

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 — Manner & Method

Word bank:

the way in which | as a means of | in a number of ways | in the manner of | can be used to | in such a way that | by means of

1. The data were encrypted _____ a secure algorithm to protect participant privacy.
2. Visual aids _____ clarify complex relationships between variables.
3. The results were presented _____ all stakeholders could interpret them easily.
4. Storytelling has long been used _____ transmitting cultural knowledge.
5. Globalisation has affected local economies _____, both positively and negatively.
6. The report examines _____ digital tools are reshaping classroom interaction.

Section B — Drawing Conclusions & Reasoning

Word bank:

*it is easy to see that | it is reasonable to assume that | there is no doubt that | it is fair to say that
| it can be seen that | there is no reason to | it is clear that*

1. From the data in Figure 3, _____ uptake increased steadily after the intervention.
2. _____ further research is needed before firm conclusions can be drawn.
3. _____ climate change poses an existential challenge to coastal communities.
4. _____ the policy has had a measurable, if modest, effect on attainment.
5. _____ believe that the current approach is without limitation.
6. Given the volume of supporting literature, _____ this theory has broad applicability.

Section C — Probability, Potential & Risk

Word bank:

the likelihood of | the possibility of | the probability of | the risk of | it is possible that | has the potential to | the potential for

1. The technology _____ transform early diagnosis of neurodegenerative diseases.
2. Clinicians must be aware of _____ adverse side effects when prescribing this drug.
3. _____ the results were influenced by response bias cannot be ruled out.
4. _____ conflict increases when resources are scarce and governance is weak.
5. The framework offers considerable _____ cross-disciplinary collaboration.
6. The authors acknowledge _____ measurement error in self-reported data.

Section D — Comparison & Correspondence

Word bank:

as opposed to | variation in | similar to | the corresponding | in the same way as | relative to | with the exception of

1. All sites showed improvement, _____ Site C, where scores remained unchanged.
2. The qualitative approach was favoured, _____ a purely statistical analysis.
3. Expenditure on research has grown, but _____ rate for industry investment has declined.
4. Women were underrepresented _____ men in senior academic positions.
5. Language acquisition proceeds _____ other cognitive developmental milestones.
6. Considerable _____ performance was observed across schools in different regions.

Section E — Process & Change

Word bank:

give rise to | in turn | lead to | the growth of | a change in | tend to | in the process of

1. The organisation is currently _____ restructuring its data governance protocols.
2. Increased automation can _____ new forms of social inequality.
3. _____ online education has been one of the most significant trends of the past decade.
4. Wealthier students _____ outperform their peers on standardised assessments.
5. _____ diet was associated with improved metabolic outcomes at the six-month follow-up.
6. Early intervention reduces dropout rates, which _____ lowers long-term welfare costs.

Section F — Referring to Sources & Prior Research

Word bank:

in some cases | tend to be | observed in | found that | research on | it has been suggested that | it has been argued that

1. _____ the current regulatory framework is no longer fit for purpose.
2. Chen et al. (2020) _____ bilingual children outperformed monolingual peers on executive function tasks.
3. _____, participants reported uncertainty about the purpose of the study.
4. _____ the long-term effects of social isolation remains limited.
5. Qualitative studies _____ more exploratory in nature than quantitative ones.
6. _____ early childhood interventions yield significant long-term economic returns.

Answer Key

Section A — Manner & Method

1. by means of
2. can be used to
3. in such a way that
4. as a means of
5. in a number of ways
6. the way in which

✗ Distractor: in the manner of

Section B — Drawing Conclusions & Reasoning

1. it can be seen that
2. It is clear that
3. There is no doubt that
4. It is fair to say that
5. There is no reason to
6. it is easy to see that

✗ Distractor: it is reasonable to assume that

Section C — Probability, Potential & Risk

1. has the potential to
2. the risk of
3. It is possible that
4. The likelihood of
5. potential for
6. the possibility of

✗ Distractor: the probability of

Section D — Comparison & Correspondence

1. with the exception of
2. as opposed to
3. the corresponding
4. relative to
5. in the same way as
6. variation in

✗ Distractor: similar to

Section E — Process & Change

1. in the process of

2. give rise to
3. The growth of
4. tend to
5. A change in
6. in turn

X Distractor: lead to

Section F — Referring to Sources & Prior Research

1. It has been argued that
2. found that
3. In some cases
4. Research on
5. tend to be
6. It has been suggested that

X Distractor: observed in