

English Concours

Révision Guide — Complete Edition

[All Sections](#)

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Made by Maatoug Mohamed Aziz

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Use the page numbers on the right to navigate. Print and keep this guide with you.

Component	Marks	%	Time
Part I — Text Comprehension	30 pts	37.5%	~35 min
Part II — Language (Express Differently + Fill Blanks)	30 pts	37.5%	~45 min
Part III — Writing (Find Mistakes + 15-Line Essay)	20 pts	25%	~35 min

Optimal Exam Day Order:

- 1 **Language first** — Express Differently + Fill Blanks (10+10+10): highest marks per minute
- 2 **Writing second** — Find Mistakes → Essay
- 3 **Comprehension LAST** — all answers are in the text; no memorisation needed

Golden Rule: 15 lines demand clarity and grammatical precision above all.

Section A — Text Comprehension (30 pts)

LOW PRIORITY — Do LAST. Every answer is in the text.

Question Type	Strategy
True / False + Justify	Find the exact sentence → quote 3-5 words verbatim. Must be 100% true — partially true = False.
Complete the sentence	Locate the keyword → read the surrounding sentence for context.
Complete a table / flowchart	Follow logical order in text; one answer per row/box.
Vocabulary (synonym)	Read the sentence BEFORE and AFTER. The synonym is always IN the passage.
Reference words (it/they/this)	Go back one sentence — find the nearest matching noun. "This"/"Such" often refers to the WHOLE previous idea.
Select best answer (MCQ)	Eliminate clearly wrong options first; verify your choice in the text.
Choosing a Title	The title must cover the entire text, not just one paragraph. Scan for recurring keywords throughout. A title matching only one section is wrong.
Answer open questions	Use bullet points (a/b/c format). Paraphrase — do not copy entire sentences. Give exactly as many points as marks awarded.

✂ Tips

- ✓ True/False: quote must be EXACT — paraphrase = wrong.
- ✓ Vocabulary: the synonym is always IN the passage; never guess.
- ✓ "It / They / Their" → CLOSEST previous noun. "This / Such" → whole previous idea.
- ✓ Never add outside knowledge — only what the text states explicitly.
- ✓ "Of late" = recently | "gruelling" = exhausting | "to subsidise" = to support financially | "think tank" = advisory group | "moonshot idea" = exceptionally ambitious idea

Section B — Writing (20 pts)

B.1 — Find & Correct Mistakes (2 pts = 4 errors)

Strategy: Read SLOWLY. Check in order: **preposition** → **tense** → **word form** → **article** → **adj/adv** → **collocation** → **register** → **noun order**.

△ TOP 4 EXAM TRAPS — From Real Answer Sheets

- **Trap 1 — Uncountable Nouns:** *Researches* → **Researchers**. Never add -s to: *research, information, advice, equipment, progress, knowledge, evidence, news, luggage, furniture*.
- **Trap 2 — Adjective vs Adverb:** "could *possible* detect cancer" → **possibly**. When modifying a verb → use adverb (-ly).
- **Trap 3 — Noun-Noun Compound Order:** "*cancer breast*" → **breast cancer**. Modifier FIRST: *lung cancer, heart disease, water table, heat pump, road accident, brain drain*.
- **Trap 4 — Prepositions after fixed expressions:** "Thanks *for* his efforts" → **thanks to**. "staring *on* TV" → **at**. "cope *about*" → **cope with**.

