ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Self Study Guide – Progress Test

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Explanations

1. She's _____ mother of my best friend.
✔ **D) the**
We use **the** when the noun is made specific by the phrase after it. **of my best friend** tells us exactly which mother: **the mother of my best friend**. Not **a**, because a person has only one mother.

2. _____ you do, don't tell Harry that we've lost his camera.
✔ **C) Whatever**
Whatever means 'it doesn't matter what' or 'no matter what'. **Whatever you do, don't tell Harry** is a fixed way of giving a strong warning. Not **What**, because **What you do** is not a complete idea here.

3. The fish is _____ the meat.
✔ **A) as tasty as**
To say two things are equal, we use **as + adjective + as**: **as tasty as**. **more tasty** would need **than**, and **so … as** is only used in some negative sentences (**not so tasty as**).

4. _____ is no concern of mine.
✔ **A) What will happen to Charlie**
Here the gap is the subject of the sentence, so it is an embedded clause: **What will happen to Charlie** uses normal word order because **what** is the subject. **What will they do with Charlie** is a direct question form and cannot be the subject of **is**.

5. In a few years, computers _____ think better than we do.
✔ **C) will be able to**
Can has no future form, so for future ability we use **will be able to**. The clue is **In a few years**. Not **can**, because it describes ability now; **shall be able** is missing **to**.

6. Don't touch the book. It _____ to me.
✔ **B) doesn't belong**
Belong is a state verb, so it is not used in continuous tenses (**is belonging** is wrong). We use the present simple: **It doesn't belong to me**, which explains why you shouldn't touch it.

7. I _____ with children before, so I know what to expect in my new job.
✔ **A) have worked**
The present perfect **have worked** connects past experience with the present. The clue is **so I know what to expect** now. Not **worked**, because the past simple doesn't show this link with the present (in British English).

8. She's been floating on air _____ the day of her engagement.
✔ **A) since**
With the present perfect continuous (**has been floating**), we use **since** + a starting point in time: **since the day of her engagement**. Not **for**, because **for** is used with a period of time (**for two weeks**). **Floating on air** means 'very happy'.

9. – _____?

– Tall, good-looking, a bit shy.
✔ **A) What's Jim like**
What's Jim like? asks for a description of a person's appearance and character. The answer gives both (**tall, good-looking** and **a bit shy**). Not **How is Jim?**, which asks about health or how he feels.

10. Let's have a party, _____ we?
✔ **A) shall**
The question tag after **Let's …** is always **shall we?**: **Let's have a party, shall we?** Not **will**, which is used after imperatives (**Open the door, will you?**).

11. _____ some problems.
✔ **D) There seem to be**
We use **there** + **seem to be** to say something exists. The verb agrees with the plural noun **some problems**, so it is **There seem to be**. Not **There seems to be**, which is used with a singular noun (**There seems to be a problem**).

12. If he had not been a film-star, he _____ the President of the US.
✔ **D) wouldn't have become**
This is the third conditional, about an imagined past: **If + had (not) + past participle, would (not) have + past participle**. So: **he wouldn't have become the President**. Not **won't become**, because **will** is not used to talk about an unreal past.

13. Would you like _____ racing at the weekend?
✔ **D) to go**
Would like is followed by the infinitive with **to**: **Would you like to go racing?** Not **going**, because **would like** is not followed by the -ing form (that is used after **like** alone, e.g. **I like going**).

14. Tom Sawyer was able to make _____ by pretending that the work was a special privilege.
✔ **C) his friends paint the fence**
The structure is **make + someone + bare infinitive** (without **to**): **make his friends paint the fence**. Not **to paint**, because **make** in the active voice is never followed by **to** (only in the passive: **they were made to paint**).

15. Before photography _____, people had their pictures painted.
✓ C) was invented
Photography did not invent anything; someone invented it, so we need the passive: **was invented**. The past simple fits because this happened at one time in the past. Not **had invented**, which is active.

16. On the day of our 25th wedding anniversary, he told me that we _____ such a wonderful life together. I wished he were sincere.
✓ A) had had
In reported speech after a past reporting verb (**he told me**), the present perfect usually moves back to the past perfect. **We have had a wonderful life** becomes **he told me that we had had a wonderful life**. The story is set in the past (**On the day of our 25th wedding anniversary**), so **had had** fits. **Has had** and **has been having** are wrong because the subject **we** needs **have**, not **has**.

17. Rasputin _____ responsible for many of the ill-fated events that happened during the reign of Czar Nicholas II in Russia.
✓ B) was believed to have been
The impersonal passive **subject + was believed + to have + past participle** is used when the belief refers to something earlier or completed: **Rasputin was believed to have been responsible**. Not **believes to be**, because Rasputin did not do the believing – other people did, so the passive is needed.

18. Middle-aged people usually regret _____ some of the mistakes of their youth. But what is done is done forever.
✓ C) committing
Regret + -ing means being sorry about something you did in the past: **regret committing some mistakes**. Not **regret to commit**: **regret + to-infinitive** is used to give bad news (**We regret to inform you…**).

19. _____ I like is illegal, immoral or fattening.
✓ B) Whatever
Whatever means 'anything that' and can be the subject of a sentence: **Whatever I like is illegal…** (= everything that I like). Not **Whoever**, which refers to people, and **is illegal, immoral or fattening** describes things.

20. I _____ to buying green jeans and wearing them to work!
✓ D) am still not used
Be used to + -ing means 'be accustomed to': **I am still not used to buying green jeans**. The -ing form (**buying**) after **to** shows this is **be used to**, not **used to** + infinitive (past habit). Not **used**, because **used to** for past habits is followed by an infinitive (**I used to buy**).

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