ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Noun Clauses and Auxiliaries Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 4

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Explanations

1. It is helpful to state _____ you are looking for economical, medium-priced or luxury accommodation while renting a house.
✔ **E) whether**
Whether introduces a noun clause that presents choices: **state whether you want A, B or C**. Here it gives three alternatives (economical, medium-priced or luxury). **Which** would need a noun or a different structure (**state which type you are looking for**), and **what** cannot introduce a list of alternatives like this.

2. Recent studies on _____ people learn languages have been accompanied by emphasis among English language teachers on the learner as an individual.
✔ **A) how**
The noun clause after the preposition **on** needs a word for the manner of learning: **studies on how people learn languages**. **What** cannot be used, because **learn languages** already has its object, and **that** cannot follow a preposition.

3. They learn _____ _____ transpires in Minnesota is related to events as far away as Eastern Europe.
✔ **B) that / what**
That introduces the object clause of **learn**. Inside that clause, **what transpires in Minnesota** (= the things that happen) is the subject of **is related**. **What** has to be second, because it acts as the subject of **transpires**. **That** has to be first, because it only links the clause to **learn**.

4. _____ has been developed in his work is _____ under ideal conditions human numbers increase geometrically.
✔ **A) What / how**
What has been developed in his work is a noun clause used as the subject (= the thing that has been developed). After **is**, a second noun clause acts as the complement: **how under ideal conditions human numbers increase geometrically**. **Which** cannot begin a subject clause without an antecedent, so **Which / that** is wrong.

5. The idea was to teach children _____ to read using the "whole word" method, based on recognizing words by sight.
✔ **E) how**
Teach someone how to do something is the standard pattern with a question word + to-infinitive: **teach children how to read**. **What to read** would refer to the books, not to the method, and the sentence is about a method.

6. A: What are you going to do with the old computer that you bought 6 years ago?

B: Nothing! _____ is too expensive!
✔ **C) What I want to do**
What I want to do is a noun clause used as the subject (= the thing I want to do). It keeps statement word order, not question order, so **What do I want to do** is wrong. **That what** is never correct, and **That I want to do** is incomplete because **do** has no object.

7. The microeconomic theory is usually introduced through an examination of the principles of demand and supply and _____ prices are set.
✔ **B) how**
How prices are set (= the way prices are set) is a noun clause joined by **and** to **the principles of demand and supply**. Both are objects of **an examination of**. **Why** is less suitable, because the sentence is about the mechanism of price setting, not the reason for it.

8. I don't think _____ developers should be permitted to build big hotels and tourist complexes in the most beautiful places in your country.
✔ **D) that**
After verbs of thinking such as **think**, a complete statement is introduced by **that**: **I don't think that developers should be permitted…**. The clause is already complete, so **what**, **which** and **whatever** cannot be used.

9. _____ men behave in their families is strongly influenced by expectations about _____ it means to be a "real man".
✔ **E) How / what**
How men behave (= the way they behave) is the subject clause. After the preposition **about**, the second clause needs a word for the object of **means**: **what it means to be a real man**. **Which** is wrong because the clause has no noun or set of choices for it to refer to.

10. No other nourishment can replace _____ is provided by milk.
✔ **E) what**
What means **the thing(s) that**. It gives **replace** an object and also acts as the subject of **is provided**. **Which** and **that** need a noun before them (an antecedent), and there is none here.

11. Most of _____ we know is actually second-hand knowledge, information and insight that we obtain from others.
✔ **C) what**
Most of what we know means most of the things that we know. **What** is the object of **know**. **That** and **which** would need a noun before them (e.g. **most of the things that we know**).

12. _____ or not a computer has an old “date” chip is important.
✔ **C) Whether**
Whether (or not) introduces a noun clause about a yes/no question. Here the clause is the subject of **is important**. Only **whether** can be followed directly by **or not**. **If** cannot begin a subject clause, and **that** / **the fact that** do not combine with **or not**.

13. We all were not sure _____ the play would last.
✔ **C) how long**
Duration is asked with **how long**: **We were not sure how long the play would last.** The verb **last** refers to time. **How much** and **how many** are for quantity, **how often** is for frequency, and **how far** is for distance.

