ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Conjunctions and Adverbial Clauses Advanced Level MCQs Test With Answers 2

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1	**E**	2	**C**	3	**A**	4	**D**	5	**B**	6	**C**	7	**B**	8	**E**	9	**A**	10	**C**
11	**B**	12	**D**	13	**E**	14	**E**	15	**B**	16	**A**	17	**D**	18	**C**	19	**C**	20	**E**
21	**D**	22	**A**	23	**B**	24	**A**	25	**C**	26	**D**	27	**E**	28	**C**	29	**B**	30	**D**

Explanations

1. _____ the great diversity in social behaviour and habits between different types of ants, most of them have the same basic physical structure.
✔ **E) Despite**
Despite is a preposition, so it is followed by a noun phrase (**the great diversity…**), not a clause. It shows contrast: the ants behave very differently, yet their bodies are alike. Not **Even though**, which needs a full clause with a verb (**Even though there is great diversity…**). **Regardless** would need **of**.

2. Strawberries are _____ cheap at the moment _____ we should make some jam.
✔ **C) so / that**
The pattern **so + adjective + that + clause** expresses a result: the strawberries are very cheap, and as a result we should make jam. Not **as / as**, which compares two things and does not introduce a result clause.

3. This book is _____ entertaining _____ informative, so I definitely recommend it to you.
✔ **A) both / and**
Both … and joins two positive qualities that are equally true: the book is entertaining and also informative, which is why it is recommended. **Either / or** gives a choice, and **neither / nor** is negative, so neither fits the recommendation.

4. Some people argue that traditional blood sports, _____ fox-hunting and bullfighting, should be banned because they are barbaric and inhumane.
✔ **D) such as**
Such as introduces examples of the noun just mentioned: fox-hunting and bullfighting are examples of **traditional blood sports**. The other options are conjunctions that must be followed by a clause, and none of them introduces examples.

5. The police are determined to find the culprits _____ long it may take to trace them.
✔ **B) however**
However + adjective/adverb means 'it doesn't matter how': **however long it may take** = no matter how long it takes. Not **no matter**, which would need **how** (**no matter how long it may take**). **Even if** cannot be followed directly by **long**.

6. _____ engaged in as competition _____ as recreation, water-skiing is an exhilarating outdoor sport.
✔ **C) Whether / or**
Whether … or introduces two alternatives, and the main clause is true in both cases: it doesn't matter if you water-ski competitively or just for fun, the sport is exhilarating. **No sooner / than** and **Hardly / when** describe one event quickly following another, and they need inversion and a past perfect verb.

7. Special heat sensors on the front of the rattlesnake's head enable it _____ to detect the presence of prey in the dark _____ to strike its victim accurately.
✔ **B) not only / but also**
Not only … but also adds a second, even more striking ability: the sensors let the snake detect prey in the dark and, in addition, strike it accurately. Not **either / or**, because the snake does both things, not just one of the two.

8. Peter is leaving to go back to England, _____ we are holding a farewell dinner for him.
✔ **E) so**
So introduces a result: Peter is leaving, and as a result we are holding a farewell dinner. Not **since**, which gives a reason. It would wrongly mean that the dinner is the reason Peter is leaving.

9. As we will be touring, we could take the tent just _____ we see a nice campsite and want to stop.
✔ **A) in case**
Just in case means 'as a precaution, because something might happen': we take the tent because we might find a nice campsite. Not **when**, which would assume that we will certainly see a campsite, not just that we might.

10. _____ urgently callers say they need to speak to me, I do not want any calls for the next hour.
✔ **C) However**
However + adverb means 'no matter how': **However urgently callers say they need to speak to me** = it doesn't matter how urgent they say it is. Not **Even if**, which cannot be followed directly by an adverb like **urgently**.

11. _____ the work was physically demanding, and at times we felt really exhausted, seeing the end result was very satisfying.
✔ **B) Even though**
Even though introduces a clause of concession: the work was hard and tiring, but the result was still satisfying. Not **However**, which here would be a linking adverb needing a full stop or semicolon before the main idea. **Owing to** needs a noun, not a clause.

12. He has put on a little weight _____ he started doing this sedentary office job.
✔ **D) since**
With the present perfect (**has put on**), **since** marks the starting point of a period that continues to now: from the time he started the job until today. Not **when** or **once**, which point to a single past moment and would normally take the past simple (**put on**).

13. It is a pebble beach, _____ we had better take some beach mats to lie on.
✔ **E) so**
So introduces the result or conclusion: the beach is covered in pebbles, therefore we should take mats. Not **as**, **because** or **for**: these give a reason, and they would wrongly make the mats the reason the beach is pebbly.

14. They looked around a lot of different buildings _____ they could choose the most suitable one to rent for their new business.
✔ **E) so that**
So that introduces purpose, often with **could** or **would**: they viewed many buildings in order to be able to choose the best one. Not **since**, which would give a reason and change the meaning.

