ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Adverbial Clauses Conjunctions Inversion Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 4

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Explanations

1. It's generally a decision by each company or cruise line _____ how many doctors or nurses to provide.
✔ **D) as to**
As to means 'about' or 'concerning'. It is often followed by a wh-word: **a decision as to how many…**. Not **as regard**, which is not a correct form; the phrases are **as regards** or **with regard to**.

2. Some of the more productive petroleum areas on Earth are found in arid and semiarid regions of Africa and the Middle East, _____ the oil fields were originally formed in shallow marine environments.
✔ **A) although**
The second clause shows a contrast. The oil fields are now in deserts, but they were formed in the sea. **Although** is a conjunction, so it can join two full clauses. Not **however**: it is an adverb and cannot link two clauses with only a comma.

3. Some of the great minds argued that the universe was not a confined space, _____ others contended that its boundaries were drawn.
✔ **A) while**
While here is a conjunction of contrast meaning 'whereas'. It compares two opposing views in one sentence: some said the universe had no limits, others said it did. **Thus**, **all the same** and **however** are adverbs and cannot join the clauses after a comma.

4. _____ how aggressively the U.S. tackles its carbon problem, the global outlook hinges on the coal-fired economies of the world's two looming giants: China and India.
✔ **B) No matter**
No matter how + clause means 'it is not important how': **No matter how aggressively the U.S. tackles…**. Not **However**: **however** already contains 'how', so **However how** is impossible.

5. We need to hear from the inspectors to know for sure, but it sounds _____ the factory has not yet got as far with its safety program as it has been claiming.
✔ **B) as though**
After verbs like **sound**, **look** and **seem**, we use **as though** / **as if** + clause to say how something appears: **It sounds as though the factory has not…**. Not **just as**, which compares two actions ('in the same way that') and does not follow **sound**.

6. Economic growth can be enjoyed and shared evenly only in a community where solidarity has developed _____ familiarity.
✔ **D) as a consequence of**
As a consequence of means 'as a result of'. Here, solidarity grows because people know each other well. Not **in spite of** / **despite**: familiarity is the cause of solidarity, not an obstacle to it.

7. _____ I would like to help you, I'm afraid I'm simply too busy at the moment.
✔ **B) While**
While can mean 'although'. It introduces a real fact that contrasts with the main clause: **While I would like to help you, I'm too busy.** Not **Despite**: it needs a noun or -ing form, not a clause. Not **However**: it cannot introduce a clause like this.

8. I try not to think about it too much, but _____ I can't believe how lucky I was to survive such a terrifying accident.
✔ **D) even now**
Even now means 'still, at this moment, after all this time': **Even now I can't believe how lucky I was.** Not **even though** or **even if**: these are conjunctions, so they need a second clause to complete the sentence.

9. _____ Mr Ash's pride in the system he has put together, it hasn't always been as reliable as he might have wished.
✔ **C) In spite of**
In spite of is followed by a noun phrase: **In spite of Mr Ash's pride in the system…**. Not **Even though**: it must be followed by a full clause with a verb, e.g. **Even though Mr Ash is proud of the system…**

10. OK, I admit that health insurance costs a lot of money. But _____, if people stay healthy, you shouldn't think of it as losing money.
✔ **B) on the other hand**
On the other hand introduces an opposing point after an admission: **I admit it is expensive. But on the other hand…**. Not **in addition**, which adds a similar point rather than a contrasting one.

11. Because it is on the verge of bankruptcy, the company is trying to reduce its costs; _____, staff who leave are not being replaced.
✔ **A) consequently**
Consequently means 'as a result'. It often comes after a semicolon and is followed by a comma. Not replacing staff is the result of cutting costs. Not **however**, which would show a contrast, not a result.

12. The thinker writes in support of freedom _____ darkness may fall upon our society in the form of dwindling rights and oppression.
✔ **B) lest**
Lest is a formal word meaning 'so that ... not' or 'for fear that'. It is often followed by **should**, **may** or a subjunctive: **He writes in support of freedom lest darkness may fall...**. Not **in order that**, which would mean he wants darkness to fall.

