ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Conjunctions Test Exercises – Multiple Choice Questions With Answers – Advanced Level 10

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Explanations

1. _____ you give up smoking _____ you will develop cancer.
✓ **C) Either / or**
The paired conjunction **either … or** gives two alternatives where only one can happen: **Either you give up smoking or you will develop cancer.** Not **Either … nor**, because **nor** only pairs with **neither**.

2. He couldn't get the job _____ his qualifications.
✓ **E) despite**
Despite is a preposition, so it is followed by a noun phrase (**his qualifications**). Not **despite the fact that** or **even though**, because these must be followed by a full clause with a subject and verb (e.g. **despite the fact that he was qualified**).

3. The house wasn't very beautiful. I liked the garden, _____.
✓ **E) though**
Though can be used as an adverb at the end of a sentence to mean **however**: **I liked the garden, though.** Not **but**, because **but** joins two clauses and cannot end a sentence.

4. He is very clever and hardworking; _____, he can't pass his exams.
✓ **E) nevertheless**
Nevertheless (= in spite of this) is a linking adverb that introduces a surprising contrast with the previous clause. Not **despite** or **in spite of**, because these are prepositions and need a noun phrase, not a clause.

5. _____ it rained a lot we enjoyed our weekend.
✓ **C) Even though**
Even though is a conjunction of contrast followed by a clause (**it rained a lot**). Not **In spite of** or **Despite**, because they are prepositions and need a noun or **-ing** form (**Despite the rain …**).

6. _____ I was feeling very tired, I went to bed early.
✓ **C) As**
As here means **because**: feeling tired is the reason for going to bed early. Not **Although**, because there is no contrast between being tired and going to bed early.

7. Now you know my address, so you can come to see me _____ you like.
✓ **E) whenever**
Whenever means **at any time**: **come to see me whenever you like**. The other options cannot introduce a time clause after **come to see me**.

8. The thief was arrested _____ he was trying to break into a house.
✓ **A) as**
As can mean **while / at the moment when**: the arrest happened during the attempt to break in, which is why the past continuous **was trying** is used. Not **as long as**, which expresses a condition.

9. The teacher said he wouldn't punish the cheating student _____ he promised never to do it again.
✓ **C) provided that**
Provided that means **only on condition that**: the student would avoid punishment only if he made the promise. Not **in case**, which means **as a precaution**, and not **for fear that**, which expresses worry about a result.

10. I will never forget your help in my hard days _____ I live.
✓ **D) as long as**
As long as I live is a fixed expression meaning **for the whole of my life**. Not **ever since**, because it refers to a period starting in the past and needs a past or perfect tense.

11. _____ had I left the house than I remembered the key.
✓ **C) No sooner**
No sooner … than shows that one action happened immediately after another. When **No sooner** starts the sentence, the subject and auxiliary are inverted: **No sooner had I left … than I remembered …**

12. I worked very hard, but I was a free man, so, _____ a slave, I could stop whenever I wanted.
✓ **D) unlike**
Unlike means **different from**: a free man, in contrast to a slave, can stop working when he wants. Not **like**, because that would say slaves can stop whenever they want, which is the opposite of the meaning.

13. As I don't have a car, I have to walk a long way to the office. _____ I had one.
✓ **B) If only**
If only + past simple expresses a strong wish about the present: **If only I had one** (= I wish I had a car). Not **Only if**, which introduces a strict condition and cannot stand alone as a wish.

14. He was very hungry; _____, he refused to join us for dinner.
✓ **C) nevertheless**
Nevertheless (= in spite of this) introduces an unexpected result: he was hungry, but he still refused. Not **therefore**, because refusing food is not a logical result of being hungry.

15. _____ you study, you will always fail.
✓ **C) Unless**
Unless means **if … not**: **Unless you study** = **If you don't study**. Not **If**, because **If you study, you will always fail** makes no sense.

16. You have to study hard; _____, you will fail.
✓ **E) otherwise**
Otherwise means **if not / if you don't do this**: if you don't study hard, you will fail. Not **therefore** or **consequently**, because they would make failing a result of studying hard.

