ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Conjunctions Test 3

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Explanations

1. I went to the pharmacy, _____ I dropped by the office for a few minutes.
✔ **C) and then**
And then joins two actions in time order: first the pharmacy, after that the office. **Therefore** and **thus** show a result, which makes no sense here.

2. This gentleman is well qualified for this position. _____ to speaking English well, he knows German and Spanish.
✔ **E) in addition**
In addition to + -ing adds another fact: **In addition to speaking English well, he knows German and Spanish.** The gap is followed by **to**, so only **in addition** fits. **Along with** is never followed by **to**.

3. You'll have to meet with Mr Johnson this evening _____ you won't be able to see him for several weeks _____ he is going on a business trip.
✔ **C) otherwise / because**
Otherwise means 'if not': if you don't meet him this evening, you won't see him for weeks. **Because** gives the reason: he is going on a business trip. **So** would wrongly present the trip as a result.

4. _____ of dealing with this problem directly, I'm going to have one of my partners discuss possible solutions in a meeting with the landlord.
✔ **A) instead**
Instead of + -ing means 'in place of doing something': the speaker will not deal with the problem directly but will send a partner. **Despite** is not followed by **of**.

5. He is quite a well-known celebrity _____ his attitude towards his fans is poor _____ many people are beginning to ignore his new songs _____ records.
✔ **E) but / so / and**
But joins two contrasting clauses: he is famous, **but** his attitude is poor. **So** introduces the result: many people are beginning to ignore his songs. **And** joins two nouns: **songs and records**. Not **what is more / so / as well**: **what is more** adds a point instead of showing contrast, and **as well** cannot join two nouns like this.

6. I don't understand the attitude of the new computer programmer. She is regularly late for work. _____, her rude remarks to the other employees are very annoying.
✔ **B) what is more**
What is more adds a second, stronger negative point: she is late, and on top of that she is rude. Not **however**, because there is no contrast here. Both points are complaints.

7. It would be a good idea to discuss matters _____ these with the boss.
✔ **A) such as**
Such as means 'like' or 'of this kind' and is followed by a noun or pronoun: **matters such as these**. None of the other options can introduce **these** in this way.

8. The circumstances under which the agreement was made are suspicious. _____, I would suggest that the contract be examined with the utmost care.
✔ **E) therefore**
Therefore introduces a result or conclusion: the circumstances are suspicious, so the contract should be checked carefully. **Although** and **despite** show contrast, which does not fit here.

9. There is a particular song that I really enjoy on this record album. _____, the whole album is worth listening to.
✔ **E) however**
However introduces a contrast with the previous sentence: one song is special to the speaker, but the whole album is worth listening to. Not **otherwise**, which means 'if not' or 'apart from that'.

10. _____ the nuclear accident in Chernobyl occurred in 1986, the results of the accident still create a threat to the environment today.
✔ **C) although**
Although + a full clause (subject + verb) shows contrast: it happened long ago, but it is still a threat. Not **despite** or **in spite of**: they need a noun or -ing form, not a clause.

11. I think it is interesting to see a group of people constantly complaining about high prices and inflation. _____, these people are the ones whose standard of living has increased remarkably over the last few years and is still on the rise.
✔ **B) at the same time**
At the same time can mean 'and yet', introducing a surprising contrast: they complain, but their standard of living has actually risen. Not **as a result** or **therefore**: their higher living standard is not caused by their complaining.

12. _____ we will not be able to get to the theatre if we walk, I would suggest you call a taxi.
✔ **D) seeing that**
Seeing that means 'because' or 'since' and introduces the reason: we can't walk there in time, so call a taxi. **As a result** and **thus** introduce a result, not a reason, and cannot start this clause.

13. I asked her to come with me _____ I should have to walk home after dark. I don't like to walk alone at late hours.
✔ **A) in case**
In case means 'because something might happen'. The speaker asked her to come because they might have to walk home in the dark. **In case ... should** is a common British pattern. Not **even if**, which means 'whether or not'.

14. I had thought that she was happy about the wedding _____ the truth of the matter was that she had wanted to elope.
✔ **C) whereas**
Whereas joins two contrasting facts in one sentence: what I believed versus what was actually true. Not **on the other hand**: it is used as a linker after a full stop or semicolon, not to join clauses directly.

15. _____ the school year we had looked forward to our graduation, _____ when it actually came we realised that we were upset at the thought of leaving our friends and school.
✔ **A) all through / but**
All through means 'during the whole of': **all through the school year**. **But** joins the contrasting clause: we looked forward to it, but then we felt sad. **During** cannot join a clause, and **however** cannot be used after a comma like this.

16. _____ my telling him that I did not want him to stay out late, he continued to come in after 12 o'clock each night.
✔ **E) in spite of**
In spite of + noun or -ing form shows contrast: **in spite of my telling him**. **Despite of** is always wrong: say **despite** or **in spite of**. **Although** needs a full clause, such as **although I told him**.

17. Parents usually take a great deal of care in how they bring up their children. _____, in the end, children tend to change into individuals that are very different from what their parents expected.
✔ **D) still**
Still at the start of a sentence means 'nevertheless' and introduces a contrast: parents are careful, yet children turn out differently. **What is more** and the other options only add information, so they don't fit.

18. _____ Jane arrives soon, she'll miss the opportunity to meet the man who is the owner of her apartment building.
✔ **B) unless**
Unless means 'if ... not': **Unless Jane arrives soon** = if Jane doesn't arrive soon. Not **whenever**, which means 'every time' and makes no sense here.

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