ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Sentence Completion MCQ Exercise 2

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Explanations

1. Even though they applauded well, _____.
✓ **C) no one really enjoyed the concert**
Even though introduces a contrast: people clapped, but they did not really like the concert. Both parts are in the past, so **no one really enjoyed the concert** fits in meaning and tense. Not **the poet has failed…**: the present perfect does not match the past **applauded**.

2. _____, she began to complain about the noise.
✓ **D) As soon as my neighbour saw me**
As soon as means 'immediately when'. The main clause is in the past simple (**began**), so the time clause is in the past simple too: **As soon as my neighbour saw me**. The other options are in the wrong tense or don't connect logically with 'she'.

3. _____ which I had grown myself.
✓ **D) I gave her some of the flowers**
The past perfect **had grown** shows an action before another past action. So the main clause must be in the past: **I gave her some of the flowers**. Not **I am sending her some of the pears**: a present main clause would need **have grown**.

4. There are certain countries in the world _____.
✓ **B) where famine is still a serious problem**
After a place noun like **countries**, we use the relative pronoun **where**: **countries where famine is still a serious problem**. Not **that is developing**: **countries** is plural, so it would need **are**.

5. He is looking for an engineer _____.
✓ **C) who knows both German and English**
We use the relative pronoun **who** for people: **an engineer who knows both German and English**. The present tense matches **is looking**. Not **who really had a lot of experience**: the past tense doesn't fit a present search.

6. _____ before she came to Turkey.
✓ **E) Pat already knew some Turkish**
Before she came is in the past, so the main clause must be in the past too. **Pat already knew some Turkish** describes the situation before she arrived. Present or present perfect forms (**speaks**, **has written**) don't match **came**.

7. _____ just as we got off the train.
✓ **B) It began to rain**
Just as means 'at exactly the moment when'. It joins two past actions that happen together: **It began to rain just as we got off the train**. Not **I had met them**: the past perfect shows an earlier action, not one happening at the same moment.

8. _____, I would invite you to dinner.
✓ **A) If I knew how to cook**
I would invite is the result part of the second conditional, which talks about an imaginary present situation. The if-clause needs the past simple: **If I knew how to cook** (but I don't). The other linkers don't form a conditional with **would**.

9. She has been working in this bank _____.
✓ **D) since she left school**
The present perfect continuous (**has been working**) is used with **since** and a starting point in the past: **since she left school**. Not **until she gets married**: **until** refers to the future and does not go with the present perfect continuous here.

10. Although we hadn't met for 20 years, _____.
✓ **A) I recognised him at once**
Although shows a surprising contrast: a long time had passed, but **I recognised him at once**. The past simple matches the past perfect **hadn't met**. Not **he has grown much older**: that is not a contrast, and the tense doesn't fit.

11. The doctor suggested she did some exercises to lose weight, _____.
✓ **C) but she ignored his advice**
The sentence needs a past clause that contrasts with the doctor's suggestion. **But she ignored his advice** gives that contrast, and **ignored** is past like **suggested**. Not **so she keeps fit**: it is in the present tense and contradicts the idea that she needed to lose weight.

12. After getting on the bus, Jack realised that _____.
✓ **B) he had forgotten to turn off the lights**
Jack **realised** in the past something that happened even earlier, so we use the past perfect: **he had forgotten to turn off the lights**. Present or future forms (**has promised**, **will buy**, **leaves**) don't follow the past **realised**.

13. _____, you won't be able to catch the train.
✓ **C) Unless you rush to the station**
Unless means 'if… not'. **Unless you rush to the station, you won't be able to catch the train** means 'if you don't hurry, you'll miss it'. This is a first conditional with the present simple after **unless** and **won't** in the result.

14. It was only after we had climbed for three hours that _____.
✓ **C) we reached the top of the mountain**
In **It was only after … that …**, both parts are in the past. The past perfect **had climbed** shows the earlier action, and the past simple shows what followed: **we reached the top of the mountain**. Present and present perfect options don't fit the past frame.

15. _____ unless they abandon the ship quickly.
✓ **E) The crew will all be drowned**
With **unless** + present simple (**abandon**), we use the first conditional, so the main clause needs **will**: **The crew will all be drowned unless they abandon the ship quickly**. Not **The sailors would be frightened**: **would** belongs to the second conditional.

16. _____, why are you still arguing about it?
✓ **A) Since you have already decided what to do**
Here **Since** means 'because'. **Since you have already decided what to do, why are you still arguing?** gives a reason that makes the arguing pointless. The present perfect **have decided** matches the present question. **Although** and **Even though** show contrast, not a reason.

17. _____ since they returned from abroad.
✓ **B) George and Peter have been living together**
Since + a past point (**since they returned**) needs a perfect tense in the main clause. **George and Peter have been living together** uses the present perfect continuous for an action that started then and continues now. Past simple and past perfect options don't work with this **since**.

18. I am so tired _____.
✓ **C) that I don't want to walk**
The pattern **so** + adjective + **that** shows a result: **I am so tired that I don't want to walk**. The other options don't complete the **so … that** structure.

19. I haven't seen my sister _____.
✓ **D) for over a month**
The present perfect (**haven't seen**) goes with **for** + a length of time: **for over a month**. Not **two weeks ago**: **ago** needs the past simple (**I saw her two weeks ago**).

20. Tom is probably the best player _____.
✓ **B) the team has ever had**
After a superlative (**the best player**), we often use a relative clause with the present perfect and **ever**: **the best player the team has ever had**. Not **than the others**: **than** is used with comparatives (**better than**), not with superlatives.

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