

A+

TENSES MCQ MASTERY

Solved • Ticked • Explained

40 Board-Exam MCQs from Exercises 6 – 9

Bahawalpur • D. G. Khan • Gujranwala • Faisalabad Boards (2008)

Every correct option ticked & highlighted, with a clear grammar explanation

Answer Key & Explanation Booklet

English Grammar & Composition — Intermediate Level

Compiled & Solved by Claude

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This booklet contains **40 solved Multiple-Choice Questions** on English Tenses & Verb Forms, drawn from four real Pakistani intermediate board examinations (2008). Every question shows the correct option **ticked (✓) and highlighted in green**, followed by a short, clear grammar explanation so you understand *why* that answer is correct — not just what it is.

Legend: ✓ Ticked & highlighted in green = Correct Answer

Exercise No. 6	<i>Bahawalpur Board 2008 — Group I & II</i>	Q1–Q10
Exercise No. 7	<i>D. G. Khan Board 2008 — Group I & II</i>	Q11–Q20
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Exercise No. 6

*Bahawalpur Board 2008 — Group I & II
Tenses & Verb Forms*

1 He dare not _____ the snake.

(a) killed	(b) kills
✓ (c) kill	(d) killing

Explanation:

After the semi-modal “dare not”, the verb that follows is always in its bare infinitive (base) form — with no “to” and no “-s/-ed/-ing”. So “dare not kill” is correct.

2 You need not _____.

(a) worried	✓ (b) be worried
(c) to worry	(d) will be worried

Explanation:

“Need not” is a modal auxiliary and, like other modals, is followed by the bare infinitive of the verb — here the base form “be” (be worried), not “to worry” or a participle.

3 You had better _____.

✓ (a) go	(b) went
(c) gone	(d) had gone

Explanation:

The idiom “had better” always takes the base form of the verb, regardless of tense. “You had better go” gives present/future advice, so “go” is correct.

4 No sooner did the teacher _____ than they stood up.

(a) came

(b) comes

✓ (c) come

(d) has come

Explanation:

In the structure “No sooner did + subject + base verb... than + past tense”, the auxiliary “did” already carries the past tense, so the main verb stays in its base form: “No sooner did the teacher come...”.

5 When I saw him, he _____.

(a) sang

(b) sung

✓ (c) was singing

(d) had been singing

Explanation:

An action that was already in progress at the moment another past action happened is expressed with the Past Continuous. “When I saw him” (simple past) interrupts “he was singing” (past continuous).

6 God helps those who _____ themselves.

✓ (a) help

(b) helps

(c) will help

(d) helped

Explanation:

This is a proverb expressing a general/universal truth, so the Present Simple is used. The relative pronoun “who” refers back to the plural “those”, so the plural verb form “help” (not “helps”) is required.

7 I _____ for you for half an hour.

(a) waits

(b) am waiting

(c) will wait

✓ (d) have been waiting

Explanation:

An action that began in the past and is still continuing up to now, with its duration stated ("for half an hour"), takes the Present Perfect Continuous: "have been waiting".

8 She _____ English at present.

(a) learnt

✓ (b) is learning

(c) will learn

(d) has learnt

Explanation:

The time marker "at present" signals an action happening right now, which calls for the Present Continuous tense: "is learning".

9 If you work hard, you _____.

✓ (a) will pass

(b) would pass

(c) had passed

(d) pass

Explanation:

This is a First Conditional sentence (real/possible future condition): "If + Present Simple, ... will + base verb". Since the if-clause uses "work" (present simple), the main clause takes "will pass".

10 It _____ when we came out.

(a) was raining

(b) will rain

✓ (c) had been raining

(d) rains

Explanation:

The rain had been going on for some time before the past action “we came out” took place, so the Past Perfect Continuous — “had been raining” — is used to show that the raining started earlier and continued up to that past moment.

Exercise No. 7

*D. G. Khan Board 2008 — Group I & II
Tenses & Verb Forms*

11 He said that the earth _____ round the sun.

(a) had revolved

(b) will revolve

(c) revolved

✓ (d) revolves

Explanation:

Universal/scientific truths do NOT change tense in reported speech, even if the reporting verb is past. "The earth revolves round the sun" stays in the Present Simple: "revolves".

