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Before and After by Kcit

Of the nine entries without numbered clues (all words in Chambers), five are defined by multi-word phrases in five clues – these five represent the BEFORE states. The remaining four have something in common and represent the AFTER states, one being required twice. Eleven other clues have redundant single words; first letters of these words spell out thematic assistance, as do the last letters. Solvers must complete the barred-off square and highlight an example that, rather unusually, represents both states.

ACROSS

- 1 A mother brought back desert plant (6)
- 11 Not much good at capturing lutetium in food item (8)
- 12 I'm mild, perhaps, returning firm note (5)
- 13 Unknown profundities recalled without delay (6)
- 14 Trick outfit (3)
- 17 Wicked man to force way into one's intellect (7)
- 18 Some touchy, much-married monarch poisons 'fixer' (4)
- 19 English crowd invested in very good coffee machine (8)
- 21 American criticises regional divisions – not on (5)
- 23 Flower festival neglecting East India (5)
- 24 Recalled one memory about a dweller on islands (5)
- 25 It's presented in Benin? Eccentric (5)
- 27 Rossini aria initially performed to music, involving little very developed (8)
- 28 Meat salad dish returned by these characters in Athens (4)
- 29 Observe part of website, perhaps, for leak (7)
- 32 Indian potato's worth, boundless (3)
- 33 Unconventional medicine: small amount includes rubber tyre (6)
- 34 A wretched young girl in Congress (2,2)
- 35 Court brought in two London coppers initially following beat (5)
- 36 It's frightening taking in piece of film? Hardly ever (8)
- 37 Run hospital: working with old surgeon one identifies sound of breathing (7)

DOWN

- 1 Robbed old football official before middle of match (4)
- 2 Run off once – wild run into dump, the dunderhead (6)
- 3 Peripheral article on degree held by academic (3-2)
- 4 Party held by skinflint, the crook (7)
- 5 Stupid to ignore precipitate wound (5)
- 6 Australian runs after gun designer giving sly look (4)
- 7 Initial letter of line many misread, incorporating religious description of god (8)
- 8 Foreign husband close to woman (6)
- 9 Issues visas, say, excluding Portugal? That's not right (5)
- 10 Outer surface hides grit that's scattered (5,4)
- 15 Misfortune not love is turning up in historic German drama (5)
- 16 Old violin leading most of crack stringed instruments (6)
- 17 Man, military assistant, with item covering piece of furniture (9)
- 20 The others managed to keep one in executive control (8)
- 22 Exotic cloak from version of King and I? (5)
- 24 Unhappy times are curtailed for great performers (7)
- 26 Sustained stumpings – nearly all cricket team out, unfortunately (6)
- 29 Skilful worker, turning up, is framing line in copper grooves (5)
- 30 Public Library – excellent building, with a particular purpose (5)
- 31 Various yelts left out here? (4)