



Answers

1. a) has a lawyer presented
2. b) did scientists discover
3. c) Had
4. d) was the inspection
5. a) did they exceed
6. b) had we signed
7. c) should employees reveal
8. d) Were
9. a) did he realise
10. b) can we
11. c) had they published
12. d) was the extent of the damage
13. a) were they
14. b) does the reader learn
15. c) Were
16. d) encountered
17. a) was
18. b) that
19. c) were
20. d) but



Explanations

1. “has a lawyer presented” (a)

'Rarely' at the front triggers inversion: 'Rarely has a lawyer presented...' The present perfect auxiliary 'has' moves before the subject 'a lawyer'.

2. “did scientists discover” (b)

'Only after...' at the front triggers inversion in the main clause: 'Only after years of research did scientists discover...' Use 'did' + base form for past simple.

3. “Had” (c)

Third conditional inversion: 'Had the government acted sooner...' = 'If the government had acted sooner...' The past perfect auxiliary 'had' replaces 'if' at the front.

4. “was the inspection” (d)

'So + adjective' at the front triggers inversion: 'So thorough was the inspection that every flaw was identified.' The verb 'was' moves before the subject.

5. “did they exceed” (a)

'Not only' at the front requires inversion: 'Not only did they exceed the budget...' The second clause with 'but...also' keeps normal word order.

6. “had we signed” (b)

'No sooner...than' uses past perfect inversion: 'No sooner had we signed the contract than the client changed the requirements.'

7. “should employees reveal” (c)

'Under no circumstances' triggers inversion: the modal 'should' moves before the subject. This is common in official policies and formal instructions.

8. “Were” (d)

'Were it not for...' is the inverted form of 'If it were not for...' expressing a present unreal condition. 'Were it not for the generous donations, the charity would close down.'

9. “did he realise” (a)

'Little' with a negative meaning at the front triggers inversion: 'Little did he realise...' This is a very common expression in narrative and formal writing.

10. “can we” (b)

'Only by + -ing...' triggers inversion in the main clause: 'Only by adopting sustainable practices can we combat...' The modal 'can' moves before the subject.

11. “had they published” (c)

'Scarcely...when' uses past perfect inversion: 'Scarcely had they published the results when the media started reporting on them.'

12. “was the extent of the damage” (d)

'Such + be + noun' at the front: 'Such was the extent of the damage that...' The verb 'was' inverts before the noun phrase in this formal emphatic pattern.

13. “were they” (a)

'At no point' is a negative prepositional phrase. When fronted, it triggers inversion: 'At no point during the negotiations were they willing to compromise.'

14. “does the reader learn” (b)

'Not until...' at the front triggers inversion in the main clause: 'Not until the final chapter does the reader learn...'
Use 'does' + base form for present simple inversion.

15. “Were” (c)

'Were + subject + to-infinitive' is a formal second conditional without 'if': 'Were the committee to approve the proposal...' = 'If the committee were to approve the proposal...'

16. “encountered” (d)

'Never' is NOT at the beginning of the sentence — the subject 'The researchers' comes first. No inversion is needed. Use normal past perfect: 'The researchers had never encountered...' Compare: 'Never had the researchers encountered...'

17. “was” (a)

'The only solution' is simply a subject noun phrase — this is NOT the fronted 'Only...' structure that triggers inversion. Normal word order applies: 'The only solution was to redesign...'

18. “that” (b)

When 'so + adjective' is in the middle of the sentence (not fronted), no inversion is needed. Use 'that' to introduce the result clause. Compare the inverted form: 'So cold was it outside that we decided to stay indoors.'

19. “were” (c)

With 'If' present, no inversion is needed. This is a standard second conditional using 'were to': 'If the board were to reject the proposal...' Compare the inverted form: 'Were the board to reject the proposal...'

20. “but” (d)

When 'not only' is placed after the subject (not at the sentence front), no inversion is needed. Complete the correlative with 'but also': 'She not only speaks French but also writes poetry in it.'