

C2.2

Unit 10

Exercise 1

Choose the best word or phrase that fits the context of a lesser-known disaster. Each choice requires understanding of nuance, tone, and academic register.

1. In the aftermath of the spill, scientists detected extensive _____ of heavy metals in the soil profile.
 - a) leaching
 - b) pruning
 - c) aeration

2. The affected communities demanded reparations, arguing that the company had exercised blatant regulatory _____.
 - a) vigilance
 - b) compliance
 - c) neglect

3. The gradual buildup of industrial effluent created a _____ contamination zone that expanded over decades.
 - a) chronic
 - b) seasonal
 - c) bioluminescent

4. When the mining dam burst, a wave of tailings created a/an _____ effect on downstream habitats.
 - a) negligible
 - b) cascade
 - c) acoustic

5. Investigators concluded that the disaster was aggravated by poor _____ monitoring of structural weaknesses.
 - a) longitudinal
 - b) recreational
 - c) peripheral

Exercise 2

Read the text below. Use the word given in capitals after the gaps to form a word that fits the space.

Environmental Impact Case Study

Following a decade of unchecked urban expansion, the city's green spaces have undergone significant **(1)** _____ (**LOSE**) of native vegetation, markedly reducing biodiversity and eroding the ecosystem services upon which local communities depend. Policy analysts emphasized that much of this degradation was exacerbated by sustained governmental **(2)** _____ (**ACT**) in the enforcement of land-use regulations and urban planning directives.

As construction intensified, the cumulative impact of atmospheric and acoustic pollution precipitated **(3)** _____ (**CHRON**) environmental stress across residential neighbourhoods. Riverbanks and wetlands exhibited pronounced ecological strain, manifested through widespread **(4)** _____ (**ERODE**), which severely disrupted aquatic habitats as well as recreational uses.

Concurrently, urban air quality monitoring revealed highly **(5)** _____ (**DISPERSE**) particulate matter, whose unpredictable distribution significantly complicated mitigation efforts and heightened public health concerns.

Exercise 3

Use **ONLY** one word to complete each pair of sentences.

1.

Despite considerable logistical complexity, the regulatory transition was executed without a _____, demonstrating remarkable institutional coordination.

Although conceptually sound, the proposal encountered a procedural _____ that revealed institutional fragility.

2.

Unresolved jurisdictional ambiguities ultimately proved to be the principal _____ block, undermining the initiative's capacity to translate ambitious objectives into concrete outcomes.

The negotiator's _____ over key terminology during the summit subtly shifted the dynamics of the discussion, revealing underlying uncertainties in the agreement.

3.

After years of mismanagement and internal conflict, the organization's reputation was in _____, leaving stakeholders skeptical of its ability to recover.

The ancient manuscript was reduced to _____, its once-pristine pages barely legible after centuries of neglect and exposure.

4.

Introducing minor regulatory exemptions now could prove to be the thin end of the _____, gradually eroding the integrity of the entire compliance framework.

A small _____ of wood slipped under the door, preventing it from closing and creating an unexpected draft in the room.

5.

Of all the bureaucratic absurdities I have encountered this year, the minister's refusal to provide a simple clarification truly takes the _____.

That lone _____ of comfort in an otherwise bleak routine reminded him that small pleasures could persist even in adversity.

Exercise 4

Four sentences have been removed from the following extra about environmental pollution and its consequences. Choose from A-E the one which fits each gap. There is an extra sentence you do not need to use.

Environmental Pollution and Its Long-Term Consequences

Decades of unlawful and poorly regulated waste disposal have irreversibly transformed what was once a flourishing river ecosystem into a severely degraded environmental zone. Throughout this prolonged period, hazardous industrial materials were systematically discharged into the river's waters, often without oversight or accountability. This sustained pattern of environmental negligence gradually disrupted the delicate ecological balance upon which the river depended, culminating in a dramatic collapse of biodiversity. (1) _____.

The repercussions of this environmental catastrophe soon transcended the natural realm and began to manifest within surrounding human communities. Residents living in proximity to the affected area reported a sharp increase in serious health conditions, many of which were subsequently linked to prolonged exposure to contaminated subterranean water sources. The infiltration of toxic substances into groundwater reserves not only compromised access to safe drinking water but also undermined public confidence in local environmental governance. (2) _____. This situation intensified the ecological damage and accelerated the deterioration of already fragile ecosystems.

Faced with mounting public pressure and irrefutable scientific evidence, governmental and regulatory institutions were eventually compelled to intervene. Comprehensive investigations revealed that industrial negligence, compounded by years of inadequate enforcement of environmental regulations, lay at the core of the disaster. (3) _____. However, despite these remedial efforts, the landscape continues to bear the enduring scars of pollution.

The long-term outlook remains deeply uncertain. Ecologists warn that the complexity of the damage inflicted may prevent the ecosystem from ever fully recovering. (4) _____.

Sentences

- A. Many local schools implemented new educational programs on digital literacy, focusing on the use of online resources for scientific research.
- B. These concerns were further exacerbated when toxic residue originating from a nearby mining operation breached its containment systems and spread across adjacent marshlands
- C. This case serves as a stark reminder of the profound and lasting consequences of environmental neglect, underscoring the urgent need for sustainable industrial practices and robust regulatory frameworks to prevent similar disasters in the future.
- D. Aquatic species that had previously thrived within this habitat were unable to adapt to the escalating levels of contamination, leading to widespread population decline and, in some cases, local extinction.
- E. As a result, authorities mandated an extensive and costly remediation programme aimed at stabilising the affected areas and mitigating further harm