other pattern, **provide something for someone**.

18. The film "The Rainmaker" is based _____ the book of the same name by John Grisham and tells the story of a newly qualified lawyer.
✔ C) on
The fixed phrase is **be based on** something: **The film is based on a true story**. Not **from**, which is not used with **based**.

19. Local residents _____ to radioactivity for weeks now because of the leak at the nuclear power station.
✔ B) have been exposed
For weeks now shows a situation that started in the past and continues to the present, so we use the present perfect. The residents receive the action, so it is passive: **have been exposed**. Not **were exposed**, because the past simple would mean the situation has finished.

20. I'm sure they _____ with your gift. They _____ a toaster for a long time.
✔ D) will be thrilled / have been wanting
People are **thrilled** by something, so the first verb is a future passive: **will be thrilled** (a prediction about their reaction). **For a long time** up to now needs the present perfect continuous: **have been wanting**. Not **will thrill**, because that is active and would mean they will thrill someone else.

21. Under UK equal opportunity laws, employees _____ against on the grounds of race, religion or gender.
✔ E) cannot be discriminated
The phrasal verb is **discriminate against** someone. In the passive the preposition stays after the verb: **be discriminated against**. The employees are protected by law, so we need **cannot be discriminated against**. Not **should not discriminate**, because it is active and leaves **against** with no object.

22. The company _____ the advertisement because several viewers _____ that it was offensive.
✔ E) had to withdraw / complained
The company took the action itself, so the first verb is active: **had to withdraw** (it was necessary in the past). The viewers did the complaining, so the second verb is active past simple: **complained**. Not **had been withdrawn**, because that is passive and would leave the advertisement without an object.

23. Strict dieting to lose weight _____ only under a physician's care.
✔ B) should be attempted
Dieting is something people attempt, so we need a modal passive: **should be attempted** (modal + **be** + past participle). This gives advice. Not **is attempting**, because the dieting cannot attempt anything.

24. Are you sure my table _____ by this cleaning fluid?
✔ C) won't be damaged
The table would be damaged by the fluid (**by** + agent), and the speaker is worried about the result of using it. So we need the future simple passive: **won't be damaged**. Not **won't have damaged**, because it is active and the table cannot damage anything.

25. It’s our principle that the petrol tank _____ before the rental car _____ to the customer.
✔ A) is filled / is delivered
The sentence describes a regular company rule, so both verbs are present simple. Both are passive, because staff fill the tank and deliver the car: **is filled / is delivered**. Not **must be filled / has delivered**, because the second part is active and would mean the car delivers something.

26. This morning, the attendant _____ a baby who _____ in an old blanket on the steps of the country hospital.
✔ D) found / was wrapped
The attendant did the finding at a finished time (**this morning**), so the first verb is active past simple: **found**. The baby had been put in a blanket by someone, so the second verb is passive: **was wrapped**. Not **was found**, because that would mean the attendant was found.

27. The sailing ship _____ about like a toy by the strong November wind.
✔ D) was being thrown
The ship was moved by the wind (**by** + agent), so the verb is passive. The past continuous passive **was being thrown** shows the action was in progress over a period. Not **threw**, because that is active and would mean the ship threw something.

28. All of the trees that _____ by the disease _____; otherwise, the problem will spread through the whole orchard.
✔ B) are affected / should be destroyed
Both verbs are passive: the trees **are affected** by the disease (**by** + agent), and they **should be destroyed** by people. **Should** gives the recommendation, and **otherwise** shows what will happen if it is not followed. Not **have been affected / destroy**, because the trees cannot destroy anything.

29. In some states in the USA, plastic bottles that have been thrown away _____ into new products, while other states _____ them in landfill sites.
✔ C) are made / bury
The sentence describes general facts, so both verbs are present simple. The bottles are made into products by people, so the first verb is passive: **are made**. The states do the burying themselves, so the second verb is active: **bury**. Not **are buried**, because the states are not buried.

30. Most of the animals which now _____ wild on the island _____ there during the 19th century.
✔ A) live / were brought
Now shows a present fact, so the first verb is present simple active: the animals **live** wild. **During the 19th century** is a finished past time, and people brought the animals there, so the second verb is past simple passive: **were brought**. Not **have been brought**, because the present perfect cannot be used with a finished past period.

31. I _____ scuba diving lessons since last year, but I still _____ accustomed to breathing with all that equipment.
✔ C) have been taking / haven’t got
Since last year shows an activity that started in the past and continues now, so we need the present perfect continuous: **have been taking**. **Still** with a negative also points to the present perfect: **haven't got accustomed to**. Not **am taking**, because the present continuous is not used with **since**.

32. You _____ the dogs in; otherwise, they _____ frightened when the fireworks go off.
✔ D) had better bring / will get
Had better + infinitive gives strong advice: **You had better bring the dogs in**. **Otherwise** introduces the likely result, so we use **will get frightened** (**get** + adjective). Not **should have brought**, because that refers to a past mistake, but the fireworks have not started yet.

33. As far as I know, the body _____ by a child who _____ his bike through the park.
✔ E) was discovered / was riding
The body was found by a child (**by** + agent), so the first verb is past simple passive: **was discovered**. The child's ride was in progress at that moment, so the second verb is active past continuous: **was riding**. Not **has discovered**, because it is active and the body cannot discover anything.

34. The secretary _____ _____ in the scandal, but we don’t know whether she actually leaked the documents or not.
✔ B) is known / to have been involved
This is the impersonal passive with a reporting verb: subject + **is known** + infinitive. Her involvement happened before now, so we use the perfect infinitive. She was involved by circumstances, so the infinitive is also passive: **to have been involved**. Not **has been known / to be involving**, because **involve** is not used in the continuous form here.

35. Robert is so clumsy with words that whenever he _____ his mouth, he _____ somebody.
✔ A) opens / insults
Whenever describes something that happens every time, so both verbs are present simple. Robert does both actions himself, so both are active: **opens / insults**. Not **opened / is insulted**, because the tenses do not match and the passive would mean Robert is insulted.

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