ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Conditionals and Wish Clauses Advanced Level MCQs Test With Answers 2

Conditionals (If Clauses) Tests · 55 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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Explanations

1. I wish our history teacher _____ us so much homework. I never have enough time to finish it.
✔ **A) wouldn’t give**
wish + would expresses annoyance about someone else's behaviour and a wish that it would change: **I wish he wouldn't give us so much homework.** Not **doesn't give**, because after **wish** we cannot use a present tense.

2. After we have been to the cinema, we _____ bowling, if you _____ it’s a good idea.
✔ **D) could go / think**
This is a suggestion about a real future plan. **could go** makes the suggestion, and the **if**-clause uses the present simple, **if you think**, for a real condition. Not **were going / had thought**, because nothing here is unreal or in the past.

3. If he _____ in the woods at that particular time, he _____ the accident.
✔ **E) hadn’t been / wouldn’t have witnessed**
This is a third conditional about an unreal past: **if + past perfect** (**hadn't been**), **would have + past participle** (**wouldn't have witnessed**). He was in the woods, so he did see it.

4. Bed-wetting is common in children up to the age of five, but if the problem _____ beyond this age, a physical examination _____ in case there is a serious medical problem.
✔ **B) persists / is recommended**
This is a general truth, so it is a zero/first-type conditional with the present simple in both clauses: **if the problem persists**, an examination **is recommended**. The passive is needed because the examination does not recommend anything itself. Not **may recommend**, which is active.

5. Just think! If we _____ our degree course to music, we _____ professionally now.
✔ **C) hadn’t changed / wouldn’t be singing**
This is a mixed conditional: an unreal past condition (**hadn't changed**, past perfect) with a present result (**wouldn't be singing now**). The word **now** shows that the result is in the present.

6. Unlike Walt Disney’s cartoon chipmunks, which always appear up a tree, real chipmunks _____ to stay near their underground burrows in case they _____ to escape from a predator.
✔ **B) prefer / need**
This is a general fact about animals, so the present simple is used: **real chipmunks prefer**. After **in case**, we also use the present simple: **in case they need to escape**. Not **will be needed**, because **will** is not used after **in case**.

7. Oh, I am so embarrassed! I wish the ground _____ open and swallow me.
✔ **D) would**
wish + would expresses a desire for something to happen, here an impossible one: **I wish the ground would open and swallow me.** It is an idiom used when you are very embarrassed.

8. OK, I _____ your Tuesday evening class provided you _____ the lesson plan because I hate doing it.
✔ **C) will cover / write**
provided (that) introduces a real condition, like a first conditional. So it is **will cover** in the main clause and the present simple **provided you write** in the condition. Not **can cover / wrote**, because the past simple makes the condition unreal.

9. _____ he finds a job soon, he will have to sell his car.
✔ **A) Unless**
Unless means 'if ... not': **Unless he finds a job** = **If he doesn't find a job**, he will have to sell his car. Not **Providing**, because that gives the opposite meaning.

10. The garage can’t have adjusted the brakes properly; _____, they wouldn’t be making such a horrible noise.
✔ **E) otherwise**
otherwise means 'if not / if that weren't true': if the garage had adjusted the brakes properly, they **wouldn't be making** such a noise. Not **therefore**, because the second clause is an unreal result, not a real consequence.

11. A cheap guitar won’t be much good to you _____ you are hoping to play professionally later on.
✔ **B) if**
This is a simple real condition: the guitar won't be good for you **if** you hope to play professionally. Not **even if**, because that would mean 'despite this', which makes no sense here.

12. I'm sure Jessie _____ to play this Saturday provided someone _____ her a lift to the stadium.
✔ **A) will agree / can give**
provided introduces a real future condition. **will agree** is used in the main clause and a present form, **can give**, after **provided**. Not **agrees / were to give**, because it mixes a real result with an unreal condition.

13. We really should have looked at the timetable when we got off the ferry. We _____ the six-thirty train, but now we have to hang around here until twenty past eight.
✔ **C) could have caught**
could have + past participle describes a past possibility that did not happen: **We could have caught the six-thirty train** (if we had checked the timetable). Not **might catch**, because the train has already gone.

