

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 — Qualifying & Limiting Claims

Word bank:

in so far as | to a certain extent | not necessarily | this is not to say that | in general | to some extent | more or less

1. The two approaches are _____ equivalent in terms of predictive accuracy.
2. A higher score does _____ indicate a better overall outcome for the patient.
3. _____, the findings support the hypothesis, though some anomalies remain unexplained.
4. _____, academic writing tends to favour an impersonal, formal register.
5. _____ the model is useful _____ it helps identify broad structural patterns.
6. Correlation implies causation; _____ the observed association should be interpreted cautiously.

Section B — Emphasising & Focusing

Word bank:

if and only if | the importance of | in particular | above all | in question | in fact | at the heart of

1. _____ this debate lies a fundamental disagreement about the role of the state.
2. The intervention is considered successful _____ all primary outcome measures are met.
3. The research _____ was conducted over a three-year period across five institutions.
4. The results were surprising; _____, they contradicted decades of established theory.
5. _____ replication in scientific research cannot be overstated.
6. Researchers must, _____, maintain rigorous ethical standards throughout the process.

Section C — Consequences & Conditions

Word bank:

on the part of | in the event of | as a result of | at the expense of | to ensure that | as a consequence of | in response to

1. Several institutions revised their admissions criteria _____ the new government guidelines.
2. Economic efficiency was prioritised, often _____ social equity.
3. _____ a system failure, all data are automatically backed up to a secure server.
4. Strict protocols were established _____ results could be reliably reproduced.
5. There was a notable lack of engagement _____ senior management during the transition.
6. _____ the merger, over 400 staff positions were made redundant.

Section D — Degree, Frequency & Distribution

Word bank:

the proportion of | by a factor of | the rate of | one or more of | the prevalence of | the degree to which | the frequency of

1. _____ obesity among children under twelve has risen sharply in the past two decades.
2. _____ participants who withdrew from the study increased at each follow-up stage.
3. Processing speed improved _____ three following the software upgrade.
4. _____ errors was significantly lower in the trained group than in the control group.
5. The study examines _____ institutional culture shapes individual behaviour.
6. Participants who reported _____ these symptoms were referred for further assessment.

Section E — Value, Quality & Nature

Word bank:

the role of | the significance of | the value of | the benefits of | the nature of | a function of | the quality of

1. Output is largely _____ the quality and quantity of inputs provided.
2. _____ peer review in maintaining academic standards has long been recognised.
3. The study highlights _____ longitudinal data for tracking developmental trajectories.
4. _____ the task determines which cognitive strategies participants are likely to employ.
5. _____ the evidence gathered was judged to be insufficient to support the claim.

6. _____ collaborative learning have been well documented in the educational literature.

Section F — Stance & Framing

Word bank:

as a whole | on the other hand | in spite of the fact that | linked to | whether or not | while at the same time | from the point of view of

1. _____ the practitioner, the new guidelines represent a significant administrative burden.
2. Poor housing conditions have been consistently _____ adverse health outcomes.
3. The policy succeeded in reducing costs _____ maintaining service quality.
4. _____ the evidence was inconclusive, the programme continued to receive funding.
5. The committee debated _____ the proposed changes should be implemented immediately.
6. The sector _____ has experienced a period of sustained growth.

Answer Key

Section A — Qualifying & Limiting Claims

1. more or less
2. not necessarily
3. To some extent
4. In general
5. in so far as
6. this is not to say that

✗ Distractor: to a certain extent

Section B — Emphasising & Focusing

1. At the heart of
2. if and only if
3. in question
4. in fact
5. The importance of
6. above all

✗ Distractor: in particular

Section C — Consequences & Conditions

1. in response to
2. at the expense of
3. In the event of
4. to ensure that
5. on the part of
6. As a consequence of

✗ Distractor: as a result of

Section D — Degree, Frequency & Distribution

1. The prevalence of
2. The proportion of
3. by a factor of
4. The frequency of
5. the degree to which
6. one or more of

✗ Distractor: the rate of

Section E — Value, Quality & Nature

1. a function of

2. The role of
3. the value of
4. The nature of
5. The quality of
6. The benefits of

X Distractor: the significance of

Section F — Stance & Framing

1. From the point of view of
2. linked to
3. while at the same time
4. In spite of the fact that
5. whether or not
6. as a whole

X Distractor: on the other hand