12 He _____ ill for two weeks.

✓ (a) has been

(b) is

(c) were

(d) was

Explanation:

The duration phrase "for two weeks" with a state continuing up to now needs the Present Perfect: "has been ill for two weeks".

13 How long _____?

✓ (a) have you been teaching

(b) has you been teaching

(c) had you been teaching

(d) has you taught

Explanation:

"How long" asking about a continuing activity pairs with the Present Perfect Continuous. The subject "you" always takes the auxiliary "have", not "has", so "have you been teaching" is correct.

14 He _____ two days ago.

(a) had died

(b) will die

(c) die

✓ (d) died

Explanation:

A definite point in the past ("two days ago") always takes the Simple Past tense: "died".

15 If he comes, I _____ him.

✓ (a) will help

(b) helped

(c) have helped

(d) had helped

Explanation:

First Conditional structure: "If + Present Simple (comes), ... will + base verb (help)", used for a real, likely future situation.

16 When he saw me, I _____ to mosque.

(a) went

✓ (b) was going

(c) would go

(d) had gone

Explanation:

The action of going to the mosque was already in progress when the other past action ("saw") occurred, so the Past Continuous — "was going" — is required.

17 He _____ of age in two years.

(a) has come	(b) is coming
✓ (c) will come	(d) came

Explanation:

"In two years" refers to a point in the future, so the Simple Future tense is used: "will come of age".

18 Wood _____ on water.

(a) floated	✓ (b) floats
(c) had floated	(d) has floated

Explanation:

This states a general scientific fact (a physical property of wood), so the Present Simple is required: "floats".

19 The thief _____ away when the police arrived.

(a) has run	✓ (b) ran
(c) would run	(d) would have run

Explanation:

Two completed past actions occurring one after another (the thief running, then the police arriving) are both expressed in the Simple Past: "ran".

20 A bad workman _____ with his tools.

(a) is quarrelling

(b) quarrelled

(c) has quarrelled

✓ (d) quarrels

Explanation:

This is a well-known proverb stating a general truth about human behaviour, so the Present Simple “quarrels” is the standard proverbial form.

Exercise No. 8

Gujranwala Board 2008 — Group I & II
Tenses & Verb Forms

21 I would have helped him if he _____ to me.

(a) could have come

(b) comes

(c) will come

✓ (d) had come

Explanation:

Third Conditional (an unreal/impossible past condition): "If + Past Perfect (had come), ... would have + past participle (would have helped)". The if-clause correctly takes "had come".

22 If I teach him, he _____ the Board.

(a) tops

(b) has topped

(c) had topped

✓ (d) will top

Explanation:

First Conditional: "If + Present Simple (teach), ... will + base verb (top)", used for a likely future result.

23 It _____ since morning.

(a) has rained

(b) have been raining

(c) had rained

✓ (d) has been raining

Explanation:

The word "since" with a starting point ("morning") and an action continuing up to now needs the Present Perfect Continuous with the correct auxiliary "has": "has been raining".

24 They _____ college in time.

(a) does not reach	(b) could not reached
(c) had not reached	✓ (d) did not reach

Explanation:

A simple, completed past negative action (failing to reach college on time) takes the Simple Past negative form: "did not reach".

25 I shall telephone him when he _____ back.

✓ (a) comes	(b) had come
(c) came	(d) come

Explanation:

In time clauses beginning with "when", referring to the future, the Present Simple is used instead of the future tense: "when he comes back".

26 None of us _____ this idea.

(a) will be liking	(b) is liking
✓ (c) likes	(d) like

Explanation:

"Like" (meaning/opinion verbs) is a stative verb and is not normally used in continuous forms. "None of us" is treated as singular, so the correct form is "likes".

27 She _____ us very well now.

✓ (a) is teaching

(b) will be teaching

(c) was teaching

(d) will teach

Explanation:

The time marker “now” indicates an action happening at this moment, so the Present Continuous “is teaching” is correct.

