ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Passive Voice Test Exercises – Multiple Choice Questions With Answers – Advanced Level 25

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Explanations

1. Only half of the exercises _____ so far, but the rest _____ by Saturday.
✔ **D) have been done / will have been finished**
So far calls for the present perfect passive: **have been done**. **By Saturday** points to an action completed before a future time, so the second gap needs the future perfect passive: **will have been finished**. Not **are being done**, because the continuous form does not go with **so far**, which counts what is already finished.

2. Because of the general pardon, most of the prisoners _____ by the end of this year.
✔ **E) will have been released**
By the end of this year shows an action that will be complete before a future point, so we use the future perfect passive: **will have been released**. Not **are being released**, because **by** + a future time needs completion, not an action in progress.

3. The students _____ to stand up while the national anthem _____ and the flag _____.
✔ **D) are taught / is being sung / is being raised**
The first gap describes a general rule, so it takes the present simple passive: **are taught**. **While** shows that the anthem and the flag are actions in progress at that moment, so both take the present continuous passive: **is being sung** and **is being raised**. Not **is sung / was raised**, because **was raised** breaks the present time of the sentence.

4. The medicine _____ in a high place where the children can't reach it.
✔ **C) must be kept**
The medicine does not keep anything; someone keeps it. So we need a modal passive: **must** + **be** + past participle → **must be kept**. Not **must keep**, which is active and would mean the medicine does the keeping.

5. "The government has to take precautions against the hunters to protect the elephants because they are becoming extinct."

= Precautions _____ against the hunters to protect the elephants because they are becoming extinct.
✔ **D) have to be taken**
Has to take becomes **have to be taken** in the passive. Keep the same form of **have to**, add **be** + past participle, and make the verb agree with the plural subject **precautions**. Not **has to be taken**, because **precautions** is plural.

6. Nothing _____ because it was very foggy and raining heavily.
✔ **C) could be seen**
The fog and rain made it impossible to see, so we need the past ability passive: **could be seen**. **Nothing** is already negative, so **wasn't seen** would be a double negative. **Didn't see** is active, and **nothing** cannot see.

7. English _____ at state schools as a compulsory lesson for 20 years until last year.
✔ **E) had been taught**
For 20 years until last year describes a period that lasted up to a point in the past. That calls for the past perfect passive: **had been taught**. Not **has been taught**, because the period ended last year and does not continue to now.

8. The students had complained about the questions because they had found them so difficult. The questions _____ because they _____ so difficult.
✔ **D) had been complained about / had been found**
Both active verbs are past perfect (**had complained about**, **had found**), so both passives are past perfect: **had been** + past participle. Keep the preposition with the verb: **had been complained about**. Not **had complained about**, because that is still active.

9. The policeman was questioning the drivers and searching their vehicles.

= The drivers _____ and their vehicles _____.
✔ **A) were being questioned / were being searched**
Past continuous active (**was questioning**, **was searching**) becomes past continuous passive: **was/were being** + past participle. With the plural subjects we get **were being questioned** and **were being searched**. Not **were questioned**, because that loses the 'in progress' meaning.

10. Your boss _____ that you will resign from the job next month.
✔ **A) had better be informed**
Had better is followed by a bare infinitive, so the passive is **had better be** + past participle: **Your boss had better be informed**. Not **had better to be informed**, because **had better** never takes **to**.

11. The bookshop _____ send the orders soon. Otherwise, the students will not be able to receive their books before school starts.
✔ D) is supposed to
Be supposed to means 'be expected or obliged to'. The second sentence talks about the future (**will not be able**), so the obligation is present: **is supposed to**. Not **was supposed to**, which suggests a past expectation that was probably not met.

12. Persons under the age of 20 _____ to get a driving licence when we were young, but now they _____ to.
✔ A) were not allowed / are allowed
When we were young needs the past simple passive, **were not allowed**, and **now** needs the present simple passive, **are allowed**. **Be allowed to** is the passive way of expressing permission.

13. The news that her lost cat _____ was a great joy to her.
✔ B) was found
The cat did not find anything; someone found it, so we need a passive. The main verb **was** places the story in the past, so the past simple passive fits: **was found**. Not **has been found**, because the present perfect does not match the past main verb.

14. The man that _____ yesterday morning _____ from Europe a week ago.
✔ E) was questioned / had been brought
Yesterday morning needs the past simple passive: **was questioned**. He had been brought from Europe a week earlier, before the questioning, so the earlier action takes the past perfect passive: **had been brought**. Not **was being questioned / brought**, because **brought** is active.

15. To make fried potatoes, first, the potatoes _____ and _____. Then they _____ into the oil and after they _____, _____ with ketchup.
✔ A) are peeled / sliced / are put / are fried / served
Recipes and processes use the present simple passive: **are peeled**, **(are) sliced**, **are put**, **are fried**, **(are) served**. The repeated **are** can be left out after **and** or a comma. Not the options with **were put**, because past forms do not suit general instructions.

16. The question was so complicated and difficult that nobody _____ it.
✔ B) could answer
So … that introduces a result: the question was too hard, so no one was able to answer it. Past ability is expressed with **could**: **nobody could answer it**. Not **could be answered**, because a passive verb cannot take the object **it**.