Error Type	Wrong Example	Correct Version
Uncountable noun	<u>Researches</u> have created a blood test	Researchers have created a blood test
Adjective → Adverb	could <u>possible</u> detect cancer	could possibly detect cancer
Noun-noun order	<u>cancer breast</u>	breast cancer
Preposition (fixed)	Thanks <u>for</u> the new regulations	Thanks to the new regulations
Word form	an <u>unable</u> child	a disabled child
Article	<u>a</u> <u>such</u> restriction	such a restriction
Tense (Present Perfect)	So far, we <u>are playing</u>	So far, we have played
Adjective order	the <u>three first</u> months	the first three months
Few vs Little	<u>Few</u> attention is needed	Little attention is needed
Phrasal verb	turned <u>out</u> the offer	turned down the offer
False friend	theoretical <u>physician</u>	theoretical physicist
False friend	the <u>affect</u> of pollution	the effect of pollution (noun)
False friend	an <u>economic</u> car (saves money)	an economical car
Informal contraction	The results <u>don't</u> support the claim	The results do not support the claim
Comparative form	we get <u>so lazier</u>	we get lazier / so lazy
whether → weather	vicious <u>whether</u> systems	vicious weather systems
Preposition (cope)	cope <u>about</u> new conditions	cope with new conditions
Irregular past tense	The Titanic <u>stroke</u> an iceberg	The Titanic struck an iceberg
Wrong modal tense	He's been in England and still <u>couldn't</u> speak	still cannot speak (present frame)
Provided + clause	Provided <u>working</u> hard, they will succeed	Provided (that) they work hard

Scientific Phrasal Verbs:

carry out — conduct/execute | **bring about** — cause | **come up with** — devise | **turn down** — reject | **cut off** — disconnect | **point out** — draw attention to | **choke out / beat out** — extinguish

Irregular Plurals & Subject-Verb Agreement

Singular	Plural	Classic Trap
criterion	criteria	"The criteria <u>IS</u> " ✗ → "The criteria ARE " ✓
phenomenon	phenomena	"This phenomena IS" ✗ → "This phenomenon IS" ✓
datum	data	"The data IS clear" ✗ → "The data ARE clear" ✓
medium	media	"The media IS biased" ✗ → "The media ARE biased" ✓
hypothesis	hypotheses	"Two <u>hypothesis</u> " ✗ → "Two hypotheses " ✓
analysis	analyses	"The analysis ARE done" ✗ → "The analyses ARE done" ✓
basis	bases	"On a regular <u>bases</u> " ✗ → "On a regular basis " ✓
axis	axes	"The x and y <u>axis</u> are" ✗ → "The x and y axes are" ✓

Distractors — Words That Sound Similar

Word A	Meaning A	Word B	Meaning B
industrial	relating to industry	industrious	hard-working, diligent
economic	relating to the economy	economical	saving money/resources
sensitive	easily affected/emotional	sensible	reasonable/practical
electric	powered by electricity	electrical	relating to electricity (general)
historic	famous/important in history	historical	relating to past events
principal	main / head of school	principle	rule / moral belief
affect	<i>verb</i> : to influence	effect	<i>noun</i> : the result/impact
lose	<i>verb</i> : to misplace	loose	<i>adjective</i> : not tight

B.2 — 15-Line Essay (15 pts)

⊗ STRICT DON'TS — Never Do These in Your Essay

- **No contractions:** Never write *don't, can't, it's, won't* → always *do not, cannot, it is, will not*.
- **No slang:** Avoid *stuff, a lot, okay, kids, gonna* → use *aspects, a considerable number, acceptable, children, going to*.
- **Never start with "And" or "But":** Use *Furthermore / Moreover* or *However / Nevertheless*.
- **No personal anecdotes** unless the question explicitly asks.
- **No unsupported claims:** Every argument must be followed by a reason or example.
- **Avoid clichés:** Never write "since the dawn of time" or "in our modern society".
- **Never exceed 15 lines** — examiners mark this strictly.

Dual Placeholder Templates:

→ **[TOPIC]** — the subject (e.g. brain drain)

→ **[SPECIFIC DEBATE/CONTEXT]** — what is actually argued (e.g. the migration of highly-educated Tunisians)

Introduction Templates

Version 1 — Simple & Safe

Nowadays, **[TOPIC]** has become one of the most pressing issues in contemporary society, particularly the question of **[SPECIFIC DEBATE/CONTEXT]**. While some people argue that **[SIDE A]**, others contend that **[SIDE B]**.