14. If they _____ you at the London School of Economics, which other universities _____ you apply to?
✔ **D) don't accept / will**
This is a first conditional about a real future possibility: **If they don't accept you**, **which universities will you apply to?** Not **weren't accepted**, because **they** is the subject doing the accepting, so the verb must be active.

15. My mother is an excellent cook, and I really wish she _____ our wedding cake, but she'll be very busy with other things.
✔ **E) could make**
wish + could expresses regret that something is not possible: she will be too busy, so **I wish she could make our wedding cake**. Not **will make** or **can make**, because present and future forms are not used after **wish**.

16. _____ the press _____ the singer's privacy more, she might not have retired so early. She said she was tired of being followed by newspaper photographers everywhere she went.
✔ **A) Had / respected**
This is an inverted third conditional: **Had the press respected** = **If the press had respected**. It matches the past result **might not have retired**. Not **Were … to respect**, because that is a present/future condition and does not fit a past result.

17. If you _____ a baby seat for your car, you _____ that it meets European Standards.
✔ **B) are buying / should check**
This is a real condition giving advice: **If you are buying** (now or soon), **you should check**. **should** is used for advice in the main clause. Not **bought / were checking**, because that makes the situation unreal.

18. Scientifically minded people generally believe in cause-effect relationships, _____ they feel there is a perfectly natural explanation for most things.
✔ **D) because**
The second clause gives the reason for the first: they believe in cause and effect **because** they think most things have a natural explanation. Not **otherwise**, because there is no 'if not' idea here.

19. The young boys listened to the words of the famous basketball player as though it _____ a king speaking to them.
✔ **D) were**
as though + past form (**were**) describes an unreal situation at the same time as the main verb: they listened **as though it were a king** speaking. The basketball player was not really a king. Not **is** or **has been**, because these are real present forms. They do not fit an imaginary comparison after the past verb **listened**.

20. Most of the students look as though they _____ answering the questions. I think we can start checking them.
✔ **A) have completed**
look as though + a real, likely situation takes a normal tense. The students appear to be finished now, so we use the present perfect: **they look as though they have completed** the questions. The next sentence, **we can start checking them**, confirms this. Not **will have completed**, because the result is visible now, not in the future.

21. Because they fly, bats are often mistaken for birds; _____, bats are mammals, not birds.
✔ **C) however**
however introduces a contrast: people think bats are birds; **however**, they are mammals. The fixed phrase is **be mistaken for** (= wrongly thought to be).

22. _____ Louise were working today, she would know where the accounting records are kept.
✔ **E) If only**
If only is an emphatic **if** that also shows regret. With the past continuous (**were working**), it describes an unreal present: she isn't working today, so she can't tell us. Not **Unless**, because that gives the opposite meaning.

23. Let's face it! We can't get the house painted by the date of our golden wedding anniversary _____ we hire professionals or paint it ourselves. There's just not enough time.
✔ **A) even if**
even if means the result stays the same whatever the condition: the house won't be painted in time **even if** we hire professionals or do it ourselves. The final sentence, **There's just not enough time**, is the clue. Not **unless**, because the speaker says no option will work.

24. We have to employ a few more workers, _____ we won't be able to get the order ready by the arranged date.
✔ **B) or else**
or else (= otherwise, if not) links an action to the bad result of not doing it: we must employ more workers, **or else** the order won't be ready. Not **unless**, which would give the wrong meaning.

25. _____ you eat plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables and get plenty of exercise can you be really healthy.
✔ **D) Only if**
Only if at the start of a sentence causes inversion in the main clause: **Only if you eat … can you be** really healthy. The inverted **can you** is the clue. **Provided** means a similar thing, but it is not followed by inversion.

26. Your son should stay in bed for a few days, Mrs Wilson; _____, his condition will get worse.
✔ **E) otherwise**
otherwise means 'if he doesn't': he should stay in bed; **otherwise**, his condition will get worse. Not **however**, because there is no contrast here.

27. I _____ my son to go to the cinema with his friends, but he _____ his schoolwork when they phoned.
✔ **C) would have allowed / hadn't finished**
would have + past participle describes what the speaker would have done in the past under different circumstances. The past perfect **hadn't finished** shows that the schoolwork was unfinished at the time they phoned. Not **allowed / didn't finish**, because the speaker did not actually allow it.

