



Answers

1. a) — (nothing; leave the verb phrase out)
2. b) will
3. a) do
4. d) did
5. d) did so
6. a) — (nothing; leave the verb phrase out)
7. c) does
8. c) have
9. d) — (nothing; leave the verb phrase out)
10. a) did so
11. c) — (nothing; leave the verb phrase out)
12. b) — (nothing; leave the verb phrase out)
13. a) did so
14. d) it
15. b) has
16. c) — (nothing; leave the verb phrase out)
17. b) so
18. d) — (nothing; leave the verb phrase out)
19. c) done so
20. b) did



Explanations

1. “— (nothing; leave the verb phrase out)” (a)

After a modal verb like 'could', we simply leave out the verb phrase. 'I couldn't' = 'I couldn't help'. This is verb phrase ellipsis. 'Do' alone after 'couldn't' is incomplete, and 'to help' is wrong because modals are not followed by 'to'.

2. “will” (b)

The original verb phrase is 'will pass the exam'. In VP ellipsis, we keep only the auxiliary: 'she will' = 'she will pass'. We match the same auxiliary — 'will' — from the first clause.

3. “do” (a)

In comparisons, we use 'do/does/did' as a substitute for the main verb: 'than I do' = 'than I run'. Present simple uses 'do' for I/you/we/they.

4. “did” (d)

'They did' = 'they finished on time'. We use 'did' as a verbal substitute for a past simple action. 'Would' doesn't work because the action actually happened (it's not hypothetical). 'Do' is present tense, but finishing happened in the past.

5. “did so” (d)

'Did so' is a formal verbal substitute meaning 'attended the meeting'. 'Do so' is preferred in formal contexts when the subject follows an instruction or expectation.

6. “— (nothing; leave the verb phrase out)” (a)

After 'might' (a modal verb), we simply drop the verb phrase: 'I might' = 'I might come'. This is standard VP ellipsis. 'Come it' and 'to come' are both grammatically wrong after a modal.

7. “does” (c)

'Does too' = 'speaks French fluently too'. We use 'does' (third-person present simple) as a verbal substitute. 'Speaks' alone is incomplete without the object 'French fluently'.

8. “have” (c)

The full verb phrase is 'should have read it'. In VP ellipsis after two auxiliaries, we keep 'should have': 'I should have' = 'I should have read it'. 'Have' here is part of the auxiliary chain, not the main verb.

9. “— (nothing; leave the verb phrase out)” (d)

After 'want to', we use ellipsis: 'I didn't want to' = 'I didn't want to tidy my room'. The infinitive marker 'to' is kept, but the verb phrase after it is dropped. 'Doing', 'tidied', and 'be' are all wrong forms after 'to'.

10. “did so” (a)

'Did so' = 'invested all his savings'. 'Do so' is preferred when referring back to an action that was expected, advised, or warned about — it has a formal, deliberate tone.

11. “— (nothing; leave the verb phrase out)” (c)

After 'be' (as part of the continuous), we drop the rest: 'He should be' = 'He should be working'. The auxiliary chain 'should be' is retained.

12. “— (nothing; leave the verb phrase out)” (b)

After 'used to', we drop the verb phrase: 'as much as she used to' = 'as much as she used to enjoy swimming'. The 'to' is kept as part of the fixed expression 'used to'.

13. “did so” (a)

'Did so' = 'rested'. It refers back to following the doctor's instruction. 'Did so for a whole week' sounds formal and natural. 'Was so' and 'made so' are not valid English patterns.

14. “it” (d)

'Do it' refers to a specific, concrete task (cleaning the kitchen). 'Do it myself' emphasises that the speaker personally completed this particular task. Ellipsis doesn't work here — 'had to do myself' would change the meaning to a reflexive sense.

15. “has” (b)

'Her brother has' = 'her brother has tried sushi'. We keep the auxiliary 'has' (present perfect) to match the original verb phrase 'has tried'. 'Does' would be present simple — the wrong tense.

16. “— (nothing; leave the verb phrase out)” (c)

After 'like to', we drop the verb phrase: 'I'd like to' = 'I'd like to ride a horse'. The infinitive marker 'to' is retained; the rest is omitted.

17. “so” (b)

'Failure to do so' is a fixed formal expression meaning 'failure to sign in'. In formal and legal English, 'do so' is the standard verbal substitute. 'Do it' would be too informal for this register.

18. “— (nothing; leave the verb phrase out)” (d)

After 'forgot to', we drop the verb phrase: 'I forgot to' = 'I forgot to call you'. The infinitive marker 'to' stays. 'Have done', 'calling', and 'be' are all wrong forms in this position.

19. “done so” (c)

'Hasn't done so' = 'hasn't quit smoking'. 'Do so' (here in the perfect form 'done so') is used for deliberate, expected actions — fitting because he made a promise. 'Been so' is not a valid English pattern.

20. “did” (b)

'Several people did' = 'several people applied for the position'. The past simple auxiliary 'did' substitutes for the full verb phrase in this short answer. 'Do' is wrong because the question is in past tense.