Version 2 — Academic & High-Scoring

The rapid **[rise / spread / adoption]** of **[TOPIC]** has sparked considerable debate, especially regarding **[SPECIFIC DEBATE/CONTEXT]**. While advocates highlight its potential to **[General Benefit]**, critics raise valid concerns about **[General Drawback]**.

△ Avoid "in our modern society" — cliché. Use **"in contemporary society"**, **"in the 21st century"**, or **"today"**.

Conclusion Templates

Version 1 — Simple & Safe

In conclusion, **[TOPIC]** — and in particular **[SPECIFIC DEBATE/CONTEXT]** — is a complex issue that demands collective effort. Governments, individuals and organisations must work hand in hand to build a more equitable future.

Version 2 — Academic & High-Scoring

To summarise, the multifaceted nature of **[TOPIC]**, and specifically **[SPECIFIC DEBATE/CONTEXT]**, means that no single solution suffices. A collaborative approach — combining robust policy reforms, sustained investment, and individual responsibility — is essential to harness its benefits while mitigating its risks.

Essay Structure

Paragraph	Lines	Content
Introduction	2-3	Use upgraded template — insert TOPIC + SPECIFIC DEBATE/CONTEXT
Body 1	5-6	Main arguments FOR / principal perspective + 1-2 examples from Idea Bank
Body 2	3-4	Arguments AGAINST, nuance, or proposed solutions
Conclusion	2	Restate topic + forward-looking call to action

Essential Connectors

Function	Words to Use	Grammatical Rule
Add point	Furthermore • Moreover • In addition • Besides	New sentence / clause
Contrast	However • Nevertheless • On the other hand • Yet	New sentence / clause
Cause (clause)	Because • Since • As	Subject + Verb (full clause)
Cause (noun)	Due to • Because of • Owing to	Noun / V-ing ONLY
Result	Therefore • As a result • Consequently • Thus	New sentence / clause
Example	For instance • For example • Such as • Namely	Noun or full clause
Concession (clause)	Although • Even though • While	Subject + Verb (full clause)
Concession (noun)	Despite • In spite of	Noun / V-ing ONLY
Conclusion	In conclusion • To sum up • All in all	New sentence
Opinion	In my opinion • I believe that • It seems to me that	Subject + Verb (full clause)
Condition	If • Unless • Provided that • As long as	Subject + Verb (full clause)

Essay Idea Bank — 12 Topics

🧠 Brain Drain

Category	Key Points
Causes	Low salaries • Lack of research funding • No career opportunities • Political instability • Discrimination in recruitment
Consequences	Loss of skilled workers • Weakens economy • Wasted investment in education • Slows innovation
Solutions	Reform education system • Raise public-sector salaries • Create research centres • Incentivise return of expatriates • Fight corruption

Power Vocabulary: *exodus* (mass departure) • *incentivise* (motivate) • *predicament* (difficult situation) • *human capital flight* • *substandard* (below acceptable quality)

💧 Water Scarcity & Desalination

Category	Key Points
Problems	Severe droughts emptying water tables • Regulatory hurdles blocking recycling • Environmental concerns around desalination
Solutions	Wastewater recycling • Desalination of seawater (17,000+ plants worldwide) • Cloud seeding • International water-sharing agreements
Drawbacks	Desalination produces brine (saline sludge) disrupting marine ecosystems • High energy costs

Vocabulary: *desalination* • *brine* (saline sludge) • *wastewater* • *groundwater* • *purification* • *unduly tight* (excessively strict)

🏙️ Smart Cities & Urban Infrastructure

Category	Key Points
Smart Technologies	Reconnaissance drones monitoring traffic • AI-driven traffic management • Smart traffic lights • Sensor networks for urban planning
Civil Engineering	Building tunnels to divert traffic • Multi-level parking • Bridges improving connectivity • Dedicated bus lanes and bike paths
Problems	Traffic congestion • Overcrowded urban areas • High implementation costs • Privacy concerns

