ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Self Study Guide – Diagnostic Test

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Explanations

1. _____ homeless are people who have nowhere to live.
✔ **D) The**
We use **the** + adjective to talk about a whole group of people: **the homeless**, **the rich**, **the young**. These words take a plural verb (**are**). Not **a**, because a homeless person is one person, and **the homeless** means all of them.

2. – Whose car is that in the drive?

– I don't know – not _____.
✔ **C) ours**
A possessive pronoun stands alone without a noun after it: **mine, yours, ours, theirs**. **Not ours** means 'not our car'. Not **our**, because **our** must be followed by a noun (**our car**).

3. Mary's _____ of the four girls.
✔ **C) the tallest**
When we compare one person with a group of more than two (**of the four girls**), we use the superlative with **the**: **the tallest**. Not **the taller**, which compares only two people.

4. Oh, I'll buy this carpet! How much _____ here?
✔ **C) does it cost**
Cost is a state verb, so it is not normally used in the continuous form. A present simple question needs **does** + subject + verb: **How much does it cost?** Not **is it costing**, because **cost** describes a fact, not an action in progress.

5. Sony Computer Science Laboratories in Japan _____ a little robot dog. What wonderful news!
✔ **B) has developed**
We use the present perfect (**has developed**) for recent news that matters now. The clue is **What wonderful news!** The company name is treated as one organisation, so the verb is singular. Not **has been developed**, because that is passive and the company did the developing.

6. I _____ when the volcano erupted.
✔ **B) was sleeping**
The past continuous (**was sleeping**) describes a longer action that was in progress when a shorter event happened (past simple: **erupted**). Not **slept**, because that would mean the sleeping started after the eruption.

7. I advised her to go on a diet as she _____ on weight.
✔ **A) had been putting**
The past perfect continuous (**had been putting on**) describes an action that continued up to a moment in the past, here the moment of the advice. **Put on weight** means 'become heavier'. Not **put**, because the weight gain happened over a period before the advice, not as a single action.

8. By 3 o'clock I _____ the shopping.
✔ **B) will have done**
By + a future time is the clue for the future perfect (**will have done**). It means the action will be finished before that time. Not **will do**, because that does not show the action is complete by 3 o'clock.

9. He thinks I'll feel better if he _____ to buy me an expensive gift.
✔ **C) promises**
In a first conditional, the **if**-clause uses the present simple even though it refers to the future: **if he promises**. The main clause has **will** (**I'll feel better**). Not **should promise**, because the normal everyday form after **if** here is the present simple.

10. The father was singing to his three-week-old daughter _____ she fell asleep.
✔ **B) when**
When + past simple (**fell asleep**) marks the moment a short action happened while a longer action (**was singing**) was in progress. Not **while**, which is normally used with the longer, continuing action, not with a short event like falling asleep. **During** is wrong because it is followed by a noun (**during the night**), not by a clause.

11. In Shakespeare's famous drama, Macbeth takes the Scottish throne by murdering King Duncan and _____ by Macduff.
✔ **D) is then defeated and killed**
The present simple passive (**is** + past participle) is needed because Macbeth receives the action: someone else defeats and kills him (**by Macduff**). Both verbs must be past participles: **is defeated and killed**. Not **then defeats and kills**, because that is active and would mean Macbeth does the killing.

12. 'Hamlet' _____ by Shakespeare.
✔ **D) is supposed to have been written**
Be supposed to can mean 'people say/believe'. For a past action we use the perfect infinitive, and here it must be passive because the play was written by someone: **is supposed to have been written**. Not **is supposed to write**, because that is active and would mean the play does the writing.

13. This picture reminds me of the Botticelli painting of Venus in Florence. Do you remember _____ it?
✔ **B) seeing**
Remember + **-ing** is used for a memory of something you did in the past: **Do you remember seeing it?** Not **to see**, because **remember to do** means not forgetting to do something in the future.

14. The car-spotter was really disappointed at failing to notice a white Jaguar _____.
✔ **D) passing**
Verbs of perception like **notice**, **see** and **watch** are followed by object + **-ing** for an action in progress: **notice a car passing**. Not **to pass**, because these verbs are never followed by **to** + infinitive in the active.

15. When we were kids, my mum used _____ us out on bikes all round the countryside.
✔ **C) to take**
Used to + base form describes a past habit that no longer happens: **my mum used to take us out**. Not **to taking**, because **be used to** + **-ing** means 'be accustomed to', which is a different structure.

16. You _____ knock before you come into my room.
✔ **D) must**
Must expresses a strong rule or order from the speaker: **You must knock.** Not **ought**, because it needs **to** (**ought to knock**). **May** and **can** give permission, not a rule.

17. Don't you know _____
✔ **D) the latest news about the situation in India?**
Know can be followed directly by a noun phrase: **Don't you know the latest news ...?** The whole sentence is a question, so it ends with a question mark. Not **what is the latest news**, because after **Don't you know** an indirect question keeps statement word order (**what the latest news is**).

18. In this class, I was able to improve my results, _____ helped me feel better about myself.
✔ **C) which**
Which after a comma can refer to the whole previous clause: improving my results helped me feel better. Not **what**, because **what** cannot be used as a relative pronoun after a clause.

19. Whose _____?
✔ **D) car is this**
In a question with **whose**, the noun comes right after it, then the verb: **Whose car is this?** Not **the car is**, because a direct question needs question word order.

20. Miss Parker, do me a big favour, _____?
✔ **B) will you**
After an imperative (**do me a favour**), we use the question tag **will you?** to make a polite request. Not **shall we**, which is used after **Let's**.

21. Look up in the newspaper if _____ a good film on tonight.
✔ **C) there is**
We use **there is** to say that something exists or is available: **there is a good film on tonight**. Not **it's**, because **it** needs a clear meaning, and here we are asking whether a film exists in the TV listings.

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