ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Cloze Test Passage Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 1

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Explanations

1. (Please note: The following questions are part of a cloze test. They are interrelated, meaning that the information provided in each question is connected to the others.)

There are some specific characteristics that make "the Wimbledon Tennis Championships" unique. Wimbledon is the only major tennis tournament _____ on grass.
✓ **B) played**
The gap needs a reduced passive relative clause: **the only major tennis tournament played on grass** = **that is played on grass**. The tournament does not play; it is played, so the past participle **played** is needed. Not **playing** or **to play**, because both have an active meaning.

2. But that's not the only reason _____ it is so special.
✓ **B) why**
The reason why is the standard pattern for introducing the cause after the noun **reason**: **That's not the only reason why it is so special.** Not **because**, which cannot follow **reason** directly to form a relative clause.

3. Wimbledon is an excellent organization. It may give the impression that nothing has changed over the decades, _____ in reality, everything is continuously improving and modernizing.
✓ **C) while**
While here expresses contrast, like **whereas**: it seems that nothing has changed, **while in reality** everything is improving. **So** would show a result and **as if** a comparison, and neither fits the contrast between impression and reality.

4. Every novelty _____ the desire to present tennis of the highest quality _____ the traditional environment of an English garden.
✓ **E) reflects**
To **reflect** something means to show or express it: every new feature **reflects the desire** to offer top-quality tennis in a traditional setting. **Requires** does not fit the meaning, and **insists** would need **on**.

5. Every novelty _____ the desire to present tennis of the highest quality _____ the traditional environment of an English garden.
✓ **A) within**
Within means inside the limits of something: the tennis is presented **within the traditional environment** of an English garden. Not **without**, which would mean the opposite of what the passage says about Wimbledon's tradition.

6. (Please note: The following questions are part of a cloze test. They are interrelated, meaning that the information provided in each question is connected to the others.)

The first half of the 20th century was dominated by the two world wars. The wars resulted in unprecedented numbers of casualties. Eight and a half million people are believed _____ fighting in the First World War of 1914-1918.
✓ **D) to have died**
After passive reporting verbs (**be believed/said/thought**), a past event takes a perfect infinitive: **are believed to have died**. The believing happens now, but the dying happened in 1914–1918. Not **to be dying**, which describes something happening now.

7. During the Second World War, as many as 60 million _____ in Europe, Asia and the Pacific.
✓ **D) were killed**
The sentence needs a finite passive verb: **60 million (people) were killed**. The people did not do the killing; it was done to them. Not **killed** alone, because **60 million killed** would be an active past tense and would mean they killed others.

8. _____ the total number of casualties, half were civilians.
✓ **A) Of**
Of introduces the whole group from which a part is taken: **Of the total number of casualties, half were civilians.** Not **from**, which is not used with fractions and parts in this pattern.

9. The scale of killing was largely _____ the destructive power of weaponry.
✓ **E) due to**
Due to means **caused by** and is followed by a noun phrase: **largely due to the destructive power of weaponry**. Not **because**, which would need **of** (**because of**) before a noun.

10. With the use of the atomic bomb at the end of the Second World War, this reached _____ terrifying a peak that the major powers tried to prevent international wars.
✓ **D) so**
The pattern **so + adjective + a/an + noun + that** expresses a result: **so terrifying a peak that…** Not **such**, which goes before the article: **such a terrifying peak**. **Too** would need an infinitive, not **that**.

11. (Please note: The following questions are part of a cloze test. They are interrelated, meaning that the information provided in each question is connected to the others.)

Alexander the Great's official historian was a professional flatterer who knew _____ to please his arrogant king.
✔ **C) how**
Know how to do something means to know the way or method of doing it: the flatterer **knew how to please** his king. Not **what**, which would need an object (**what to say**).

12. He called him the new Achilles, from Alexander's favourite _____ in his favourite book, the Iliad.
✔ **E) character**
A **character** is a person in a book, play or film: Achilles is Alexander's favourite **character** in the Iliad. Not **role**, which is the part an actor plays, or **cast**, which means all the actors in a production.

13. When, _____, Alexander allowed himself to be worshipped as a god by some of his Asian subjects, Callisthenes thought this went _____ far.
✔ **B) however**
However is an adverb of contrast that can be placed inside a clause between commas: **When, however, Alexander allowed himself…** It contrasts Callisthenes' earlier flattery with his later criticism. Not **although** or **despite**, which cannot stand alone between commas like this.

14. When, _____, Alexander allowed himself to be worshipped as a god by some of his Asian subjects, Callisthenes thought this went _____ far.
✔ **A) too**
Go too far is an idiom meaning to do something extreme or unacceptable. Callisthenes thought being worshipped as a god **went too far**. Not **such**, which cannot modify the adverb **far**.

15. This time he quoted the Iliad - against him: “A better man than you was Patroclus, but still, death didn't spare him.” Getting angry, Alexander had Callisthenes connected to an assassination plot, and though he was _____, he found him guilty.
✔ **C) innocent**
Though signals a contrast: Callisthenes was found guilty even though he was **innocent** (had done nothing wrong). Not **criminal**, because there would be no contrast between being a criminal and being found guilty.

