ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Adjective (Relative) Clauses Advanced Level MCQs Test With Answers 3

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Explanations

1. Istanbul is a city _____ you can literally see growing bigger and bigger with each year.
✔ **D) which**
The gap starts a defining relative clause about **a city**, and the pronoun is the object of **see** (you can see the city growing). For a thing as object, use **which** (or **that**). Not **where**: **where** replaces a place adverbial, but the clause already has a missing object, not a missing 'in it'.

2. Every month the queues at the traffic lights on the way to Istanbul get longer and longer, _____ is extremely frustrating, and people can't help wondering what it is going to be like ten years from now.
✔ **B) which**
After a comma, **which** can refer back to a whole clause: the fact that the queues get longer **is extremely frustrating**. **That** cannot follow a comma in a non-defining clause, and **what** cannot refer back to a previous idea.

3. The World Cup fans applauded a police officer, _____ had pushed his way through the crowd to return a lost child to her parents.
✔ **C) who**
The clause adds extra information about a person, **a police officer**, and the pronoun is the subject of **had pushed**, so we use **who**. Not **that**: **that** cannot be used after a comma in a non-defining relative clause.

4. The River Danube, _____ flows through Germany, Hungary, Austria, Serbia, Romania and borders Slovakia, Croatia, Bulgaria and Ukraine, is the longest and the most important river in Central Europe.
✔ **E) which**
This is a non-defining clause (between commas) about a thing, **the River Danube**, and the pronoun is the subject of **flows**. Use **which**. Not **that**: it is not used in non-defining clauses after a comma.

5. From the Black Forest, _____ it rises, the Danube flows a distance of 2,850 kilometres to the Black Sea.
✔ **D) where**
The clause means 'the Danube rises **in** the Black Forest', so we need a relative adverb of place: **where** (= in which). Not **which**: **it rises which** has no preposition, so it needs **in which** or **where**.

6. During the World Cup, dozens of officers patrolled the main avenues of Paris, _____ cafes overflowed with football fans.
✔ **A) where**
The clause means 'cafes overflowed with fans **in Paris**'; the clause already has a subject (**cafes**), so we need **where** (= in which). Not **which**: **which** would need a missing subject or object in the clause.

7. My brother John, one of _____ strongest fears when he was young was of heights, surprisingly, became a pilot.
✔ **B) whose**
The meaning is 'one of **his** strongest fears', so we need the possessive relative **whose**: **one of whose strongest fears**. **Whose** is followed directly by a noun (**fears**).

8. The chief advisor, by _____ the president had been betrayed, had ambitions of becoming the president himself.
✔ **E) whom**
After a preposition (**by**) referring to a person, we use **whom**: **the president had been betrayed by him → by whom**. Not **which** (for things) and never **that** directly after a preposition.

9. _____ like the Greek letter "omega", Coffin Spring is nothing new in orthodontics.
✔ **C) Shaped**
This is a reduced participle clause with a passive meaning: the Coffin Spring **is shaped** like an omega. A passive meaning needs the past participle **Shaped**. Not **Shaping**: that would mean the spring shapes something itself.

10. Hawaii's soil, _____ is composed of volcanic lava, ash and sandy stone, is so fertile that it yields eleven tons of sugar per acre, _____ is the largest yield on Earth.
✔ **D) which / which**
Both gaps follow a comma, so both clauses are non-defining. The first **which** refers to **Hawaii's soil** (subject of **is composed**); the second **which** refers to the whole idea 'eleven tons of sugar per acre'. **That** cannot be used after a comma in this way.

11. She came from New England, _____ people chop their own wood, so she found breaking down the door when they'd locked themselves out very easy.
✔ **D) where**
The clause means 'people chop their own wood **in New England**'. It already has a subject and object, so we need **where** (= in which). Not **which**: there is no missing subject or object for it to replace.

12. Students _____ haven't yet collected their student identification cards are reminded that they have to do so before the end of the month.
✔ **C) who**
This defining clause tells us which students, and the pronoun is the subject of **haven't collected**. For people as subject, use **who** (or **that**). Not **whose**: it needs a noun after it.

13. The heart, _____ main function is to pump blood around the body, is greatly affected by the food we eat.
✔ **B) whose**
The meaning is '**its** main function', so we need the possessive **whose**, followed by the noun **main function**. **Whose** can be used for things as well as people. Not **which**: **which main function** does not show possession.

14. The original inhabitants of Hawaii were probably Polynesians, _____ sailed from the islands of South East Asia, perhaps as early as 400 AD.
✔ **A) who**
The clause adds information about people, **Polynesians**, and the pronoun is the subject of **sailed**, so we use **who**. Not **whose**: it must be followed by a noun.

