ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

That or Which Quiz: 20 Questions with Answers

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Explanations

1. My grandmother, ___ is ninety, still swims every day.
✔ **C) who**
The clause adds extra information between commas, and it is about a person, so we need who. That never follows a comma.

2. The laptop, ___ I bought last year, has stopped working.
✔ **D) which**
The clause is extra information between commas, and a laptop is a thing, so we use which.

3. This is the street on ___ I was born.
✔ **D) which**
Straight after a preposition (on) we use which for things, never that. You could also say the street I was born on.

4. She passed all her exams, ___ made her parents very proud.
✔ **C) which**
Which can point back to a whole idea: passing all her exams made her parents proud. That and what can't do this.

5. Everything ___ you need is in this box.
✔ **B) that**
After everything, all and nothing we normally use that, or leave the word out. Everything what is a mistake.

6. Our teacher, ___ name is Mr Okafor, is from Nigeria.
✔ **D) whose**
Whose means belonging to: the teacher's name is Mr Okafor.

7. Which sentence is correct?
✔ **A) The Nile, which flows through Egypt, is very long.**
There is only one Nile, so the clause is extra information. It needs commas and which.

8. The friend ___ I stayed with lives in Cardiff.
✔ **A) that**
In a defining clause about a person we can use that (or who). Which is never used for people.

9. The bus ___ goes to the airport leaves from stop B.
✔ **C) that**
The clause tells you which bus, so it is defining: that, with no commas. Who is for people.

10. Which sentence follows American style guides such as the Chicago Manual of Style?
✔ **C) The car that I rented was blue.**
American style guides use that, with no commas, in a defining clause. The car which I rented is also common in British English.

11. He told me ___ he would be home late.
✔ **B) that**
Here that is a conjunction after told me, not a relative pronoun. Which can't do this job.

12. The company has three offices, all of ___ are in Scotland.
✔ **A) which**
After all of, some of and none of we use which for things (whom for people). All of that and all of what are not possible here.

13. The man ___ car was stolen called the police.
✔ **B) whose**
Whose shows belonging: it was the man's car.

14. The hotel at ___ we stayed was near the beach.
✔ **B) which**
After the preposition at we use which. Without at, you could say the hotel where we stayed.

15. The shop may be closed, in ___ case we'll try the market.
✔ **A) which**
In which case is a fixed phrase meaning if that happens.

16. Which word can you leave out of this sentence? "The book that I borrowed was great."
✔ **D) that**
That can be left out when it is the object of the clause: The book I borrowed was great.

17. This is the best film ___ I have ever seen.
✔ **D) that**
After a superlative such as the best we normally use that. The best film what I have seen is a mistake.

18. The people with ___ I work are very kind.
✔ **A) whom**
Straight after a preposition (with) we use whom for people and which for things. That never follows a preposition.

19. I have only one car. Where do the commas go?
✔ **D) My car, which is ten years old, still runs well.**
The clause is extra information about my only car, so it needs a comma on both sides.

20. In British English, which word can also replace that in "The key that opens the shed is on the hook"?
✔ **C) which**
British English also allows which in defining clauses about things. Who is only for people.