

Boğaziçi University

Writing and Academic Support Center (WASC)

Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon (OPAL)

Instructions: Complete each sentence by writing the correct OPAL phrase in the blank. One phrase in each word bank is a distractor and is not needed. Answers are given at the end of this worksheet.

Section A — Specifying Topics & Relations

Word bank:

*the relationship between | from the perspective of | as part of | in the context of | in relation to
| with respect to | in terms of*

1. This chapter examines student motivation _____ self-determination theory.
2. _____ socioeconomic background, significant differences were observed across the groups.
3. The findings must be interpreted _____ the wider political climate.
4. The study investigates _____ diet and cardiovascular health.
5. _____ gender, the data revealed a clear pattern of underrepresentation.
6. The article analyses language learning _____ cognitive development.

Section B — Hedging & Expressing Certainty

Word bank:

it is not clear | it is fair to say that | it is likely that | it could be argued that | appears to be | suggests that | it is reasonable to assume that

1. The result _____ consistent with previous findings in the field.
2. _____ current trends will continue throughout the next decade.
3. The evidence _____ a strong link between sleep deprivation and cognitive decline.
4. _____ the restrictions imposed by policy were a contributing factor to the decline.
5. _____ whether these results can be replicated across different cultural contexts.
6. _____ participants had prior knowledge of the topic, given the nature of the course.

Section C — Giving Examples & Evidence

Word bank:

evidence of | it has been shown that | according to | as shown in | in the light of | for instance | such as

1. Several factors, _____ age, income and education level, were controlled for.
2. _____ recent findings, the original hypothesis requires revision.
3. _____ Smith and colleagues (2021), sample size is a key limitation of the study.
4. Many high-income countries, _____ Sweden and Canada, have adopted this approach.
5. There is growing _____ a causal link between air pollution and respiratory illness.
6. _____ regular aerobic exercise reduces the risk of type 2 diabetes.

Section D — Expressing Causes & Effects

Word bank:

give rise to | lead to | as a result of | the impact of | because of | in order to | due to

1. The researchers increased the sample size _____ improve statistical power.
2. Rapid urbanisation can _____ significant environmental challenges.
3. These changes are largely _____ shifts in consumer behaviour.
4. Deforestation may _____ biodiversity loss and soil erosion.
5. _____ globalisation on local labour markets has been widely debated.
6. _____ the intervention, participants showed markedly improved outcomes.

Section E — Making Contrasts & Comparisons

Word bank:

similar to | the difference between | as opposed to | rather than | compared with | in contrast to | on the other hand

1. _____ the control group, the experimental group showed a significant improvement.
2. The pattern observed here is _____ that reported by Jones et al. (2019).
3. The authors opted for a qualitative approach _____ a purely statistical one.
4. The first approach is cost-effective; _____, it requires specialised training.
5. _____ the two methods lies primarily in how data are collected and analysed.
6. _____ developing nations, high-income countries showed far lower mortality rates.

Section F — Expressing Quantity & Degree

Word bank:

the rate of | the extent to which | the majority of | a wide range of | the proportion of | to a greater or lesser extent | a large number of

1. The review identified _____ studies examining this phenomenon.
2. _____ participants reported feeling confident in their use of the technology.
3. The questionnaire covered _____ topics related to student wellbeing.
4. All participants were affected, _____, by the economic downturn.
5. This paper examines _____ formal education shapes political attitudes.
6. _____ unemployment among graduates has risen sharply over the past five years.

Answer Key

Section A — Specifying Topics & Relations

1. in terms of
2. With respect to
3. in the context of
4. the relationship between
5. From the perspective of
6. in relation to

✗ Distractor: as part of

Section B — Hedging & Expressing Certainty

1. appears to be
2. It is likely that
3. suggests that
4. It could be argued that
5. It is not clear
6. It is reasonable to assume that

✗ Distractor: it is fair to say that

Section C — Giving Examples & Evidence

1. such as
2. In the light of
3. According to
4. for instance
5. evidence of
6. It has been shown that

✗ Distractor: as shown in

Section D — Expressing Causes & Effects

1. in order to
2. give rise to
3. due to
4. lead to
5. The impact of
6. As a result of

✗ Distractor: because of

Section E — Making Contrasts & Comparisons

1. In contrast to

2. similar to
 3. rather than
 4. on the other hand
 5. The difference between
 6. Compared with
- X Distractor: as opposed to*

Section F — Expressing Quantity & Degree

1. a large number of
 2. The majority of
 3. a wide range of
 4. to a greater or lesser extent
 5. the extent to which
 6. The rate of
- X Distractor: the proportion of*