14. Non-interference is an abdication of the teacher's role and shows ignorance of _____ can be done to make learning more efficient.
✔ **C) what**
After the preposition **of**, the noun clause needs a subject for **can be done**. **What** (= the things that) does this: **ignorance of what can be done**. **How** cannot be the subject of a verb, and **which** needs a noun before it.

15. My teenage son is driving me crazy. He comes home whenever he wants, and he does _____ he wants with _____ he sees.
✔ **B) whatever / whomever**
Whatever (= anything that) is the object of **wants**. **Whomever** (= any person who) is the object of **sees** and follows the preposition **with**. The meaning is that he does anything he likes with any person. **Whenever** refers to time, so it cannot be the object of **sees**.

16. A project in Egypt has demonstrated _____ men are eager to know _____ they can do to help their wives after a miscarriage.
✔ **E) that / what**
Demonstrate that… introduces a fact the project has shown. Then **know what they can do** needs **what** as the object of **do**. **Which** would need a noun after it or a set of options, and **whether** does not fit with **demonstrated**, which reports a result.

17. In households _____ no decisions were made jointly, 25 per cent of spouses reported _____ they often argued about money.
✔ **D) where / that**
Where introduces a relative clause about a place or situation: **households where (= in which) no decisions were made**. **Report that…** introduces the reported statement. **Whom** refers to people, so it cannot follow **households**. **Whether** would turn the report into a question, which does not fit a reported fact.

18. _____ I decide to have a long holiday, some extra work that I have to do appears.
✔ **D) Whenever**
Whenever means **every time (that)**. It introduces a time clause: every time I plan a long holiday, extra work appears. **Whatever** and **however** do not express time, and **wherever** is about place.

19. _____ is characteristic of the networks in the information age is _____ they have become more and more flexible and adaptive.
✔ **D) What / that**
What is characteristic of the networks (= the thing that is characteristic) is the subject clause. **That they have become more flexible** is the complement clause after **is**, and it states a complete fact. **Which** cannot begin the subject clause without a noun before it, and **whom** refers only to people.

20. The question we have to answer is _____ we have to keep in touch with the other members of the club in order not to get lost.
✔ **C) how often**
The complement of **The question… is** must be an indirect question. **How often** asks about frequency: **how often we have to keep in touch**. **Why** does not fit, because the reason is already given in the sentence (**in order not to get lost**). **That** does not form a question.

21. The book translated as “Denemeler” in Turkish is still the strongest proof that shows _____ Montaigne solved the mysteries of modern people’s feelings.
✔ **D) how well**
Shows needs a noun clause as its object. **How well** introduces an indirect question about degree: **shows how well Montaigne solved…**. **So well**, **just as** and **even so** cannot introduce a noun clause.

22. _____ the thieves have stolen is not known.
✔ **C) What**
The subject clause needs an object for **have stolen**. **What** (= the thing that) does this: **What the thieves have stolen is not known.** With **why**, **whether** or **that**, **stolen** would have no object.

23. _____ it seems logical to do anything, do not show hesitation: do _____ you wish.
✔ **A) Whenever / whatever**
Whenever (= every time) introduces the time clause. **Whatever** (= anything that) is the object of **do** and **wish**: **do whatever you wish**. **However** in the first gap would mean **no matter how**, which does not fit **it seems logical**. **Whichever** needs a set of choices.

24. There are too many freeways in this area, but I have no idea where we are going. Choose _____ freeway you think will take us back to San Francisco.
✔ **C) whichever**
Whichever + noun means **any one (of a limited set) that**: **choose whichever freeway you think will take us back**. It is used before a noun when there is a choice among several options. **Whatever** is not offered, and **wherever** and **whenever** cannot come before a noun.

25. We didn’t understand _____ you had chosen such a rough road to get to our destination.
✓ B) why
Understand why introduces an indirect question about the reason: **We didn’t understand why you had chosen such a rough road. The fact that** would mean they did not understand the fact itself, which does not fit. **When** and **where** do not match the meaning.

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