ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Noun Clauses and Auxiliaries Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 3

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

Explanations

1. Anorexia _____ to be most common among people involved in activities in which thinness _____ especially valued.
✔ **B) is thought / is**
The sentence states a general fact, so both verbs are in the present simple passive. **Anorexia is thought to be…** is the impersonal passive used for common beliefs, and **thinness is valued** is a general truth. Not **has thought**, because it is active and would mean anorexia does the thinking; not **have been thought**, because the singular subject needs **has/is**.

2. We want to put out a tender and see _____ we can get back from the market to meet the needs.
✔ **C) how much**
After **see**, we need a noun clause saying what we will find out: the amount we can obtain. **How much we can get back from the market** refers to the quantity of offers or supply the tender brings. Not **the fact that**, because **see the fact that** would present it as something already known, not something to find out.

3. Historians often ask _____ the point of no return came for Franklin, when he decided that independence, separation from England, was both inevitable and desirable.
✔ **B) when**
The noun clause after **ask** is an indirect question about time. The phrase **the point of no return came** and the follow-up **when he decided…** show that historians want to know the moment, so **when** is needed. Not **what** or **which**, because the clause already has a subject (**the point of no return**) and nothing is missing.

4. Since man first touched the moon and brought pieces of it back to Earth, scientists _____ that the lunar surface _____ bone dry.
✔ **D) have thought / was**
Since + a past moment calls for the present perfect in the main clause: **scientists have thought**. This belief lasts from then until now. The reported belief is about a past state of the moon, so **was** follows naturally. Not **had thought**, because the past perfect needs a later past reference point, and here the period runs up to the present.

5. _____ the burden will be shared is still subject to argument, as are plans to set renewable energy targets.
✔ **C) How**
A noun clause is the subject of the sentence: **How the burden will be shared** (= the way it will be divided) **is still subject to argument**. Not **If**, because an **if**-clause cannot be the subject of a sentence; **Whether** would be needed. Not **What** or **Which**, because the clause already has its subject (**the burden**).

6. New observations from three different spacecraft _____ the notion to rest with what _____ "unambiguous evidence" of water across the surface of the moon.
✔ **D) have put / has been called**
This is news style: a recent result with present relevance takes the present perfect, **have put the notion to rest** (= have ended the idea). In the noun clause, **what** is the subject of a passive verb, **what has been called "unambiguous evidence"**, because people have described it that way. Not **have been put**, because the observations do the putting, so the verb must be active.

7. _____ began as a routine training exercise almost ended in an embarrassing diplomatic incident after a company of soldiers got lost.
✔ **E) What**
What (= the thing that) starts a noun clause that is the subject of the sentence: **What began as a routine training exercise** almost ended in an incident. Not **That** or **Which**, because they cannot mean "the thing that" at the start of a subject clause.

8. It doesn't matter _____ his job history is, or _____ he may have been fired by every other campaign in the county's history, you can't let him go.
✔ **E) what / that**
After **It doesn't matter**, two noun clauses follow. The first needs **what** because it lacks a complement: **what his job history is**. The second is complete, so it takes **that**: **that he may have been fired…**. Not **whether / how**, because **whether his job history is** is incomplete.

9. In the US, workaholism remains _____ it's always been: the so-called “respectable addiction” _____ is as dangerous as any other.
✔ **C) what / that**
What it's always been is a noun clause meaning "the thing it has always been"; it is the complement of **remains**. The second gap is a relative pronoun for the thing **addiction**: **an addiction that is as dangerous as any other**. Not **who**, because **who** is for people.

10. _____ and _____ a pandemic starts, everyone around the world is at risk.
✔ **C) Wherever / whenever**
Wherever and whenever mean "in any place and at any time". The sentence stresses that a pandemic is a risk to everyone, no matter where or when it begins. Not **Whoever** or **Whatever**, because the clause **a pandemic starts** is complete and needs place and time words.

11. _____ hospital a citizen has cause to visit in these countries, they can be assured that doctors will be able to access a single patient record.
✔ **A) Whatever**
Whatever + noun means "any ... at all": **Whatever hospital a citizen has cause to visit** = no matter which hospital. Only **whatever** (or **whichever**) can be followed directly by a noun. **However**, **Whoever** and **Whomever** cannot.

12. _____ problems she may have had there, it was clear to everyone that Tores’s situation was high-risk from the start.
✔ **C) Whatever**
Whatever problems she may have had = no matter what problems she had. **Whatever** can go directly before a noun and introduces a concession clause. Not **Wherever** or **Whenever**, because they cannot be followed by a noun like **problems**.

