ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Clauses Test B1 Grammar Exercises

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Explanations

1. You need to do some more exercise _____ you are in perfect shape.
✓ **B) until**
Until means 'up to the time when'. You keep exercising, and you stop when you reach perfect shape. **Due to** and **by** must be followed by a noun, not a clause. **No sooner** needs **than**.

2. The couple sitting before us kept talking _____ the movie.
✓ **D) during**
During is a preposition, so it is followed by a noun: **during the movie**. **While** and **when** are conjunctions and need a clause, e.g. **while the movie was on**.

3. It was so unlucky that she had an accident _____ she got her driving licence.
✓ **B) as soon as**
As soon as means 'immediately after', and it joins two clauses: the accident happened right after she got her licence. Not **no sooner**, because it needs the pattern **no sooner … than**.

4. _____ the ambulance arrived at the hospital, the injured man had already died.
✓ **A) By the time**
By the time + past simple is often followed by the past perfect (**had already died**). It shows that one action finished before the other happened. Not **after**, because **already** shows the death came first.

5. He was lucky because he had _____ arrived at the bus stop _____ the bus came.
✓ **D) no sooner / than**
The pattern is **no sooner … than**, usually with the past perfect: **He had no sooner arrived than the bus came.** It means one thing happened immediately after another. **Hardly** goes with **when**, not **than**.

6. There was _____ smoke in the small room _____ I couldn't breathe.
✓ **B) so much / that**
Smoke is uncountable, so we use **so much … that** to show a result. Not **so many**, which is only for plural countable nouns, e.g. **so many people**.

7. None of us knew _____ she was smiling so happily.
✓ **A) the reason why**
The reason why + clause tells us the cause of something: **None of us knew the reason why she was smiling. So that** and **therefore** talk about purpose and result, not about the cause.

8. _____ it is spring, I take my houseplants out on the balcony _____ they can get more sunlight.
✓ **D) When / so that**
When introduces a time clause (**When it is spring**). **So that** introduces a purpose, usually with **can**: **so that they can get more sunlight**. **During** is wrong because it must be followed by a noun.

9. He is never happy _____ being rich enough to buy whatever he wants.
✓ **D) despite**
Despite shows contrast and is followed by a noun or an -ing form: **despite being rich**. Not **although**, because **although** needs a full clause: **although he is rich**.

10. I double-check the gas and the electricity _____ I leave the flat for a few days _____ I forget to turn them off.
✓ **B) before / in case**
Before tells us when I check: before I leave. **In case** means 'because something might happen': I check because I might forget. Not **in order not to**, because it must be followed by an infinitive, not a clause.

11. _____ it is forbidden to enter the construction site, the kids are playing there.
✓ **B) Although**
Although + clause shows contrast: it is forbidden, but the kids still play there. Not **in spite of**, because it needs a noun or -ing form. **However** cannot join two clauses like this.

12. Wooden toys can be quite interesting _____ plastic ones usually lack creativity.
✓ **C) whereas**
Whereas joins two clauses and compares two different things: wooden toys are interesting, **whereas** plastic ones often lack creativity. Not **because of**, because it needs a noun, and not **so as to**, because it needs an infinitive.

13. She pretended not to see me _____ I weren't in the room.
✓ **D) as if**
As if means 'in a way that suggests', and it is often followed by an unreal past form: **as if I weren't in the room**. Not **although**, because there is no contrast here.

14. Andy decided to drive me home _____ it had become too late for me to go alone.
✓ **A) since**
Here **since** means 'because' and gives the reason: it had become too late. Not **so**, because **so** introduces a result, not a reason. **Due to** needs a noun, not a clause.

15. Some crops cannot be grown in this region _____ unpredictable weather conditions.
✓ **A) due to**
Due to means 'because of' and is followed by a noun phrase: **due to unpredictable weather conditions**. Not **because** or **as**, because they need a full clause with a verb.

16. When he came back, I noticed that he had forgotten to buy some items _____ I had given him a shopping list.
✓ **C) even though**
Even though shows a strong contrast: he forgot some items, and this is surprising because I had given him a list. **In case** and **so that** do not show contrast.

17. _____ it was too small for my daughter, I changed the blouse at the boutique.
✓ **A) As**
Here **as** means 'because' and gives the reason: the blouse was too small, so I changed it. Not **while**, because there is no time link or contrast between the two parts.

18. Joey prefers wearing casual clothes _____ his brother Alex prefers wearing suits.
✓ **C) while**
While can compare two different things, like **whereas**: Joey likes casual clothes, **while** Alex likes suits. **As though** and **so that** do not show a contrast.

19. My grandpa seems as fit as a young man _____ his old age.
✓ **A) in spite of**
In spite of + noun shows contrast: he is old, but he is still very fit. Not **even though**, because it needs a clause, e.g. **even though he is old**.

20. Timothy cannot walk properly _____ the pain in his left leg.
✓ **D) because of**
Because of + noun gives the reason: **because of the pain**. Not **since** or **though**, because they need a full clause with a verb.

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