15. _____ he is a strong man, he had no trouble hiking with a heavy rucksack.
✔ **B) Since**
Since at the start of a sentence gives a reason (= because): his strength explains why the hike was easy. Not **For**: it also means 'because', but it cannot begin a sentence in this way. It must follow the main clause.

16. I'm not sure _____ he has decided to take the new job _____ to stay with his present employer.
✔ **A) whether / or**
After **I'm not sure**, we use **whether … or** to present two alternatives: taking the new job or staying where he is. Not **neither / nor**, which would mean he has decided to do neither, and that does not follow **I'm not sure**.

17. I wasn't disappointed about not winning the final _____ I hadn't even expected to get as far as I had in the competition.
✔ **D) as**
As here means **because**: the speaker was not disappointed because they hadn't expected to get so far. Not **though**, which shows contrast, but this clause gives a reason, not a contrast.

18. You'll have awfully sore legs tomorrow _____ you don't use plenty of lotion now to protect them from this strong sun.
✔ **C) if**
This is a first conditional: **if** + present (**don't use**) and **will** (**'ll have**) for the likely result. Sore legs are the consequence of not using lotion. Not **in case**, which means 'as a precaution' and does not express a condition and its result.

19. _____ somebody bought me a ticket, I still wouldn't go to see the Spice Girls perform.
✔ **C) Even if**
Even if introduces a condition that would not change the result. **still** in the main clause is the clue: a free ticket wouldn't make the speaker go. Not **Only if**, which would mean the ticket is the one condition for going, and that contradicts **wouldn't go**.

20. _____ the introduction of the new educational act, elementary school children have been taught English from the fourth grade.
✔ **E) Since**
Since + a point in time goes with the present perfect (**have been taught**) to show an action from that point until now. Not **During**: it refers to a period while something happens, not a starting point continuing to the present.

21. They will start constructing the new roof _____ every resident has paid their contribution.
✔ **D) as soon as**
As soon as means 'immediately after'. In future time clauses we use the present perfect (**has paid**) for an action that must be completed first. Not **in order that**, which expresses purpose. Paying is a condition for starting, not the aim of the building work.

22. It was _____ she was in Milan that she was discovered by a fashion designer and persuaded to work as a model.
✔ **A) while**
This is a cleft sentence (**It was … that …**) that emphasises the time. **While** is a conjunction followed by a clause (**she was in Milan**). Not **during**, which is a preposition and needs a noun (**during her stay in Milan**).

23. _____ the solar system is tiny compared with the distances to galaxies or even to nearby stars, it is enormous when compared with distances on the Earth.
✔ **B) Even though**
Even though introduces a concessive clause that contrasts with the main clause: tiny compared with galaxies, but enormous compared with Earth distances. Not **However** or **Nevertheless**: these are linking adverbs that join separate sentences and cannot introduce a subordinate clause like this.

24. They tried not to swallow any water as they swam across the river _____ it might be contaminated.
✔ **A) for fear that**
For fear that (formal) means 'because they were worried that'. It is followed by a clause, often with **might**: they avoided swallowing water because it might be dirty. Not **even though**, which shows contrast, not the reason for their action.

25. They'll be able to take on some permanent staff _____ they have fully established themselves in the city.
✔ **C) when**
When introduces a future time clause with the present perfect (**have fully established**), showing that the first step must be completed before the second. Not **even if**, which suggests the result happens regardless of the condition, so it makes no sense here.

26. He was extremely happy about winning the contest because it gave him _____ the opportunity to join a professional orchestra, _____ the chance to travel.
✓ D) not only / but also
Not only … but also lists two benefits, the second added for emphasis: he got the chance to join an orchestra and also to travel. This explains why he was **extremely happy**. Not **either / or**, which would offer only one of the two chances.

27. The household vacuum cleaner was first mass-produced by William Henry Hoover; _____, it is now commonly referred to as a 'hoover'.
✓ E) therefore
Therefore (after a semicolon, followed by a comma) introduces a logical result: Hoover mass-produced the machine, so people now call it a 'hoover'. Not **besides**, which only adds another point and does not show a cause-and-result link.

28. The inhabitants of Zelve were re-housed in a nearby village _____ prevent any more injuries and deaths from rockfall.
✓ C) so as to
So as to + bare infinitive (**prevent**) expresses purpose, like **in order to**. Not **in order that**, which must be followed by a full clause with a subject (**in order that no more people would be hurt**), not directly by a verb.

29. We wrapped the roast chicken in special paper _____ it would stay warm until our guests arrived.
✓ B) so that
So that + **would** expresses purpose in the past: the aim of wrapping the chicken was to keep it warm. Not **in case**, which means 'as a precaution against something that might happen' and is not normally followed by **would** to express a goal.

30. The population of the rare mountain gorilla has increased in the last few years largely _____ the Rwandan government's recognition of this animal's importance to the tourist industry.
✓ D) owing to
Owing to (= because of) is a prepositional phrase followed by a noun phrase (**the Rwandan government's recognition…**). It gives the cause of the population increase, and **largely** modifies it naturally. Not **as for**, which means 'regarding' and introduces a new topic, not a cause.

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