15. My friend Tom Ellis, _____ words are always carefully chosen, had never considered entering politics before.
✔ **E) whose**
The meaning is '**his** words', so we need the possessive relative **whose** + noun (**words**). Not **whom**: it is an object pronoun and cannot be followed by a noun.

16. Much of the pure gold that exists in the world is stored by governments in underground vaults, _____ it is kept under very strict security measures.
✔ **E) where**
The clause means 'the gold is kept **in the vaults**'. It already has a subject (**it**), so we need the relative adverb **where** (= in which). Not **which**: there is no missing subject or object.

17. It's estimated that in the 21st century seventy-five per cent of the world's population will be living within one hundred kilometres of the sea, _____ is frightening, especially when we consider the environmental effects.
✔ **B) which**
After a comma, **which** refers back to the whole preceding statement (the population living near the sea **is frightening**). Not **what**: it does not refer back to a previous clause, and **that** cannot follow a comma here.

18. The Earth, _____ resources are limited, should be respected and cared for; otherwise, she will not be able to sustain the world's population.
✔ **D) whose**
The meaning is '**its** resources', so we use the possessive **whose** + noun (**resources**). **Whose** is also used for things. Not **which**: **which resources** does not express possession.

19. I know I've put my passport in a place _____ I thought it would be safe, but now I can't remember it.
✔ **C) where**
The clause means 'I thought it would be safe **in that place**'. It already has a subject (**it**), so we need **where** (= in which) after **a place**. Not **which** or **that**: there is no missing subject or object for them to replace.

20. My son will have to catch a bus in order to get to the school _____ he's enrolled in.
✔ **C) that**
The clause ends with the preposition **in** (**enrolled in the school**), so we need an object pronoun: **that** (or **which**). Not **where**: **where** already means 'in which', so **where he's enrolled in** would repeat the preposition.

21. Even the people travelling around the world and working abroad eventually feel a longing for the country in _____ they grew up.
✔ **B) which**
After a preposition referring to a thing, we use **which**: **in which they grew up**. Not **that** or **where**: neither can follow a preposition (**in where** and **in that** are wrong).

22. When our car broke down on the way to Ankara, the mechanic _____ helped us knew exactly _____ the problem was.
✔ **E) who / what**
First gap: a person (**the mechanic**) as subject of **helped** → **who**. Second gap: a noun clause meaning 'the thing that the problem was' → **what**. Not **that / when**: **that** works in the first gap, but **when** makes no sense in the second.

23. The story _____ I was told by Leslie last night was really funny.
✔ **A) that**
This defining clause tells us which story. **I** is the subject of **was told**, and the relative pronoun stands for **the story** (Leslie told me the story → the story **that** I was told). For things we use **that** (or **which**). Not **who**: it is only for people.

24. The conditions for the labourers _____ work at Brazil's gold mines, _____ 78 tons of gold are mined each year, are very poor.
✔ **D) that / where**
First gap: a defining clause about people as subject of **work** → **that** (or **who**). Second gap: 'gold is mined **in the mines**', and the clause already has a subject → **where**. Not **who / when**: **when** refers to time, not place.

25. Even on New Year's Eve, _____ most of us are celebrating, the ambulance service staff are working.
✔ **B) when**
New Year's Eve is a time, and the clause means 'most of us are celebrating **on that day**'. So we use the relative adverb **when**. Not **which**: there is no missing subject or object in the clause.

26. The Jurassic period, from about 201 to 145 million years ago, was the period during _____ most of the major groups of dinosaurs evolved.
✔ **C) which**
After a preposition (**during**) referring to a thing (**the period**), we use **which**: **during which**. Not **when**: **during when** is wrong. Not **that**: it cannot follow a preposition.

27. The football coach, _____ to leave the club after a series of poor results, soon found a new job in Spain.
✔ **E) forced**
This is a reduced relative clause with a passive meaning: the coach **was forced** to leave (= **who was forced to leave**). A passive meaning needs the past participle **forced**. Not **having forced**: that is active and would mean the coach forced someone else.

28. The film Great Expectations is based on the novel by Charles Dickens, with _____ work I am quite familiar.
✔ **D) whose**
The meaning is 'I am familiar with **his** (Dickens's) work', so we need the possessive **whose** + noun (**work**) after the preposition: **with whose work**. Not **whom**: it cannot be followed by a noun.

29. One of the most controversial issues _____ lately is whether people _____ from minor illnesses should be allowed to work from home.
✔ **B) discussed / suffering**
Both gaps are reduced relative clauses. The issues **have been discussed** (passive) → past participle **discussed**. The people **are suffering** from illnesses (active) → present participle **suffering**. Not **being discussed / to suffer**: **to suffer** cannot replace a relative clause here.

