

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 — Concepts, Notions & Ideas

Word bank:

the idea that | beyond the scope of | our understanding of | the question of | the assumption that | the notion of | the concept of

1. _____ identity has been central to sociological inquiry for decades.
2. This paper challenges _____ economic growth automatically improves social wellbeing.
3. Recent discoveries have transformed _____ how memory is stored in the brain.
4. The model rests on _____ all actors behave rationally.
5. A full historical analysis is _____ this article.
6. _____ belonging is explored through the lens of community participation.

Section B — Existence, Presence & Absence

Word bank:

the vast majority of | the lack of | the absence of | the presence or absence of | in the presence of | in the absence of | the existence of

1. _____ clear guidelines, practitioners were left to make independent judgements.
2. The study confirmed _____ a statistically significant correlation between the variables.
3. _____ respondents agreed that access to healthcare should be universal.
4. _____ adequate funding remains the primary obstacle to implementation.
5. _____ certain antibodies was used as the key diagnostic criterion.
6. Enzyme activity was measured _____ and absence of the substrate.

Section C — Key Noun Phrases

Word bank:

the implementation of | the quality of | the application of | the emergence of | the effectiveness of | the ability to | the development of

1. This study evaluates _____ the new curriculum in raising literacy standards.
2. _____ machine learning techniques to medical imaging has grown rapidly.
3. Several barriers to _____ the policy in rural areas were identified.
4. _____ social media as a political tool has reshaped public discourse.
5. A key skill in academic writing is _____ synthesise sources critically.
6. _____ evidence-based practice has been slow in some sectors.

Section D — Characteristics, Features & Types

Word bank:

features of | a series of | derived from | in the form of | different types of | characterized by | a variety of

1. The data were collected using _____ methods, including surveys and interviews.
2. The post-war period was _____ rapid industrial expansion and demographic change.
3. Feedback was provided _____ written comments and one-to-one tutorials.
4. The taxonomy distinguishes _____ knowledge: declarative, procedural and conditional.
5. One of the defining _____ academic prose is its formal, impersonal tone.
6. The index is _____ a composite of five economic indicators.

Section E — Scope, Focus & Relevance

Word bank:

concerned with | in the area of | with respect to | in particular | focus on | relevant to | in the field of

1. This review draws on scholarship _____ applied linguistics and language education.
2. The chapter will _____ the methodological challenges of cross-cultural research.
3. All sources deemed _____ the research question were included in the review.
4. The discipline is primarily _____ how legal norms are created and enforced.
5. Recent advances _____ renewable energy have been promising.
6. The third chapter examines gender inequality and, _____, the gender pay gap.

Section F — Association, Dependency & Consistency

Word bank:

subject to | on the basis of | related to | involved in | dependent on | consistent with | associated with

1. Heavy social media use has been _____ increased rates of anxiety in adolescents.
2. These findings are broadly _____ the conclusions of earlier meta-analyses.
3. Participants were selected _____ their responses to the initial screening questionnaire.
4. The outcome is highly _____ the quality of data available at the outset.
5. All research _____ human participants must comply with ethical guidelines.
6. A number of stakeholders were _____ designing and piloting the intervention.

Answer Key

Section A — Concepts, Notions & Ideas

1. The concept of
 2. the idea that
 3. our understanding of
 4. the assumption that
 5. beyond the scope of
 6. The notion of
- ✗ Distractor: the question of*

Section B — Existence, Presence & Absence

1. In the absence of
 2. the existence of
 3. The vast majority of
 4. The lack of
 5. The presence or absence of
 6. in the presence of
- ✗ Distractor: the absence of*

Section C — Key Noun Phrases

1. the effectiveness of
 2. The application of
 3. the implementation of
 4. The emergence of
 5. the ability to
 6. The development of
- ✗ Distractor: the quality of*

Section D — Characteristics, Features & Types

1. a variety of
 2. characterized by
 3. in the form of
 4. different types of
 5. features of
 6. derived from
- ✗ Distractor: a series of*

Section E — Scope, Focus & Relevance

1. in the field of

2. focus on
3. relevant to
4. concerned with
5. in the area of
6. in particular

X Distractor: with respect to

Section F — Association, Dependency & Consistency

1. associated with
2. consistent with
3. on the basis of
4. dependent on
5. subject to
6. involved in

X Distractor: related to