ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Noun Clauses and Auxiliaries Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 2

Noun Clauses Tests · 25 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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Explanations

1. The findings, published online in *BMC* Neuroscience, _____ that it _____ possible to use cell therapy to revitalize and improve function in ageing brains.
✔ **B) suggest / may be**
Research findings are reported in the **present simple** (**the findings suggest**) because they are still true now. The noun clause uses the modal **may be** for a cautious possibility. Not **suggested / had been**: the past perfect would put the possibility before a past moment, but the findings are current. Not **would have suggested**: that describes an unreal past.

2. He _____ that the villagers _____ early the next morning to start the harvest.
✔ **C) expected / would rise**
After a past reporting verb (**expected**), a later action is shown with the future in the past, **would** + infinitive: **He expected that they would rise early.** The clue is **the next morning**, which is after the moment of expecting. Not **expected / had risen**: the past perfect shows an action before the expecting, not after it.

3. There _____ a superstition among people that porpoises _____ drowning men by pushing them to the surface.
✔ **C) has been / save**
There has been a superstition uses the present perfect for a belief that began in the past and still exists. The singular **a superstition** needs **has**, not **have**. The belief itself is a general claim, so it takes the present simple: **porpoises save drowning men**. Not **have been**: the subject **a superstition** is singular.

4. As a result of the findings, the state agency is recommending that a system _____ to allow for the consistent collection of health complaints.
✔ **C) be set up**
After verbs of suggestion and demand such as **recommend**, a **that**-clause takes the **subjunctive**: the base form, with no -s and no tense. The system cannot set itself up, so the passive is needed: **that a system be set up**. Not **sets up**: that is an ordinary active verb, not the subjunctive.

5. The head of the committee _____ yesterday that the drawn-out primary _____ the party's chances down-ticket.
✔ **A) warned / could hurt**
Yesterday needs the past simple **warned**. A warning is about a possible future result, so the reported clause uses a modal of possibility: **could hurt**. Not **would have hurt**: that describes an unreal past result, and not **had hurt**: that reports something that already happened.

6. The agency is still investigating _____ the chemical was added accidentally _____ deliberately.
✔ **C) whether / or**
An indirect yes/no question with two alternatives is introduced by **whether … or**: **investigating whether it was accidental or deliberate**. Not **either … or**: it joins alternatives but cannot introduce a noun clause after **investigating**.

7. The police don't know _____ the thief was, but they're looking for the sort of person _____ can deactivate alarm systems.
✔ **A) who / who**
The first gap starts a noun clause (an embedded question) about a person's identity: **who the thief was**. The second gap is a relative pronoun for **the sort of person** and is the subject of **can deactivate**, so it is **who**. Not **whom**: it is an object form and cannot be the subject of a verb.

8. Sociology can be practised in a classroom in order to study speech and interactions to find out _____ is actually happening.
✔ **E) what**
What starts a noun clause meaning 'the thing that', and here it is also the subject of **is happening**: **find out what is actually happening**. Not **which**: it needs a choice from a known group, and none is given here.

9. Some people wonder _____ it is right to get out of bed and start exercising immediately.
✔ **C) if**
Wonder is followed by an indirect yes/no question, introduced by **if** or **whether**: **wonder if it is right to…** Not **that**: **wonder** does not take a **that**-clause, because it expresses a question, not a statement.

10. She was silent, so I thought _____ she would refuse our offer.
✔ D) that
Think is followed by a **that**-clause that states an opinion: **I thought that she would refuse.** Not **whether**: **think** reports a belief, not a question, so **thought whether** is wrong.

11. I was really wondering _____ longer we would have to wait for the manager since his secretary didn't inform us about it.
✔ E) how much
To ask about an amount of extra time before a comparative, English uses **how much** + comparative: **how much longer we would have to wait**. Not **how**: **how longer** is not correct English.

12. _____ John has been living is not known by the police.
✔ E) Where
The noun clause is the subject of the sentence, and **living** (meaning 'staying in a place') needs a place: **Where John has been living is not known.** Not **when**: **living when** does not make sense here.