17. The car which _____ by the thieves _____ yesterday by a 10-year-old child.
✔ C) had been stolen / was found
The car was stolen before it was found, so the earlier action takes the past perfect passive, **had been stolen**. The later action, linked to **yesterday**, takes the past simple passive, **was found**. Not **was stolen / had been found**, because that reverses the order of events.

18. The colourful clothes _____ together with the white clothes, or their colours may run onto them.
✔ A) should not be washed
The clue **or their colours may run** gives a reason for advice, so we use a modal passive. The clothes do not wash anything; someone washes them: **should not be washed**. Not **could be washed**, because the warning shows this is a bad idea, not a possibility. Not **should not wash**, which is active and would mean the clothes do the washing.

19. Every year millions of trees _____ and _____ in making furniture.
✔ B) are cut down / used
Every year shows a regular, repeated action, so we need the present simple passive: **are cut down** and **(are) used**. The second **are** is left out after **and**. Not **cut down / used**, which reads as active, and trees cannot cut anything down.

20. It _____ lately _____ that alcohol _____ the main cause of traffic accidents.
✔ A) has / been proved / has been
Lately goes with the present perfect, so the impersonal passive is **It has lately been proved that…**. The reported fact also reaches up to now: **alcohol has been the main cause**. Not **was / proved / was**, because **lately** does not go with the past simple.

21. Can you get somebody _____ my TV?
✔ E) to repair
The structure is **get** + person + **to**-infinitive: **get somebody to repair my TV**. Compare **get my TV repaired** (**get** + object + past participle) and **have somebody repair** (bare infinitive). Not **repair**, because **get** needs **to** when a person follows.

22. So far I _____ by every employer I have applied to.
✔ D) have been rejected
So far shows experience up to now, so we need the present perfect passive: **have been rejected**. Not **was rejected**, because the past simple does not connect to the present the way **so far** requires.

23. I wanted to _____ to the wedding.
✔ B) be invited
Want is followed by a **to**-infinitive. Since someone else does the inviting, we use the passive infinitive **to be invited**. Not **have invited**, because that is active and would mean I did the inviting.

24. Don't touch that cable while it _____.
✔ C) is being repaired
The warning is about now: the repair is going on at this moment. This needs the present continuous passive: **is being repaired**. Not **was being repaired**, because a present instruction (**Don't touch**) needs a present verb.

25. When I arrived there, no lecture _____.
✔ E) was being given
The past continuous passive, **was being given**, describes what was (or wasn't) in progress at the moment I arrived. **No** already makes the sentence negative, so **hadn't been given** and **weren't given** would be double negatives.

26. The front door _____ open at night.
✔ **E) shouldn't be left**
This is advice, and someone leaves the door open, so we need a modal passive: **shouldn't be left**. Not **doesn't leave**, because that is active and would mean the door does the leaving.

27. My report has _____ on Monday morning.
✔ **A) to be given back**
Have to + passive infinitive expresses an obligation: **has to be given back**. It goes naturally with a future time like **on Monday morning**. Not **been done**, because the present perfect cannot be used with a specific time such as **on Monday morning**.

28. They hadn't finished any report.

= No report _____.
✔ **C) had been finished**
The past perfect **hadn't finished** becomes the past perfect passive **had been finished**. Because **no** already makes the sentence negative, the verb must be affirmative. Not **hadn't been finished**, which would be a double negative.

29. The box _____ by someone. I cannot open it.
✔ **C) has been locked**
A past action (someone locked the box) has a present result (**I cannot open it**), so we use the present perfect passive: **has been locked**. Not **have been locked**, because **the box** is singular.

30. The visitors _____ at the station tomorrow by my secretary.
✔ **B) are being met**
A fixed future arrangement (**tomorrow**, **by my secretary**) can be expressed with the present continuous, here in the passive: **are being met**. Not **will have been met**, because the future perfect needs **by** + a time, not simply **tomorrow**.

31. Their business _____ over by a new company last year.
✔ **E) was taken**
Last year is a finished past time, so we use the past simple passive of **take over**: **was taken over**. Not **has been taken**, because the present perfect cannot be used with **last year**.

32. All the food in the house _____ by someone because there is no food now.
✔ **C) must have been eaten**
Because there is no food now is evidence for a logical conclusion about the past. Deduction about the past uses **must have been** + past participle: **must have been eaten**. Not **should have been eaten**, which means it was the right thing to do but didn't happen.

33. I don't enjoy _____ by other people.
✔ **B) being watched**
Enjoy is followed by a gerund. Since other people do the watching, we need the passive gerund: **being watched**. Not **to be watched**, because **enjoy** does not take an infinitive.

34. The fire _____ quickly _____ under control by the firemen two hours ago.
✔ **B) was / brought**
Two hours ago needs the past simple passive, and the fixed expression is **bring something under control**. So we get **was quickly brought under control**. Not **has been brought**, because the present perfect cannot be used with **ago**.

35. It _____ now that companies will increase their prices.
✔ **E) is assumed**
The impersonal passive **It is assumed that…** reports a general belief. The word **now** shows that the belief is held at present, so we need the present simple passive: **is assumed**. Not **was assumed** or **had been assumed**, because these are past forms and do not go with **now**.

36. A great deal of research _____ at the moment to find a cure for AIDS.
✔ **B) is being done**
At the moment shows an action in progress now, so we use the present continuous passive: **is being done**. **Research** is uncountable and takes a singular verb, so **were done** and **have been done** are wrong.

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