

Boğaziçi University

Writing and Academic Support Center (WASC)

Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon (OPAL)

Consolidation Exercise. This exercise draws on phrases from all five sets. Complete each sentence with the correct OPAL phrase from the word bank provided. One phrase in each word bank is a distractor and is not needed. Answers are given at the end of this worksheet.

Section A — Topics, Relations & Scope

Word bank:

concerned with | the notion of | with regard to | in the field of | beyond the scope of | from the perspective of | in relation to

1. The article examines youth unemployment _____ housing instability.
2. _____ the patient, the proposed treatment carries considerable personal risk.
3. Moral philosophy is primarily _____ questions of right, wrong and obligation.
4. Recent developments _____ artificial intelligence have raised urgent ethical questions.
5. The _____ informed consent is central to medical research ethics.
6. A detailed economic analysis falls _____ this paper.

Section B — Hedging, Certainty & Qualifying

Word bank:

there is no doubt that | it is fair to say that | it is possible that | it is likely that | more or less | not necessarily | suggests that

1. The data _____ a positive correlation between exercise frequency and mental wellbeing.
2. _____ further longitudinal studies will be needed to confirm these preliminary findings.
3. A longer questionnaire does _____ yield more reliable data than a shorter one.
4. The two scores are _____ equivalent, differing by less than one percentage point.
5. _____ digitisation has transformed the way academic research is conducted and shared.
6. _____ the intervention had a meaningful, if modest, effect on student attendance rates.

Section C — Evidence, Examples & Definition

Word bank:

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

1. Several Scandinavian countries, _____ Denmark and Finland, score highly on social mobility indices.
2. _____ the WHO (2023), antimicrobial resistance is one of the greatest global health threats.
3. Resilience _____ the capacity to recover quickly from adversity or disruption.
4. _____ new evidence, the research team revised its original conclusions.
5. Creative industries, _____ film, music and publishing, contribute significantly to GDP.

6. _____ early bilingual exposure has lasting positive effects on executive function.

Section D — Causes, Effects & Purpose

Word bank:

give rise to | in order to | at the expense of | due to the fact that | to ensure that | as a result of | in response to

1. Many students dropped out _____ financial pressures exacerbated by the pandemic.
2. Governments must act decisively _____ future generations inherit a stable climate.
3. Unchecked urbanisation can _____ severe infrastructure strain and social inequality.
4. The new policy was introduced _____ growing public concern about data privacy.
5. Speed was prioritised _____ accuracy, leading to a higher error rate in the final output.
6. Participants were debriefed _____ obtain their informed consent for future data use.

Section E — Contrast, Comparison & Addition

Word bank:

as well as | compared with | rather than | on the other hand | in contrast to | with the exception of | while at the same time

1. _____ earlier studies, this research employs a mixed-methods approach.
2. The programme reduced costs _____ improving participant satisfaction scores.
3. All sites showed improvement _____ the control site, where outcomes remained stable.
4. Qualitative data were collected _____ quantitative measures throughout the study.
5. Participants preferred face-to-face sessions _____ online alternatives.

6. _____ high-income nations, low-income countries bear a disproportionate burden of disease.

Section F — Quantity, Process & Time

Word bank:

over time | the extent to which | a large number of | a combination of | the majority of | in the process of | in recent years

1. _____ respondents indicated that workload was the primary source of occupational stress.
2. Attitudes towards remote work have shifted considerably _____.
3. _____, research on microplastics has expanded rapidly across multiple disciplines.
4. This study examines _____ institutional culture influences individual ethical decision-making.
5. The organisation is currently _____ reviewing its safeguarding policies.
6. Success in language acquisition depends on _____ motivation, exposure and instruction.

Section G — Association, Role & Stance

Word bank:

on the basis of | linked to | it has been argued that | plays an important role in | in accordance with | from the point of view of | associated with

1. Chronic sleep deprivation is strongly _____ impaired cognitive performance.
2. Parental involvement _____ shaping children's early literacy development.
3. _____ the regulator, the proposed merger raises significant competition concerns.
4. Participants were grouped _____ their baseline scores on the standardised assessment.
5. Poor diet has been consistently _____ increased risk of non-communicable disease.

6. _____ the current model of peer review is no longer adequate for open science.

Answer Key

Section A — Topics, Relations & Scope

1. in relation to
2. From the perspective of
3. concerned with
4. in the field of
5. the notion of
6. beyond the scope of

✗ Distractor: with regard to

Section B — Hedging, Certainty & Qualifying

1. suggests that
2. It is likely that
3. not necessarily
4. more or less
5. There is no doubt that
6. It is fair to say that

✗ Distractor: it is possible that

Section C — Evidence, Examples & Definition

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

✗ Distractor: it has been suggested that

Section D — Causes, Effects & Purpose

1. as a result of
2. to ensure that
3. give rise to
4. in response to
5. at the expense of
6. in order to

✗ Distractor: due to the fact that

Section E — Contrast, Comparison & Addition

1. In contrast to
2. while at the same time
3. with the exception of
4. as well as

5. rather than
6. Compared with

✗ Distractor: on the other hand

Section F — Quantity, Process & Time

1. The majority of
2. over time
3. In recent years
4. the extent to which
5. in the process of
6. a combination of

✗ Distractor: a large number of

Section G — Association, Role & Stance

1. associated with
2. plays an important role in
3. From the point of view of
4. on the basis of
5. linked to
6. It has been argued that

✗ Distractor: in accordance with