13. I don't know _____ Rachel likes to jog.
✔ E) whether
Don't know is followed by an indirect yes/no question, introduced by **whether** or **if**: **I don't know whether Rachel likes to jog.** Not **the fact that**: we cannot 'not know' something presented as a fact.

14. _____ his hobbies are is irrelevant to the subject.
✔ B) What
The noun clause is the subject. **What** stands for the missing complement of **are**: **What his hobbies are is irrelevant.** Not **That**: a **that**-clause must be a complete sentence, but **his hobbies are** is unfinished.

15. _____ son he is does not affect my decision.
✔ E) Whose
Whose + noun asks about possession or relationship, here which family he belongs to: **Whose son he is does not affect my decision.** Not **Who**: it cannot come directly before the noun **son**.

16. Researchers found _____ a pocket near the top of the brain stem may be key in determining _____ someone is likely to engage in compulsive behaviour or become hooked on drugs like cocaine, which is currently abused by an estimated two million Americans.
✔ C) that / whether
Found reports a fact, so it takes a **that**-clause. **Determining** introduces an indirect yes/no question about two possible outcomes, so it takes **whether**. Not **whether / whether**: **found whether** is wrong because finding something reports a result, not a question.

17. It is not known _____ he managed to escape from the most secure prison in a day.
✔ D) how
The clue is **managed to … in a day**: the unknown thing is the method, so the noun clause begins with **how**: **It is not known how he managed to escape.** Not **what**: the clause already has a subject and an object, so there is no gap for **what** to fill.

18. Previous studies have found _____ girls who have earlier puberty tend to have higher body mass index, but it was unclear _____ puberty led to the weight gain or weight gain led to the earlier onset of puberty.
✔ E) that / whether
Found reports a result, so it takes a **that**-clause. **It was unclear** introduces an indirect question with two alternatives (**A … or B**), so it takes **whether**. Not **what / if**: **found what girls…** is incomplete, because **what** needs a gap in its clause.

19. A new study finds _____ the experience of expert pilots actually counteracts the effects of ageing on their flight performance.
✔ E) that
Finds reports a result as a complete statement, so it takes a **that**-clause: **A study finds that experience counteracts ageing.** Not **what**: the clause has no missing subject or object for **what** to replace.

20. "Calorie Restriction and Aging," by Richard Weindruch, explains _____ animals that consume one-third fewer calories in studies display greater vitality than animals fed a normal diet.
✔ A) how
Explain is often followed by a **how**-clause that describes the way something happens: **explains how animals ... display greater vitality**. The clause after the gap is already complete. It has its own subject (**animals that consume one-third fewer calories**) and its own verb (**display**), so **who**, **whom**, **whose** and **whatever** have no role in it. Not **who**: it would need a missing subject, but the clause already has one.

21. _____ we eat is a critical influence on our abilities to stay strong and active.
✔ C) Whatever
The noun clause is the subject, and it needs a word that is the object of **eat**: **Whatever we eat** means 'anything that we eat'. Not **Whichever**: it refers to a choice from a limited, known set of options.

22. _____ scale and proportion play a very important role in architecture is unquestionable.
✔ A) That
A complete statement used as the subject of a sentence is introduced by **That**: **That scale and proportion play an important role is unquestionable.** Not **What**: the clause has no missing part for **what** to stand for.

23. Much of our happiness depends on projecting _____ will make us happy instead of _____ actually does.
✔ D) what / what
Both gaps need **what** ('the thing that'), the subject of each clause: **projecting what will make us happy instead of what actually does**. Not **that**: after the preposition **of** we cannot use a **that**-clause, and here there is a missing subject to fill.

24. It is still under discussion _____ you got the job.
✔ B) how
In **It is … under discussion + clause**, the clause is the real subject, and the topic is the way the job was obtained: **how you got the job**. Not **what**: **you got the job** is already complete, so **what** has nothing to replace.

25. The scientific community feels _____ we need an urgent and comprehensive look at the polar regions.
✓ B) that
Feel meaning 'believe' takes a **that**-clause that states an opinion: **The community feels that we need an urgent look.** Not **what**: the clause is complete, so **what** has no gap to fill.

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