ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Sentence Completion Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 4

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Explanations

1. Only a few of them felt like going to the movie that night, _____.
✓ C) although their tickets were for the premiere night of the latest production
The main clause says that **only a few** wanted to go, so we need a clause of contrast: they didn't feel like going **although** they had premiere tickets. Not **because it had been so much appreciated by the critics**: good reviews would make people want to go, so this reason doesn't fit. The other options have relative-clause or tense problems (**at which… the cast**, **who had made**, present **is passing** after a past story).

2. Having walked through the swamps for miles, _____.
✓ B) the pilgrims were relieved to see campfires in the distance
A participle clause (**Having walked…**) must share its subject with the main clause. Only **the pilgrims** can be the people who walked through the swamps, and being **relieved to see campfires** is a logical result of the long walk. Not **there was not even a drop of water…**: the subject **there** cannot have walked, so the participle would be dangling.

3. In spite of the fact that there was little rain in summer, _____.
✓ E) the crops seemed healthy enough to be harvested
In spite of the fact that introduces a contrast, so the main clause must give an unexpected result of the little rain: the crops were still healthy. Not **there was neither enough fruit nor vegetables**: this is an expected result of little rain, not a contrast. **The floods** contradict the dry summer, and **gave a considerable harm** is also wrong English.

4. Situated in the eastern part of Turkey, _____.
✓ A) this natural beauty has become easy to visit with the new motorway the government has just constructed
Situated in the eastern part of Turkey is a participle phrase that must describe the subject of the main clause. Only **this natural beauty** is a place that can be **situated** somewhere. Not **which is covered by…**: that is only a relative clause with no main verb. Not **we set off…** or **the snow**: people and snow are not **situated in** a region.

5. Anton Chekhov, who represents a break with the main tendencies of the nineteenth century and acts as a bridge to the twentieth in the overall context of the development of Russian literature, wrote no novels, _____.
✓ E) but instead put new life and strength into the neglected genres of the short story and the drama
The sentence says Chekhov **wrote no novels**, so the natural continuation is a contrast with **but instead**, saying what he did write: short stories and plays. **Put new life into** something means to make it active and strong again. Not **one of which…** or **in his modernist novels**: these talk about his novels, and he wrote none. Not **what made him…**: **what** cannot begin a clause commenting on a whole sentence (it should be **which**).

6. _____, he opened exhibitions at leading galleries in several countries.
✓ A) After graduating from the State Academy of Fine Arts in 1972
The main clause is in the past simple (**he opened exhibitions**), so the time clause must also refer to the past. **After graduating… in 1972** gives a clear past sequence. Not **Since he has lived…** or **When he has finished…**: present perfect does not fit a finished past event. **Although** gives a contrast that makes no sense here.

7. _____, but no conclusive evidence has yet been found to substantiate this.
✓ D) A few scientists believe that some dinosaurs may have given birth to twins
The second clause (**but no conclusive evidence has yet been found to substantiate this**) needs a first clause that states a theory or belief that has not been proved. **A few scientists believe that some dinosaurs may have given birth to twins** is exactly such an unproven hypothesis. Not **The earth revolves around the sun…**: this is an established fact, so it needs no further evidence.

8. It is not advisable to can some fruits such as avocados _____.
✓ C) because of the changes in taste and texture that occur
Here **to can** means to preserve food in cans. The gap needs a reason why canning avocados is not advisable: **because of the changes in taste and texture that occur**. Not **since cans protect the vitamins…**: that would be a reason **for** canning, not against it.

9. Since many underdeveloped countries do not keep complete records, _____.
✓ B) world figures for population changes are much more difficult to compile
Since gives a reason: many countries do not keep complete records. The logical result is that **world figures for population changes are much more difficult to compile** (to collect and put together). Not **that's why…**: you cannot use **that's why** after a **since** clause, and the Olympic options have nothing to do with records of population.

10. Several insurance companies have now reluctantly made the decision _____.
✓ A) that they should withdraw from the American market
Make the decision is often followed by a **that**-clause giving the content of the decision: **the decision that they should withdraw from the American market**. **Reluctantly** (unwillingly) fits a difficult decision like leaving a market. Not **while the meeting was still being held**: it is grammatical but doesn't say what was decided, and **the decision** here clearly needs its content.

11. David was clearly the only pupil in the classroom _____.
✓ A) with whose grades the teachers were completely satisfied
After **the only pupil** we need a relative clause about David. **With whose grades the teachers were completely satisfied** is a formal relative clause with a preposition before **whose** (= the teachers were satisfied with his grades). Not **that everybody is ready to help him**: this repeats the pupil (**him**) and uses the wrong tense. Not **which nobody… liked**: **which** cannot refer to a person.

12. After a month of strikes that cost the two companies millions of dollars, _____.
✓ B) both of the companies decided to sign a new agreement with the unions
The introductory phrase describes a long, expensive conflict in the past. The main clause should therefore give its logical past result: **both of the companies decided to sign a new agreement** to end the strikes. Not **the strike… turned out to be one of the most profitable events**: the strikes cost the companies millions, so they were not profitable. Not **the strike would start the following week** or **the workers had never been on strike before**: both contradict the month of strikes that has already happened. A costly strike is also not a **useful action** that earns the director a promotion.