Vocabulary: *congestion* • *infrastructure* • *autonomous* (self-operating) • *integration* • *reconnaissance drone*

🚁 Drone Technology	
Category	Key Points
Advantages	Reach places humans cannot • Airborne within moments • Provide real-time thermal data • Reduce human exposure to danger
Limitations	Restricted battery life • Adverse weather • Regulatory barriers / restricted airspace • Public perception and privacy concerns
Vocabulary: suppressant • expedite (speed up) • adroitly (skilfully) • dampen (lessen) • reconnaissance	

💻 Technology & Artificial Intelligence	
Category	Key Points
Advantages	Faster communication • Access to information • Medical breakthroughs • Increased productivity • Personalised learning
Disadvantages	Addiction to screens • Job automation and unemployment • Cybercrime & data theft • Privacy invasion • Digital divide
Solutions	Digital literacy programmes • AI ethics laws • Balanced tech use policies
Vocabulary: viable (feasible) • proliferation (rapid spread) • exacerbate (worsen) • mitigate (reduce) • disruptive	

🌫️ Pollution & Environment	
Category	Key Points
Problems	CO ₂ emissions → global warming • Plastic waste in oceans • Deforestation • Air & water contamination
Solutions	Renewable energy (solar, wind) • Reduce/Reuse/Recycle • International climate agreements • Green technologies
Vocabulary: catastrophic • sustainable • deteriorate • alleviate • depletion • biodegradable	

🚗 Road Accidents 🏠 Health 📱 Social Media ☢️ Nuclear Energy		
Topic	Problems / Advantages	Solutions
Road Accidents	Speeding • Drunk driving • Poor roads • Deaths & injuries	Stricter laws • Better infrastructure • Awareness campaigns
Health & Modern Lifestyle	Sedentary lifestyle • Junk food • Stress. Better: Advanced medicine, longer life expectancy.	Promote sport • Healthy meals • Mental health services
Social Media	Cyberbullying • Fake news • Mental health damage. Benefits: Global connection, business promotion.	Media literacy • Parental controls • Stricter regulations
Nuclear Energy	For: Carbon-free, high output. Against: Radioactive waste, meltdown risk.	Invest in renewables • Strict safety protocols
Shared Vocabulary: stringent (strict) • fatality (death) • sedentary (inactive) • chronic (long-lasting) • detrimental (harmful)		

🌐 Globalisation

Category	Key Points
Advantages	Promotes free trade and economic growth • Facilitates cultural exchange and understanding • Accelerates technology transfer between nations • Creates jobs in developing countries through foreign investment
Disadvantages	Widens the gap between rich and poor nations • Cultural homogenisation / loss of local identity • Environmental damage from increased production and transport • Exploitation of cheap labour in developing countries
Solutions	Fair trade agreements • International labour standards • Environmental regulations on multinational corporations • Support for local economies and cultural preservation

Power Vocabulary: *interconnected* (linked globally) • *homogenisation* (making uniform) • *multinational corporation* • *inequality* (unfairness) • *liberalisation* (opening up markets) • *interdependence* (mutual reliance)

⚡ Energy (Renewable vs Fossil Fuels)

Category	Key Points
Fossil Fuels (Problems)	Major source of CO ₂ and greenhouse gas emissions • Non-renewable and rapidly depleting • Geopolitical tensions around oil-rich regions • Health damage from air pollution
Renewable Energy (Advantages)	Solar, wind, and hydropower produce zero emissions • Infinite and sustainable sources • Decreasing costs of solar panels and wind turbines • Creates green jobs and stimulates local economies
Challenges of Transition	High upfront infrastructure costs • Intermittency (sun / wind not always available) • Need for improved energy storage (batteries) • Resistance from fossil fuel industry lobbies
Solutions	Government subsidies for renewables • Carbon taxes on fossil fuels • International energy cooperation agreements • Investment in smart grid technology and battery storage

