

Advanced Modal Verbs – Test 1



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Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 30

Choose the one correct option (A, B, C or D) for each question.

Part 1: Deduction and speculation

Choose the modal form that best expresses the speaker's degree of certainty.

- Tom's car isn't outside any more. He _____ left already.
 A must have B can't have C mustn't have D needn't have
- She _____ have been at the party last night — she was in Lisbon all week.
 A can't B mustn't C needn't D shouldn't
- I'm not sure where Ana is. She _____ be stuck in traffic, I suppose.
 A might B must C can D ought
- The lights are off, the car's gone and nobody's answering. They _____ be out — there's no other explanation.
 A must B could C may D can
- Choose the correct sentence.
 A He may have forgotten about the meeting.
 B He can have forgotten about the meeting.
 C He must forgot about the meeting.
 D He might has forgotten about the meeting.
- Kenji looked exhausted. He _____ working all night.
 A must have been B must be C must have D can have been
- Is it possible that she misunderstood? _____ she have misunderstood the instructions?
 A Could B Must C Need D Ought
- This _____ be the right address — the house numbers only go up to 40, and we're looking for 52.
 A can't B mustn't C needn't D may not
- By this time tomorrow, they _____ arrived in Nairobi, if the flight is on time.
 A will have B must have C would D can have
- Find the error: 'You might have told me you were coming; I could have prepared something. Now we must have to eat out. Still, it may be fun.'
 A must have to B might have told
 C could have prepared D may be

Part 2: Obligation, necessity, ability and criticism

Choose the option that is grammatically correct and fits the meaning of the sentence.

11. We _____ have taken a taxi — the station was only five minutes' walk away, so we wasted our money.
A needn't **B** didn't need **C** mustn't **D** couldn't
12. I _____ to wear a suit, so I went in jeans.
A didn't need **B** needn't **C** mustn't **D** hadn't
13. 'You should have called me.' What does the speaker mean?
A You didn't call me, and that was a mistake.
B You called me, and that was a good idea.
C You were obliged to call me, and you did.
D It's possible that you called me.
14. Visitors _____ smoke anywhere on the premises — it's strictly forbidden.
A mustn't **B** don't have to **C** needn't **D** might not
15. Applicants _____ submit a cover letter, but it is recommended.
A don't have to **B** mustn't **C** can't **D** ought not to
16. You _____ to have parked there — didn't you see the sign?
A weren't supposed **B** shouldn't **C** mustn't **D** didn't have
17. The ceremony _____ held outdoors, but it was moved inside because of the rain.
A was to have been **B** must have been **C** should be **D** had to be
18. You'd better _____ late again, or you'll lose your job.
A not be **B** not to be **C** don't be **D** be not
19. The exam was really hard, but in the end I _____ pass it.
A was able to **B** could **C** can **D** might
20. 'Do we have to bring our own laptops?' — 'No, you _____. The college provides them.'
A don't need to **B** mustn't **C** needn't to **D** haven't

Part 3: Nuance, habit and fixed expressions

Choose the option that best completes the sentence or answers the question.

21. When we were students, we _____ spend hours debating in the café.
A would **B** will **C** used **D** should
22. He _____ leave his dirty dishes in the sink — it drives me mad!
A will **B** shall **C** ought **D** would to
23. There's nothing on TV, so we _____ as well go to bed early.
A might **B** must **C** should **D** can
24. Interest rates _____ well rise again next year, according to most economists.
A may **B** must **C** can **D** should
25. '_____ I open the window?' — 'Yes, please, it's stuffy in here.'
A Shall **B** Must **C** Would **D** Need

26. My grades were good enough: I _____ have gone to any university I wanted, but I decided to start working instead.
- A** could **B** must **C** can **D** would
27. If you _____ need any help, just give me a call.
- A** should **B** would **C** must **D** will
28. 'You might at least have said thank you.' What is the speaker doing?
- A** Criticising someone for not saying thank you
B Suggesting it's possible that someone said thank you
C Asking someone politely to say thank you
D Praising someone for saying thank you
29. How _____ you speak to your grandmother like that!
- A** dare **B** need **C** shall **D** must
30. Find the error: 'I would rather you didn't mention it, but if you must, you would better do it tactfully, as she may well be upset.'
- A** would better **B** would rather you didn't
C if you must **D** may well

Answer key – Advanced Modal Verbs – Test 1

1 A	2 A	3 A	4 A	5 A	6 A	7 A	8 A	9 A	10 A
11 A	12 A	13 A	14 A	15 A	16 A	17 A	18 A	19 A	20 A
21 A	22 A	23 A	24 A	25 A	26 A	27 A	28 A	29 A	30 A

Explanations

- A** – 'Must have' + past participle expresses a confident deduction about the past.
- A** – The negative of a certain deduction is 'can't have', not 'mustn't have'.
- A** – 'Might' expresses an uncertain possibility, which fits 'I'm not sure' and 'I suppose'.
- A** – 'There's no other explanation' shows certainty, so 'must' is needed.
- A** – Past possibility is expressed with 'may/might/could have' + past participle; 'can have' is not used for affirmative past possibility.
- A** – A deduction about an ongoing past activity uses 'must have been' + -ing.
- A** – 'Could' is the natural modal for questions about past possibility.
- A** – The evidence makes it impossible, so the speaker uses 'can't' for negative certainty.
- A** – 'Will have' + past participle predicts that an action will be completed by a future time.
- A** – Two modals of obligation cannot be combined; it should be 'we have to' or 'we must'.
- A** – 'Needn't have' + past participle means we did something that turned out to be unnecessary.
- A** – 'Didn't need to' shows it wasn't necessary, and the person therefore didn't do it.
- A** – 'Should have' + past participle criticises or regrets something that did not happen.
- A** – 'Mustn't' expresses prohibition, matching 'strictly forbidden'.
- A** – 'Don't have to' means something is not necessary, though still allowed or advisable.
- A** – Only 'weren't supposed' is followed by 'to have', expressing a broken rule in the past.
- A** – 'Was to have been' + past participle describes a plan that did not happen.
- A** – 'Had better' is followed by the bare infinitive, and the negative is 'had better not' + verb.
- A** – For a single successful achievement in the past we use 'was able to' or 'managed to', not 'could'.
- A** – 'Don't need to' expresses lack of necessity; 'needn't' is never followed by 'to'.
- A** – 'Would' + infinitive describes repeated actions or habits in the past.
- A** – Stressed 'will' describes a present habit that annoys the speaker.
- A** – 'Might as well' is a fixed expression meaning there is no better alternative.
- A** – 'May well' is a fixed expression meaning something is quite likely.
- A** – 'Shall I...?' is used to make an offer.
- A** – 'Could have' + past participle expresses a past possibility that was not taken.
- A** – 'Should' in an if-clause makes the condition sound less likely or more tentative.
- A** – 'Might have' + past participle, especially with 'at least', expresses annoyance or criticism.
- A** – 'How dare you...!' is a fixed expression showing anger or indignation.
- A** – The correct expression is 'had better' ('you'd better'), not 'would better'.

Notes for teachers: Use this test after teaching past modals and modals of obligation, or as a diagnostic before C1 exam preparation. It targets typical advanced errors such as 'must have to', 'mustn't' for negative deduction, confusion between 'needn't have' and 'didn't need to', 'could' for single past achievements and 'would better'. As follow-up, ask students to explain the difference in meaning between pairs such as 'should have' vs 'could have' and write their own short dialogues using them.