

C2.2

Unit 6

Exercise 1

Complete each sentence by choosing the most appropriate option (A, B, C, or D).

1- _____ the committee acknowledged the risks, it proceeded with the plan without further consultation.

- A) Despite
- B) Whereas
- C) Although
- D) Even

2- The proposal was rejected, _____ it fulfilled every technical requirement.

- A) however
- B) notwithstanding
- C) although
- D) nonetheless

3- She defended her position _____, carefully avoiding any emotional appeal.

- A) hesitantly
- B) methodically
- C) reluctantly
- D) impulsively

4- The data were collected _____, resulting in conclusions that could not be reliably replicated.

- A) meticulously
- B) rigorously
- C) haphazardly
- D) conscientiously

5- _____ his impressive qualifications, he failed to convince the panel of his suitability.

- A) Although
- B) Despite
- C) Whereas
- D) Even though

6- The architect designed the building _____, balancing aesthetic ambition with structural restraint.

- A) clumsily
- B) deftly
- C) recklessly
- D) arbitrarily

7- Public support was initially strong; _____, it diminished once the implications became clear.

- A) therefore
- B) moreover
- C) nevertheless
- D) similarly

8- _____ her colleagues favoured immediate action, she argued for a more cautious approach.

- A) Despite
- B) Whereas
- C) However
- D) Even

9- The negotiations were conducted _____, with each concession calculated in advance.

- A) impulsively
- B) carelessly
- C) strategically
- D) inadvertently

10- He accepted the offer _____, fully aware that it conflicted with his long-term objectives.

- A) enthusiastically
- B) impulsively
- C) reluctantly
- D) indifferently

11- The experiment failed; _____, the researchers gained valuable insights for future studies.

- A) although
- B) nonetheless
- C) whereas
- D) despite

12- _____ the novel was critically acclaimed, it divided readers sharply.

- A) Despite
- B) However
- C) Whereas
- D) Although

Exercise 2

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Use between 3 and 8 words. Do not change the word given. You must use the exact word form given.

1. Although the plan was widely criticised, it was implemented without modification.

IMPLEMENTED

→ The plan _____ widespread criticism.

2. She handled the delicate negotiations with great tact and precision.

DEFTLY

→ She _____ delicate negotiations.

3. Despite having little experience, he performed the task with remarkable confidence.

INEXPERIENCE

→ He performed the task with remarkable confidence _____.

4. The results were unexpected; nevertheless, they were accepted by the scientific community.

HOWEVER

→ The results were unexpected; _____ accepted by the scientific community.

5. Although he spoke calmly, his intentions were clearly confrontational.

MANNER

→ He spoke _____ his intentions which were clearly confrontational.

6. The committee reached its decision carefully, ensuring that no detail was overlooked.

METICULOUSLY

→ The committee reached _____.

7. Even though the evidence appeared conclusive, doubts persisted.

APPEARANCES

→ Doubts persisted _____ conclusive evidence.

8. She agreed to the proposal unwillingly, aware of its long-term consequences.

RELUCTANTLY

→ She _____ aware of its long-term consequences.

9. The two departments approached the problem differently: one intuitively, the other analytically.

WHEREAS

→ One department approached the problem intuitively, _____ analytically.

10. The operation was risky. Nonetheless, it was executed with exceptional care.

DESPITE

→ The operation was executed with _____ risky nature.

Exercise 3

Use an appropriate adverbial of manner or contrast clause to fill in the blank.

(1) _____ the acoustic guitar and the classical Spanish guitar look alike at first glance; they have one important distinction 2) _____ sharing many similarities. The Spanish guitar is strung with nylon 3) _____ the acoustic has steel strings. 4) _____ apart from the strings, the way in which they are played also differs. The classical is typically played by with a combination of flesh and nail of the fingertips 5) _____ some schools of thought argue that the classical should be played without fingernails. In contrast, the strings of the acoustic are usually struck with a plectrum to produce sound 6) _____ steel strings can sometimes be rough on the player's fingertips. Some would say the classical sounds sweeter, 7) _____ a voice, but that's not to say that the acoustic guitar cannot be played as 8) _____ it were a Spanish guitar!

Exercise 4

You are going to read four extracts from articles about historical fiction. For questions 1–10, choose from the extracts (A–D). The extracts may be chosen more than once.

Questions 1–10

In which extract does the writer...

1. point out that excessive attention to accuracy may weaken the narrative?
2. highlight how fiction can bring forward forgotten or silenced voices?
3. suggest that novels may encourage deeper reflection than historical studies?
4. state that readers are drawn to the atmosphere of the past rather than factual precision?
5. indicate that authors risk criticism for inaccuracies in their work?
6. stress that the novel is not intended as an authoritative historical record?
7. imply that focusing too heavily on research can reduce enjoyment?
8. argue that emotional authenticity matters more than factual accuracy?
9. suggest that historical fiction can make the past more accessible?
10. claim that the most successful works reveal human themes that transcend historical setting?

Extract A

Historical fiction, at its best, is more than a nostalgic journey into a distant era. It is a balancing act between truth and invention. Many readers mistakenly expect strict adherence to fact, yet the novel is not a history book. The writer's task is to reimagine the lived experience of people in the past, to give a voice to those often omitted from official records. This does not mean falsifying events, but rather offering a perspective that may illuminate what the bare bones of history obscure. For this reason, the genre attracts both praise and suspicion: it can humanise the past, but it can also blur the line between fact and fantasy.

Extract B

For some, historical fiction represents an escape into worlds untouched by modern technology or cynicism. The appeal lies not in accuracy but in atmosphere—the clothes, manners, and landscapes which together evoke an era that feels both foreign and familiar. Readers are less concerned with whether every battle or political intrigue unfolded precisely as described, and more with the emotional truth: how it might have felt to be there. Writers who excel in the genre are not pedantic chroniclers but storytellers who make the past feel tangible, immersive, and alive.

Extract C

One of the persistent criticisms levelled at historical novels is that they inevitably distort the past. Historians are quick to point out errors, whether in costume, customs, or chronology. Yet what is often overlooked is that the novelist does not claim to offer a definitive account. Instead, fiction provides imaginative speculation, and in doing so, often raises questions more penetrating than those answered by historians. Was the French Revolution driven by desperation or ideology? What might it have been like to serve in an eighteenth-century army? Such questions encourage readers to engage critically with history, even if the answers are provisional.

Extract D

There is a curious irony in the reception of historical fiction: the more meticulously researched a novel, the less some readers may appreciate it. Dense detail can overwhelm, smothering the story beneath a layer of pedantry. The most memorable works are those that wear their scholarship lightly, weaving facts into the fabric of the narrative so seamlessly that the reader hardly notices. Ultimately, the genre thrives not on the precise reconstruction of past events, but on its capacity to capture the universality of human experience—love, ambition, betrayal—in settings that challenge and expand our sense of time.