28. Without help from chemistry and a microscope, it _____ hard to accept that the rock called limestone comes from seashells and corals.
✔ **B) would be**
Without can replace an **if**-clause: **Without help from chemistry** = **If we didn't have help from chemistry**. The present unreal result needs **would be**. Not **will be**, because the situation is imaginary.

29. Unless they _____ by radar, ships and aircraft _____ cautiously or not at all in dense fog.
✔ **C) are aided / must move**
This is a general truth, so present forms are used: **Unless they are aided** (passive, because radar helps the ships), they **must move** cautiously. Not **have aided**, which is active and would mean the ships help something.

30. A: I wonder if Josh thinks our idea will work. B: Well, he certainly spoke as if he _____ enthusiastic about the plan.
✔ **A) was**
After **as if**, a past form describes a state at the same time as the main verb: he **spoke as if he was** enthusiastic. **was** is common in informal English; **were** is also used. Not **had been**, because that would refer to a time before he spoke.

31. If you _____ to find any buried treasure while you _____, remember that anything found in this garden belongs to me.
✔ **E) should happen / are digging**
If you should happen to is a formal, polite way to talk about an unlikely but real possibility. The **while**-clause uses the present continuous, **are digging**, for an action in progress. Not **happened / have been digging**, because the tenses do not match.

32. Had their offer been made sooner, he _____ jobs, but he had already signed a contract with his new employer.
✔ **B) might not have changed**
Had their offer been made sooner is an inverted third conditional (= **If their offer had been made sooner**). The result must be **might/would (not) have + past participle**: **he might not have changed jobs**.

33. Please don't forget to take the cage in _____ it gets dark because little Tweety may be frightened.
✔ **A) when**
It will certainly get dark, so we use **when**, not **if** or **in case**: take the cage in **when it gets dark**. **in case** is used for something that may or may not happen.

34. Although she was in financial difficulty and behind with her studies, she danced that evening _____ she didn't have a care in the world.
✔ **E) as though**
as though describes how someone behaves, often in contrast with reality: she had problems but danced **as though she didn't have a care in the world**. Not **even if**, which expresses a condition, not a manner.

35. She _____ the head of her department more if he _____ a more professional attitude towards his work.
✔ **D) would respect / took**
This is a second conditional about an unreal present situation: **would respect** + **if he took** (past simple). He doesn't have a professional attitude now.

36. Don't you think if you _____ that other job, then you _____ unemployment now that the factory is closing down?
✔ **B) had taken / wouldn't be facing**
This is a mixed conditional: an unreal past condition (**if you had taken**) with a present result (**you wouldn't be facing unemployment now**). The clue is **now that the factory is closing down**.

37. If you are serious about learning to play the guitar, you _____ your fingernails.
✔ **B) will have to cut**
This is a first conditional about a real situation: **If you are serious**, **you will have to cut** your fingernails. Not **had to cut**, because the past simple does not match a real present condition.

38. If her health _____ overnight, she _____ to school tomorrow.
✔ **E) doesn't improve / won't be able to go**
This is a first conditional about a real future possibility: **If her health doesn't improve** (present simple), **she won't be able to go** (future). Not **didn't improve / won't be able to go**, because the past simple doesn't match the future result.

39. If the passport officials _____ so long to pass everybody through the border controls, we _____ in the ski resort in time to ski today, and now we've wasted our first day.
✔ **C) hadn't taken / would have arrived**
This is a third conditional about the past: **If they hadn't taken** so long, **we would have arrived** in time. The clue is **now we've wasted our first day**: it really happened.

40. He was glad that he managed to repair the car himself; otherwise, he _____ a lot of money to the garage.
✔ **A) would have had to pay**
otherwise here means 'if he hadn't repaired it', so it needs a past unreal result: **he would have had to pay** a lot to the garage. Not **must have paid**, which expresses a deduction about something that really happened.

41. There are several new photocopiers on the market and some of them copy much faster than ours. If we _____ a faster model, we _____ customers soon.
✔ **D) don't manufacture / will lose**
This is a first conditional warning about a real future risk: **If we don't manufacture** a faster model, **we will lose** customers. The word **soon** points to the future.