13. The charity concert for the homeless has been cancelled _____ the lack of support.
✔ **A) owing to**
Owing to (= because of) is followed by a noun: **cancelled owing to the lack of support**. Not **as a result**: before a noun you need **as a result of**.

14. All the children are lumped together in one class, _____ their ability.
✔ **C) regardless of**
Regardless of means 'without considering': all the children are in one class whatever their ability. The other options (**as regards**, **regarding**, **with regard to**, **in regard to**) all mean 'about/concerning', which does not fit the meaning.

15. We'll take an umbrella _____ insure ourselves against the unfortunate possibility that it might rain.
✔ **B) so as to**
So as to + base verb expresses purpose, like **in order to**: **We'll take an umbrella so as to insure ourselves...**. Not **owing to** or **due to**: these give a reason and are followed by a noun, not a verb.

16. The Ottomans started to use a crescent and a star on their flags, _____ the current Turkish flag, after the 16th century.
✔ **B) similar to**
Similar to + noun means 'like, almost the same as': **flags similar to the current Turkish flag**. Not **for example**, which introduces an example of a group, not a comparison.

17. Granted that it is dangerous, _____ I still want to go.
✔ **A) all the same**
Granted that (= I accept that) introduces a concession. The main clause then uses **all the same** (= nevertheless): **Granted that it is dangerous, all the same I still want to go.** Not **although**: it would also be a concession word, and the sentence already starts with one.

18. _____ the fire had broken out did the lack of safety measures become obvious.
✔ **B) Only after**
When a sentence begins with **Only after** + clause, the main clause uses question-style inversion: **Only after the fire had broken out did the lack... become obvious.** Not **When**: it does not cause inversion, so **did ... become** would be wrong. Not **Hardly**: it needs **had** straight after it and **when** in the second clause.

19. We felt very nice and snug, _____ there was a fire in the room.
✔ **C) as if**
As if + clause describes how something feels or seems, often in an imaginary way: **We felt snug, as if there was a fire in the room** (there wasn't really one). Not **so that**, which expresses purpose or result.

20. He knocked over the red wine, _____ ruining the tablecloth.
✔ **A) thereby**
Thereby + -ing means 'and as a result of this': **He knocked over the wine, thereby ruining the tablecloth.** Not **so**: it is followed by a clause (**so he ruined...**), not normally by an -ing form.

21. _____ dessert, I'd better skip it today as I am getting too fat.
✔ **B) As for**
As for + noun introduces a new topic: 'about / concerning': **As for dessert, I'd better skip it.** Not **In spite of**, which shows contrast and does not make sense here.

22. He refused to answer any of the questions asked _____ he had been unfairly dismissed from the base.
✔ **C) on the grounds that**
On the grounds that + clause gives the reason for an action or decision: **He refused to answer on the grounds that he had been unfairly dismissed.** Not **for fear that**, which expresses worry about a possible future event, not a reason based on a fact.

23. Off the coast of the South-West Mediterranean Region _____ the groups of islands, a popular summer resort area.
✔ **A) lie**
When a sentence starts with a place phrase (**Off the coast of...**), the verb often comes before the subject: **Off the coast ... lie the groups of islands.** The subject **the groups** is plural, and the fact is true now, so we use the present simple **lie**. Not **lay**: it is the past of **lie** (or the verb 'to put down'), and there is no past time here.

24. I would have asked her about the subject we discussed _____ I seen her at the party yesterday.
✔ **B) had**
In a third conditional we can leave out **if** and invert **had** and the subject: **had I seen her** = **if I had seen her**. Not **if**: **if I seen her** is wrong because the auxiliary **had** is missing.

25. _____ high were the Alps _____ the elderly climbers could take only a couple of steps per minute as they came closer to the apex.
✔ **E) So / that**
So + adjective can begin a sentence for emphasis, with the verb inverted and **that** introducing the result: **So high were the Alps that...**. Not **Such / that**: **such** is used with a noun phrase (**such high mountains**), not with an adjective alone.