30. Our psychology professor has a strange theory shedding light on the reason _____ football violence is increasing.
✔ **B) why**
After **the reason**, we use the relative adverb **why**: **the reason why football violence is increasing**. Not **which**: the clause already has a subject and nothing else is missing, so **which** has no noun to replace. Not **where**: it is used for places, not reasons.

31. Hawks, _____ eagles in the same bird family, greatly range in size.
✔ **E) resembling**
This is a reduced relative clause with an active meaning: hawks **resemble** eagles (= **which resemble eagles**). An active meaning needs the present participle **resembling**. Not **resembled**: that would be passive.

32. Until the 20th century, the chief raisin producers were Turkey, Iran and Greece. By mid-century, however, the United States had taken the lead in production, with Australia _____ second.
✔ **A) ranking**
In the structure **with** + noun + participle, an active meaning takes the **-ing** form: **with Australia ranking second** (= and Australia ranked second). Not **to rank**: **with** is not followed by an infinitive here.

33. In the picnic area, we found a shady bank, _____ we stopped and ate our sandwiches.
✔ **A) where**
The clause means 'we stopped **on/at the bank**'. It already has a subject (**we**), so we need **where**. Not **which**: there is no missing subject or object for it to replace.

34. This brand of orange juice is quite nice, but not as tasty as the freshly squeezed orange juice _____ at our local supermarket.
✔ **C) sold**
The juice **is sold** at the supermarket, so the reduced relative clause needs the past participle **sold** (passive meaning). Not **selling**: the juice does not sell anything.

35. Our defeat, for _____ some players blame themselves, was caused by bad luck and not by our lack of capabilities.
✔ **B) which**
The players **blame themselves for the defeat**. After a preposition referring to a thing, we use **which**: **for which**. Not **whom**: it is for people.

36. The students _____ had enrolled for the course were disappointed when they found out that it had been cancelled.
✔ **D) that**
A defining clause about people (**the students**), with the pronoun as subject of **had enrolled**, takes **that** (or **who**). Not **whom**: it is an object form and cannot be the subject of a verb.

37. I think we should hire him because he is a talented young man _____ abilities include fluency in three languages.
✔ **A) whose**
The meaning is '**his** abilities', so we need the possessive **whose** + noun (**abilities**). Not **who**: **who abilities** has no possessive meaning.

38. The result of our first match in the World Cup, _____ was very exciting, was not what we were hoping for.
✔ **C) which**
A non-defining clause (between commas) about a thing, **the result**, as subject of **was**, takes **which**. Not **that**: it cannot be used after a comma in a non-defining clause.

39. The school _____ to me by my friend is offering new courses in September.
✔ **E) recommended**
The school **was recommended** to me by my friend, so the reduced relative clause needs the past participle **recommended** (passive). The agent **by my friend** is a clear passive clue. Not **recommending**: the school did not recommend anything.

40. Most of the people the police _____ about the robbery _____ anything suspicious in the area.
✔ **D) questioned / hadn’t seen**
First gap: a defining clause with the object pronoun left out: **the people (whom) the police questioned**, so it needs a finite verb, **questioned**. Second gap: the main verb; not seeing anything happened before the questioning, so the past perfect **hadn't seen** fits. Not **questioning / didn't see**: **the police questioning** has no finite verb.

41. Their existing customers, several of _____ were very interested in the new product, were invited to a presentation.
✔ **B) whom**
In the pattern **several of** + relative pronoun, people take **whom**: **several of whom**. Not **which**: it is used for things (**several of which**).

42. All of our current customers, _____ showed an interest in the new product, attended the meeting.
✔ **C) who**
A non-defining clause (after a comma) about people, as subject of **showed**, takes **who**. Not **that**: it cannot be used in non-defining clauses.

43. Formerly _____ as Siam, Thailand is one of the most popular tourist spots in Asia.
✓ B) known
Thailand **was known** as Siam, so the reduced clause needs the past participle **known** (passive meaning). **Formerly known as** is a fixed expression. Not **having known**: it is active.

44. There are many daily newspapers in England, many of _____ are owned by two large media companies.
✓ D) which
In the pattern **many of** + relative pronoun, things take **which**: **many of which**. Not **that**: it cannot follow a preposition. Not **whom**: it is for people.

45. Students _____ a foreign language can always benefit from visiting the country _____ language they are trying to learn.
✓ C) studying / whose
First gap: students who **are studying** a language → active present participle **studying**. Second gap: '**its** language' → possessive **whose** + noun. Not **studied / in which**: **studied** is passive, and **in which language** does not fit the meaning.

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