13. According to some experts, the first inhabitants of the Americas were descendants of hunters from Asia, _____.
✓ C) who are believed to have migrated across a land bridge from Siberia thousands of years ago
The gap needs a non-defining relative clause that adds information about the **hunters from Asia**. **Who are believed to have migrated across a land bridge from Siberia thousands of years ago** explains how Asian hunters could be the ancestors of the first Americans. **Are believed to have migrated** is a passive with a perfect infinitive, used for an earlier event that people think happened. Not **who are believed to have never hunted animals**: this contradicts the word **hunters**. Not **arrived… only in the last century**: the first inhabitants came thousands of years ago. **None of them had ever lived in Asia** contradicts **from Asia**, and the Latin alphabet has nothing to do with the topic.

14. Most Turkish people criticize the queues in front of even the biggest banks, _____.
✓ A) yet it's unlikely that this will change in the near future
Yet links two clauses with a contrast: people complain about the queues, but the situation is unlikely to change. Not **because they have much more time…**: having more time is not a reason to criticise queues. Not **since the bank converted to a new… system**: a system that lets clients avoid the bank would remove the queues, so this does not fit either.

15. My father did not believe me _____.
✓ E) nor did my mother upon hearing my story
After a negative clause, **nor + auxiliary + subject** adds another negative: **My father did not believe me, nor did my mother** (= my mother didn't believe me either). Not **and so was my elder sister**: **so** is used after positive clauses, and **was** doesn't match **did not believe**. **Believe** cannot be followed by **whether**, **why** or **if** clauses in this way.

16. One of the reasons why Chopin is still popular in our age is that _____.
✓ A) he managed to appeal to many people through his universal compositions
After **the reason… is that** we need a full clause with a subject and verb. **He managed to appeal to many people…** is a clause and explains his lasting popularity. Not **his being quite handsome and kind** or **people's preference of…**: these are noun phrases, not clauses. **Because** is redundant after **the reason is that**, and **very limited and disorganised melodies** would not make him popular.

17. He has never had a steady job, _____.
✓ E) so he and his family find it difficult to make ends meet
So introduces a result. Because he has never had a regular job, he and his family have little money. **Make ends meet** means to have just enough money to pay for what you need. Not **which has made his family one of the richest in town**: having no steady job would not make a family rich. Not **since he's been working day and night for months**: this contradicts **never had a steady job**. Not **although he's incapable of working long hours**: being unable to work long hours would be a reason for having no steady job, not a contrast.

18. By the time I finally moved to Istanbul, _____.
✓ C) I had been living in Bursa for 6 years
By the time + past simple is followed by the past perfect (continuous) for an action that continued up to that past moment: **By the time I moved..., I had been living in Bursa for 6 years.** Not **I retired from my former job**: the past simple doesn't show that the action was completed before the move. **Have been working** and **will have brought** use the wrong time.

19. I listened to their conversation for quite a long time, _____.
✓ B) but I was never sure who they were talking about
But gives a natural contrast: I listened for a long time, yet I never understood who they meant. Not **thus I couldn't get the information clearly**: **thus** cannot join two clauses after a comma like a conjunction. **That made me...** is a defining relative after a comma and should be **which**, and **although I'm really concerned...** uses the wrong tense and gives no real contrast.

20. The college lecture is the process _____.
✓ D) whereby the notes of the professor become the notes of the student without passing through the minds of either
Whereby is a formal relative word meaning **by which**. **The process whereby the notes of the professor become the notes of the student** describes how the process works. This is a famous ironic definition of the lecture: information passes from paper to paper without anyone thinking about it. Not **which one acquires...**: the preposition is missing (**by which**). **What** cannot follow a noun as a relative pronoun.

21. The mystique of the Kennedy family in United States politics was due in great part _____.
✓ C) to the glamorous and attractive wife of President John F. Kennedy
The fixed expression is **due to** + noun phrase, here split by **in great part**: **was due in great part to the glamorous... wife**. **Mystique** means a special, attractive quality that makes someone seem interesting and mysterious. Not **for their being** or **after...**: **due** needs the preposition **to**. **Because** and **since** cannot follow **due**.

22. _____, so is his cousin, Jane.
✓ E) Just as Bill is one of the most intellectual students in my class
The structure **Just as X is..., so is Y** compares two people with the same quality: Bill is very intellectual, and Jane is too. **So is** repeats the verb **is** from the first clause. Not **Some people say that Peter has won...**: **so is** would need **so has**. Not **Because Henry is working...**: there is no quality for Jane to share, and **because** gives no comparison.

23. _____, he was able to remain cheerful in spirit.
✓ A) Albeit that John was badly wounded in a multi-car crash
The main clause (**he was able to remain cheerful**) needs a concessive clause describing something bad. **Albeit that** is a formal, rather old-fashioned way of saying **although**. Being badly wounded is a strong contrast with staying cheerful. Not **Despite the marvellous news** or **Even though he... had been accepted**: good news would make him cheerful anyway, so there is no contrast.

24. _____, I would have starved to death after the exam.
✓ C) If it hadn't been for the money you gave me
The main clause **I would have starved** is a third conditional about the past, so the condition needs the past perfect. **If it hadn't been for the money** means **without the money**. Not **Were you to lend me some money**: this inverted form refers to the present or future, not to the past. **Because of your financial support** does not work either: the support would be the reason for starving, which is illogical.

25. _____ when the phone rang.
✓ C) Scarcely had he left the office
When **scarcely** begins a sentence, it needs inversion (**had he left**) and is followed by **when**: **Scarcely had he left the office when the phone rang** (= the phone rang immediately after he left). Not **Hardly he had left the office**: **hardly** works like **scarcely**, but at the start of a sentence it also needs inversion (**Hardly had he left**). Not **No sooner had they come...**: **no sooner** is followed by **than**, not **when**. Not **As soon as he had left the office**: this is only a time clause, so the sentence has no main clause. **He hardly managed to persuade us** does not give the idea of one action immediately following another.

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