17. I'll draw a map for him _____ he can't find my address.
✓ **C) in case**
In case means **as a precaution because something might happen**: I'll draw the map now because he might not find my address. Not **so that**, because that would mean the map's purpose is to stop him finding the address.

18. You can borrow my car _____ you drive carefully.
✓ **E) as long as**
As long as means **on condition that**: you can borrow the car only if you drive carefully. Not **in case**, which means **as a precaution**, and not **unless**, which gives the opposite meaning.

19. He didn't get our message; _____, he doesn't know where we are now.
✓ **B) as a result**
As a result introduces a consequence: not getting the message causes him not to know where we are. Not **otherwise**, which would mean **if he had not missed the message**, and does not fit here.

20. _____ we arrived there, he had already gone away.
✓ **E) By the time**
By the time + past simple is used with the past perfect to show that one action was already finished before another: **By the time we arrived, he had already gone.** Not **No sooner**, which needs inversion and **than**.

21. It's already November; _____, cold days are going to start soon.
✓ **C) consequently**
Consequently (= as a result) shows that cold days coming is a result of it being November. Not **since**, which introduces a reason and cannot follow a semicolon in this way, and not **otherwise**, which expresses an alternative.

22. _____ my husband and I work full time and have two children in daycare, we are very much like a '90s family.
✓ **D) Since**
Since here means **because**: working full time and having children in daycare is the reason they are like a '90s family. Not **As though**, which means **as if** and suggests something unreal.

23. _____ astronomers have discovered more than 300 objects that could cross Earth's orbit, though none is predicted to hit any time soon.
✓ **A) So far**
So far means **up to now** and is typically used with the present perfect (**have discovered**). Not **Nonetheless**, because it needs a previous statement to contrast with.

24. _____ I was told I would get a medal for it, it hadn't occurred to me that my work was anything exceptional.
✓ **E) Until**
Until means **up to the time when**. Before the speaker was told about the medal, the idea had never occurred to them. The past perfect **hadn't occurred** shows this earlier period, which ended when they were told. Not **As**, which means because or while and does not fit this time relationship.

25. All men are born equal _____ the tough job is to outgrow it.
✓ **B) but**
But introduces a contrast: everyone starts equal, yet the hard part is to rise above that equality. Not **so** or **therefore**, because the second idea is not a result of the first.

26. _____ he had free time, he sat in his cabin, making the shape of a mortar.
✓ **C) Whenever**
Whenever means **every time that**: each time he had free time, he did this activity. Not **Even though**, because there is no contrast between having free time and sitting in his cabin.

27. _____ making cars smaller and lighter, they will be making them better in a number of ways.
✓ **E) Besides**
Besides + **-ing** means **in addition to**: as well as making cars smaller and lighter, they will improve them in other ways. Not **Consequently**, because it is an adverb of result and cannot be followed by an **-ing** phrase.

28. _____ you find it, please let me know where it is because I need it urgently.
✓ **D) If**
If introduces a possible future situation (first conditional): **If you find it, please let me know.** Not **Whether**, which introduces two alternatives and does not start a conditional clause like this.

29. In the sports arena, the spectator has the illusion of being completely mobilized and utilized; _____, the spectacle itself is one of the richest satisfactions for the esthetic sense.
✓ **B) moreover**
Moreover (= in addition) adds a second, supporting point: sport gives the spectator a feeling of involvement, and on top of that the spectacle satisfies the aesthetic sense. Not **yet**, because there is no contrast between the two ideas; both are positive. **Despite**, **although** and **in case** cannot follow a semicolon and comma in this way.

30. The romantic movements were important as a corrective to the machine _____ they called attention to essential elements in life that were left out of the mechanical world-picture.
✓ E) because
Because introduces the reason: the romantic movements were important as a corrective since they drew attention to what the mechanical view ignored. Not **therefore**, which would wrongly present the second clause as a result.

31. Public transportation facilities are very good but taxis should be avoided _____.
✓ B) as they are extremely expensive
As here means **because**, giving the reason why taxis should be avoided: they are extremely expensive. Not **although they are very expensive**, because high cost is a reason to avoid taxis, not a contrast.

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