GUIDED DISCOVERY HANDOUT (GRAMMAR - PAST MODALS)

PART 1: USE & MEANING (Why do we use them?)

Match each past modal sentence (1–7) with its correct communicative function (A–G):

1. *In the 19th century, people had to write letters because there were no phones.*
2. *We didn't need to buy extra tickets because entry was free.*
3. *I needn't have brought an umbrella; it didn't rain at all!*
4. *Life must have been very different before the internet.*
5. *He might / may / could have lost his way in the city.*
6. *She can't / couldn't have seen me; I was standing behind the door.*
7. *They should have / ought to have spent more money on public health.*

Functions:

- [___] A. Speculating with high certainty that something was NOT true / didn't happen in the past.
- [___] B. Expressing past obligation (something that was required).
- [___] C. Speculating with high certainty that something WAS true / happened in the past.
- [___] D. Expressing that an action was done, but it was unnecessary (a waste of effort).
- [___] E. Speculating that something was possibly true / happened in the past (uncertainty).
- [___] F. Expressing past advisability, expectation, or regret about something that didn't happen.
- [___] G. Expressing that an action was not necessary (so it may or may not have been done).

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PART 2: FORM (How do we build them?)

Complete the structural patterns below using words from the box:

past participle | infinitive | have | had to

1. Past Obligation:

Subject + _____ + base verb (infinitive)

2. Past Speculation / Regret / Lack of Necessity (Modal + Have):

Subject +Modal Verb (must / might / could / can't / should / needn't)} + _____ + _____

3. Special Distinction - Lack of Necessity:

   a. didn't need to + _____

   b. needn't have + _____

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