13. Over the years, John Fiz has developed an eye for finding _____ might have gone wrong in delivery.
✔ **E) what**
The noun clause after **finding** needs a subject for **might have gone wrong**: **what might have gone wrong** (= the thing that went wrong). Not **where**, because **where** is an adverb and cannot be the subject of **might have gone**.

14. We are proud of _____ we have accomplished and eagerly look forward to building on this legacy of excellence as we move through the twenty-first century.
✔ **A) what**
After the preposition **of**, we need a noun clause, and **accomplished** needs an object: **what we have accomplished** (= the things we have achieved). Not **that**, because a **that**-clause cannot follow a preposition like **of**.

15. I can now understand perfectly _____ people say you need to have unlimited patience when you become a parent.
✔ **B) why**
Understand why people say... means understanding the reason behind the saying. The clause **people say you need...** is complete, so a word asking about the reason fits. Not **what**, because **say** already has its object (**you need to have...**). Not **which**, because **which** needs a noun or a choice.

16. Many vegetarians believe _____ factory farming is a cruel and unnecessary practice and _____ our diets would be healthier if we ate less meat.
✔ **E) that / that**
Believe is followed by **that**-clauses stating opinions. Two clauses are joined by **and**, so **that** is repeated for clarity: **believe that factory farming is cruel and that our diets would be healthier**. Not **what**, because both clauses are complete and nothing is missing.

17. The thing that amazed me was _____ trivial matters were seen as the most important aspects of the conference.
✔ **E) how**
After **was**, a noun clause gives the surprising thing. **How** here expresses the manner or extent: **how trivial matters were seen as the most important aspects**. The clause is complete, so **what** doesn't fit; **what** would need a missing subject or object.

18. The debate is no longer about _____ the current military-led regime will make its final exit but _____ and how it will do so.
✔ **E) whether / when**
The pattern **no longer about X but Y** contrasts two questions. First: **whether** the regime will leave at all (yes or no). Then: **when and how** it will do so. The pairing **_____ and how** shows the second gap must be another question word about the exit, so **when** fits.

19. The idea _____ those people in the exhibition were not interested in art was contradicted as they had already been there several times.
✔ **B) that**
After nouns like **idea, fact, belief, notion**, a **that**-clause can give the content of the noun: **The idea that those people were not interested in art** (= the idea is this). Not **which**, because here the clause does not describe the idea; it says what the idea is, and the clause is already complete. **Why** cannot follow **idea** in this way.

20. I think much of _____ was told about the so-called coincidence, about the event, was full of lies.
✔ **D) what**
After **much of**, we need a noun clause, and **was told** needs a subject: **much of what was told** (= much of the information). Not **that**, because **much of that was told** is ungrammatical. Not **who**, because the speaker means information, not people.

21. The manual says _____ you can change it by yourself _____ you want.
✔ **D) that / whenever**
Says that... reports the content of the manual. **Whenever you want** means "at any time you want". Not **whatever**, because **change it whatever you want** has no place for **whatever**: **it** is already the object.

22. The government recommended that the housing programme _____.
✔ **B) be speeded up**
After verbs of advice like **recommend, suggest, insist**, formal English uses the subjunctive, the bare infinitive for every subject. The programme doesn't speed itself up, so the passive is needed: **that the housing programme be speeded up**. Not **will be speeded up**, because the subjunctive (or **should be**) is used after **recommend**, not **will**.

23. We are responsible for _____ we are, and _____ we wish ourselves to be, we have the power to make ourselves.
✓ C) what / whatever
Both gaps introduce noun clauses. **What we are** (= the kind of person we are) follows the preposition **for**, and **whatever we wish ourselves to be** (= anything we want to become) is the fronted complement of **make ourselves**. The other options all fail in the first gap: **which** needs a choice from a known set, **that** cannot follow a preposition like **for**, and **why** and **where** do not fit as the complement of **are**.

24. There is a saying which states _____ you won't get sick if you work hard enough.
✓ C) that
State is a reporting verb followed by a **that**-clause giving the content: **a saying which states that you won't get sick**. The clause is complete, so **what** and **which** don't fit.

25. I have put everything you need in writing because I want you to know _____ things stand while I'm not here.
✓ E) where
Where things stand is a fixed expression meaning "the current situation": **I want you to know where things stand** (= what the situation is). Not **which**, because **which** needs a noun or a choice, and **which things stand** means nothing here.

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