ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Conjunctions Test 2

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

Explanations

1. Ruth decided that she should finish the housework _____ watch TV.
✔ **E) rather than**
Rather than compares two actions and says which one is preferred. Ruth chooses the housework instead of TV, and it is followed by the base form of the verb: **finish … rather than watch**. Not **before**, because **before** would need **watching**.

2. The doctor said that surgery was essential, _____ the patient would die.
✔ **A) otherwise**
Otherwise means 'if not' and shows the result if the first thing does not happen. If there is no surgery, the patient will die. Not **else**, because on its own it cannot join the two clauses; you would need **or else**.

3. She set the alarm clock one hour ahead _____ she should not be late.
✔ **C) so that**
So that introduces a purpose: why she set the alarm early. Her aim was not to be late. Not **because**, which gives a reason for something that already exists, not an aim.

4. _____ he had become very old, his memory was still very good.
✔ **E) although**
Although joins two contrasting ideas in one sentence: he was very old, but his memory was good. Not **however**, because it cannot join two clauses like this; it starts a new sentence or clause: **He was old. However, …**

5. I don't like her _____ she is the most popular girl on the campus and everyone else likes her.
✔ **B) even though**
Even though introduces a strong contrast with a real fact: she really is popular, but I still don't like her. Not **despite**, because it must be followed by a noun or **-ing** form (**despite her popularity**), not a full clause.

6. I enjoy working late. _____, I'd prefer to get home early tonight _____ I can spend some time with the children.
✔ **D) still / so**
Still at the start of a sentence means 'however', so it contrasts with 'I enjoy working late'. **So** introduces the purpose: going home early in order to spend time with the children. Not **nevertheless / otherwise**, because **otherwise** would mean 'if not', which makes no sense here.

7. _____ being dressed well, in a double-breasted suit _____ a flower in his button-hole, he _____ gave us the impression that he was very nervous.
✔ **A) despite / with / still**
Despite is followed by an **-ing** form (**despite being dressed well**). **With** describes what he had (**a suit with a flower**), and **still** stresses that the result is surprising. Not **in spite**, because it needs **of**: **in spite of being**.

8. The silverware stolen the other night was worth several thousand pounds. _____, the jewellery taken by the thieves was not valuable.
✔ **E) on the other hand**
On the other hand introduces a contrasting fact: the silverware was valuable, but the jewellery was not. Not **in addition**, which adds a similar idea, not a contrast.

9. My decision depends on _____ I'll be able to take time off from work on that day.
✔ **B) whether**
Whether introduces two possibilities (I will or won't be able to take time off). **Depends on whether** is a common pattern. Not **weather**, which sounds the same but means rain, sun, etc.

10. The struggle was long and dangerous, _____ they did not give up and so won in the end.
✔ **A) nevertheless**
Nevertheless means 'in spite of this'. The struggle was hard, but they did not give up. Not **on the other hand**, which compares two different sides of a situation rather than showing a surprising result.

11. His mother asked him to continue his studies _____ the fact that she was able to work and could continue to support his studies for a while yet. _____ to this, she felt that there was nothing else that she could offer him for his future.
✔ **C) due to / in addition**
Due to the fact that gives a reason: she could support him, so she asked him to continue. **In addition to this** adds another point. Not **instead of / yet**, because **instead of the fact that** has the wrong meaning and **yet to this** is not correct English.

12. _____ I have been listening to you for the last two hours, I disagree with most of your statements. _____ to this, I would consider what you have said to be an indication of your inability to read between the lines.
✔ **D) although / in addition**
Although joins two contrasting clauses: I listened, but I disagree. **In addition to this** adds a further point. Not **despite**, because it cannot be followed by a full clause (**despite I have been** is wrong).

13. I will not argue about this matter with you at this point. _____, the tea is ready and I don't want you to spoil my break.
✓ **A) furthermore**
Furthermore adds another reason: I won't argue, and also the tea is ready. Not **therefore**, because the tea being ready is not a result of refusing to argue.

14. _____ of the disturbing behaviour you have shown _____ the first semester at this school, you are being asked to leave. _____, I feel that you will never be able to complete your education unless you change your attitude towards the education system available in this country.
✓ **B) as a consequence / during / moreover**
As a consequence of gives the reason for being asked to leave. **During** shows the time period (**during the first semester**). **Moreover** adds another point. Not **because / in / otherwise**, because **otherwise** (meaning 'if not') does not fit the last sentence.

15. The forecast stated that we should expect a bad snowstorm this evening. _____ I think it would be a good idea to light a fire in the fireplace _____ stay at home.
✓ **C) for this reason / and**
For this reason shows a result: because of the snowstorm, I think we should stay in. **And** joins the two actions **light a fire** and **stay at home**. Not **so / besides**, because **besides** cannot join two verbs like this.

16. I don't believe him and you shouldn't _____.
✓ **D) either**
In negative sentences we use **either** at the end to agree: **you shouldn't either**. Not **too**, which is used in positive sentences (**I believe him and you should too**).

17. _____ I have been happy working here, I intend to leave at the end of the month.
✓ **B) although**
Although joins two contrasting clauses: I have been happy, but I want to leave. Not **despite**, which needs a noun or **-ing** form, not a full clause.

18. Don't worry, I'll go with you _____ it is late.
✓ **E) even if**
Even if means 'it doesn't matter if': I'll go with you, late or not. Not **so**, which shows a result and makes no sense here.

19. I left work rather late last night. _____, I left so late that I missed the last bus home.
✓ **B) in fact**
In fact adds stronger, more exact information to what was just said: not just late, but so late that I missed the bus. Not **therefore**, because the second sentence is not a result of the first; it gives more detail.

20. _____ potatoes this evening, why don't you try asparagus?
✓ **A) instead of**
Instead of means 'in place of' and is followed by a noun: **instead of potatoes**, try asparagus. Not **in addition**, which needs **to** and means 'as well as', not a replacement.

21. I wonder _____ or not he will be with us tonight.
✓ **D) whether**
Whether or not introduces two possibilities after **wonder**. Not **if**, because we cannot say **if or not** directly together; **or not** comes straight after **whether**.

22. I'm not sure how John feels about this new situation and _____ I care; he can do whatever he wants.
✓ **E) for all that**
For all (that) I care is a fixed expression. It means 'I don't care at all', which fits the clue **he can do whatever he wants**. Not **if**, because **if I care** does not express this meaning and makes no sense in this sentence.

23. The last payment will be made tomorrow and _____ your loan will be completely repaid.
✓ **B) thus**
Thus means 'as a result': after the last payment, the loan will be fully repaid. Not **whereas**, which shows a contrast, not a result.

24. "Which one is John?"
"I'm not sure, but he is _____ the one in the green jacket _____ the one standing behind the statue."
✓ **C) either / or**
Either … or gives two possibilities: it is one person or the other. Not **neither … nor**, which means 'not this one and not that one', so it would say he is neither man.

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