16. (Please note: The following questions are part of a cloze test. They are interrelated, meaning that the information provided in each question is connected to the others.)

Thomas Pynchon, the American novelist and sometime short-story writer, is as elusive as the characters he _____.
✔ **B) creates**
Writers **create** characters, meaning they invent them. Pynchon is as hard to find as the characters **he creates**. Not **exerts**, which collocates with **influence** or **pressure**, not with characters.

17. In his books, characters seem to shift their identities at the drop of a hat, _____ a way that readers find either confusing _____ amusing.
✔ **B) in**
The fixed expression is **in a way**, meaning in a manner: characters change identity **in a way that readers find confusing or amusing**. Not **on** or **at**, which do not combine with **way** in this sense.

18. In his books, characters seem to shift their identities at the drop of a hat, _____ a way that readers find either confusing _____ amusing.
✔ **D) or**
The correlative pair is **either… or**: **either confusing or amusing**. Not **nor**, which pairs with **neither**, and not **and**, which pairs with **both**.

19. As for the writer _____, not one photo of him has ever been officially released, and even his publisher does not know _____ he lives.
✔ **A) himself**
The emphatic reflexive pronoun **himself** after a noun means **the person in contrast to others**: **as for the writer himself** (as opposed to his characters). Not **him**, which cannot be used for emphasis after a noun.

20. As for the writer _____, not one photo of him has ever been officially released, and even his publisher does not know _____ he lives.
✔ **D) where**
The verb **lives** needs a place, so the question word is **where**: **does not know where he lives**. Not **that**, because **that he lives** would mean the publisher doesn't know he is alive.

21. (Please note: The following questions are part of a cloze test. They are interrelated, meaning that the information provided in each question is connected to the others.)

Psychic energy is not new in terms of intuitive human awareness. _____ the earliest history of civilization, philosophers and scientists have _____ its structure and potential according to their cultural conditioning and personal belief systems.
✔ **E) Since**
Since + a point in time is used with the present perfect to show something that started in the past and continues: **Since the earliest history of civilization, philosophers… have conceptualized…**. Not **Because**, which gives a reason, not a time.

22. _____ the earliest history of civilization, philosophers and scientists have _____ its structure and potential according to their cultural conditioning and personal belief systems.
✔ **B) conceptualized**
To **conceptualize** something means to form an idea or theory of it: thinkers have **conceptualized its structure and potential** according to their beliefs. Not **curtailed** (limited) or **compressed** (squeezed), which do not fit thinking about an idea.

23. It's new only _____ the sense _____ scientists have recently established _____ existence and are learning how to measure it in the laboratory.
✔ **A) in**
The fixed phrase is **in the sense that**, used to limit or explain a statement: it is new only **in the sense** that science has now proved it. Not **on** or **under**, which do not combine with **sense** in this meaning.

24. It's new only _____ the sense _____ scientists have recently established _____ existence and are learning how to measure it in the laboratory.
✔ **B) that**
In the sense that is followed by a full clause explaining the meaning: **in the sense that scientists have recently established its existence**. Not **who**, because the clause does not describe people; it explains the sense.

25. It's new only _____ the sense _____ scientists have recently established _____ existence and are learning how to measure it in the laboratory.
✔ **C) its**
The possessive must refer back to **psychic energy**, a singular thing, so we use **its**: **established its existence**. Not **their**, which would wrongly refer to the scientists, and not **it**, which is not a possessive.

26. (Please note: The following questions are part of a cloze test. They are interrelated, meaning that the information provided in each question is connected to the others.)

The planet Jupiter is named after the mythical king of the Roman gods. In many _____, it is the king of the planets.
✔ **E) ways**
In many ways is a fixed phrase meaning **in many respects**: in many ways, Jupiter is the king of the planets. Not **effects** or **types**, which do not form this expression.

27. Jupiter is the largest of the planets circling the Sun, big _____ to contain all the others with room to _____.
✔ **A) enough**
Enough comes after an adjective and is followed by an infinitive: **big enough to contain all the others**. Not **too**, which would come before the adjective and give the opposite meaning (**too big to…**).

28. Jupiter is the largest of the planets circling the Sun, big _____ to contain all the others with room to _____.
✔ **D) spare**
With room to spare is an idiom meaning with more space than is needed. Jupiter could hold all the other planets and still have extra space. Not **go**: **room to go** is not an English expression.

29. Its immense gravity controls a family of more than 90 moons, and it is surrounded _____ radiation belts powerful enough to kill a visiting astronaut.
✔ **B) by**
In the passive, the agent or thing that surrounds something is introduced by **by**: **it is surrounded by radiation belts**. Not **of** or **in**, which do not follow **surrounded** in this meaning.

30. If _____ looks at Jupiter through even the smallest of telescopes, he/she can make out bands of cloud in yellow and white.
✔ **C) one**
The impersonal pronoun **one** means **any person** and is used in formal general statements: **If one looks at Jupiter…, he/she can make out bands of cloud.** Not **he**, because no particular man has been mentioned, and not **none** or **some**, which would not make sense as the person looking.

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