42. If he _____ attention, he _____ that the shopkeeper had given him the wrong change.
✓ B) had been paying / would have noticed
This is a third conditional with a continuous form: **If he had been paying attention** (at that moment), **he would have noticed** the wrong change. He wasn't paying attention, so he didn't notice.

43. Suppose that I _____ on a bitterly cold day, _____ you jump in the water and rescue me?
✓ E) were drowning / would
Suppose (that) introduces an imaginary situation, here a second conditional: **Suppose I were drowning…, would you jump in…?** Not **am drowning / did**, because the tenses don't match.

44. If you are hiking or climbing in the mountains, you should always take a survival bag _____ you get injured. In an emergency, a survival bag keeps you warm, while the other hikers go for help.
✓ B) in case
in case means 'as a precaution because something might happen': take a survival bag **in case you get injured**. Not **when**, because getting injured is not certain.

45. _____ you plan to be walking after dark or not, it is a good idea to take a torch along when you are hiking in rough terrain.
✓ A) Whether
Whether … or not means 'it makes no difference if … or not': **Whether you plan to walk after dark or not**, take a torch. The words **or not** are the clue.

46. _____ they are not fully booked up, we can stay at the campsite on the island.
✓ A) Providing
Providing (that) = 'only if': we can stay at the campsite **providing they are not fully booked**. Not **Unless**, which with **not** would give the opposite meaning.

47. _____ you were to qualify for the finals, how would you feel appearing on television?
✓ D) Supposing
Supposing introduces an imaginary situation and often goes with **were to**: **Supposing you were to qualify…, how would you feel?** Not **As long as**, which states a condition, not an imagined situation in a question.

48. I _____ for the semi-finals unless last year's champion _____ his match tomorrow. That's my only chance.
✓ C) won't qualify / loses
This is a first conditional with **unless** (= if … not): **I won't qualify unless the champion loses** (present simple after **unless**). Not **can't qualify / will lose**, because **will** is not used after **unless**.

49. I wish the finals _____ on a weekend because most of my friends work on weekdays. I would have liked them to come and see me.
✓ A) had been held
wish + past perfect expresses regret about the past: **I wish the finals had been held on a weekend**. The passive is needed because someone held the finals. The clue is **I would have liked them to come**. Not **were holding**, which is active.

50. More of my friends _____ to see me play if the finals _____ on a weekend.
✓ B) could have come / had been held
This is a third conditional with a passive **if**-clause: **More friends could have come if the finals had been held on a weekend**. Not **will be able to come / were holding**, because the event is in the past.

51. If we _____ that our party hosts were only going to offer us drink but no food, I _____ beforehand.
✓ E) had guessed / would have eaten
This is a third conditional about a past situation: **If we had guessed**…, **I would have eaten** beforehand. They didn't guess, so the speaker didn't eat.

52. Harold is selling his sports car because he now has two children and it's no longer practical to keep it. He knows it is for the best, but a large part of him wishes he _____ it because he loves driving it so much.
✓ E) were keeping
wish + past continuous expresses a wish about a present situation: he is selling the car, but he **wishes he were keeping it**. **were** is preferred after **wish** in formal English. Not **had been keeping**, which refers to the past.

53. The sun appears to be shining on your computer screen. You can avoid the reflection of the sun shining _____ you close the curtains.
✓ C) provided
provided (that) means 'on condition that': you can avoid the reflection **provided you close the curtains**. Not **unless**, which would mean you avoid it by not closing them.

54. Nothing went right yesterday. First, my car broke down, then I lost my job and, just to make matters worse, I was robbed at my home. I felt _____ the whole world were against me.
✓ C) as if
feel as if + past form describes an unreal feeling: **I felt as if the whole world were against me**. The world wasn't really against him.

55. He must have been dissatisfied with his job at the bank; otherwise, he _____ his own business now.
✓ E) wouldn't be starting
otherwise means 'if he hadn't been dissatisfied', and the result is in the present: he **wouldn't be starting** his own business **now**. This is a mixed conditional idea. Not **hadn't started**, because the result needs **would**.