28 I _____ a letter from your friend just now.

(a) received

✓ (b) have received

(c) had received

(d) will have received

Explanation:

“Just now” meaning “a moment ago” with present relevance is used with the Present Perfect: “have received”.

29 He _____ this book three days ago.

(a) buy

(b) will buy

✓ (c) bought

(d) had bought

Explanation:

A definite past time expression (“three days ago”) always requires the Simple Past: “bought”.

30 When the phone bell rang, I _____ a bath.

✓ (a) was having

(b) had

(c) will have

(d) would have

Explanation:

The bath was already in progress when the phone rang (a shorter past action interrupting a longer one), so the Past Continuous “was having” is correct.

Exercise No. 9

Faisalabad Board 2008 — Group I & II
Tenses & Verb Forms

31 Do you know why an apple _____ down?

(a) fall	(b) has fall
(c) did fall	✓ (d) falls

Explanation:

This states a general/scientific truth (gravity) inside an embedded question, so the Present Simple “falls” is used, with the subject “apple” taking the “-s” form.

32 The shopkeeper _____ a short measure.

(a) will gave	(b) had gave
(c) has gave	✓ (d) gives

Explanation:

This describes a habitual, characteristic action (the shopkeeper’s regular dishonest habit), which is expressed with the Present Simple: “gives”.

33 _____ a pure alcohol?

(a) Have you ever drank	(b) Have you ever drink
✓ (c) Have you ever drunk	(d) Have you ever drank

Explanation:

The Present Perfect is formed with “have/has + past participle”. The past participle of “drink” is “drunk” (not “drank”, which is the simple past form), so “Have you ever drunk” is correct.

34 She _____ me last month.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| ✓ (a) did not meet | (b) will meet |
| (c) will have met | (d) did meet |

Explanation:

“Last month” is a definite past time expression, so the Simple Past negative “did not meet” is required.

35 He always _____ to help me.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| (a) refused | ✓ (b) refuses |
| (c) will refuse | (d) refuse |

Explanation:

The adverb “always” with a habitual action calls for the Present Simple, and the subject “he” requires the “-s” form: “refuses”.

36 Somebody _____ your car if you leave it unlocked.

- | | |
|------------|----------------------|
| (a) steals | ✓ (b) will steal |
| (c) stole | (d) will have stolen |

Explanation:

First Conditional structure: “If + Present Simple (leave), ... will + base verb (steal)”, warning of a likely future consequence.

37 She laughs as if she _____ mad.

(a) is	(b) was
(c) been	✓ (d) were

Explanation:

“As if / as though” expressing an unreal or hypothetical state uses the subjunctive mood, which takes “were” for all subjects (including “she”): “as if she were mad”.

38 Anwar _____ this book since morning.

(a) read	(b) has read
✓ (c) has been reading	(d) will read

Explanation:

“Since morning” marks the starting point of an action that is still continuing, so the Present Perfect Continuous “has been reading” is correct.

39 I _____ an account last month.

(a) will open	✓ (b) opened
(c) had opened	(d) have opened

Explanation:

“Last month” is a definite past time marker, so the Simple Past “opened” is required.

40 Work hard lest you _____.

(a) may fail	(b) will fail
(c) might fail	✓ (d) should fail

Explanation:

The conjunction “lest” (meaning “in case” / “so that...not”) is traditionally followed by “should” in formal English: “lest you should fail”.

Score Summary

Use the table below to check your own answers against the solved key, exercise by exercise.

Exercise	Board	Questions	Correct Answers (a/b/c/d)
Exercise No. 6	Bahawalpur Board 2008	Q1-Q10	c, b, a, c, c, a, d, b, a, c
Exercise No. 7	D. G. Khan Board 2008	Q11-Q20	d, a, a, d, a, b, c, b, b, d
Exercise No. 8	Gujranwala Board 2008	Q21-Q30	d, d, d, d, a, c, a, b, c, a
Exercise No. 9	Faisalabad Board 2008	Q31-Q40	d, d, c, a, b, b, d, c, b, d

Keep practising — mastering tenses is the single biggest step toward fluent, accurate English!