Power Vocabulary: *emission* (released gas) • *renewable* (replenishable) • *intermittency* (irregular supply) • *grid* (electricity network) • *subsidy* (financial support from government) • *carbon footprint* • *decarbonisation*

🧬 Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering

Category	Key Points
Advantages	CRISPR gene editing can potentially cure hereditary diseases • Development of life-saving vaccines and medicines • GM crops that resist drought and pests → food security • Biofuels as a green alternative to fossil fuels
Disadvantages / Risks	Ethical concerns about "designer babies" and playing God • Unknown long-term effects of GMOs on human health and ecosystems • Bioterrorism risk from engineered pathogens • Corporate monopoly on patented seeds (e.g. Monsanto)
Solutions	Strict international regulation and bioethics committees • Transparent labelling of GMO products • Open-access research to prevent monopolies • Public education campaigns

Power Vocabulary: *gene editing* • *GMO* (Genetically Modified Organism) • *hereditary* (passed through genes) • *pathogen* (disease-causing agent) • *bioethics* • *CRISPR* (gene editing tool) • *eradicate* (completely eliminate a disease)

💰 Wealth, Poverty & Economic Inequality

Category	Key Points
Causes of Poverty	Lack of access to quality education • Corruption and misgovernance • Unemployment and low wages • Climate change destroying livelihoods • War and political instability
Consequences	Increased crime rates • Health deterioration from lack of access to healthcare • Social unrest and political instability • Widening wealth gap between classes
Causes of Inequality	Tax evasion by the wealthy • Inherited wealth vs. earned income • Globalisation benefiting corporations over workers • Automation displacing low-skill workers
Solutions	Progressive taxation and wealth redistribution • Free quality education and healthcare for all • Microfinance and entrepreneurship support • Anti-corruption laws and transparent governance

Power Vocabulary: *disparity* (large difference in wealth) • *alleviate* (reduce suffering) • *microfinance* (small loans for entrepreneurs) • *redistribution* (sharing wealth more fairly) • *livelihood* (source of income) • *inequality* • *destitution* (extreme poverty)

🏠 Telework / Remote Work

Category	Key Points
Advantages	Saves commuting time and office rent • Greater flexibility for carers • Reduces CO ₂ from commuting • Can increase productivity for some
Disadvantages	Blurs boundaries between work and home • Disproportionately burdens women (double shift) • Social isolation • Unsafe for those with visiting clients
Solutions	Equal sharing of domestic responsibilities • Clear employer policies • Dedicated workspace at home

Vocabulary: *teleworker / homeworker* • *detrimental* (harmful) • *disproportionately* • *shortfall* (deficit) • *more trouble than it's worth*

Section C — Language (30 pts) ← Most Important

C.1 — Tense & Word Form (10 pts)

Tense / Form	Formula	Key Time Marker
Present Simple	S + V(s/es)	always / every / usually / generally
Present Continuous	S + am/is/are + V-ing	now / at the moment / currently
Present Perfect	S + have/has + V3	since / for / already / yet / so far / just / recently
Past Simple	S + V2 / did + V	yesterday / last year / ago
Past Continuous	S + was/were + V-ing	while / when (background action)
Past Perfect	S + had + V3	before / after / by the time / already (past)
Future Simple	S + will + V	tomorrow / next / soon
Future Perfect	S + will have + V3	by + future time
Conditional 1	If + Present Simple, will + V	real / possible future
Conditional 2	If + Past Simple, would + V	hypothetical / unlikely
Conditional 3	If + Past Perfect, would have + V3	impossible past
Passive Present	is/are + V3	focus on object
Passive Past	was/were + V3	past passive
Past Cont. Passive	was/were being + V3	She watched me → I was being watched
Gerund (V-ing)	after prepositions / as subject	keen on / look forward to / be used to
Infinitive (to+V)	after adjectives / most verbs	manage / fail / decide / hope / agree

Memorise these triggers:

- so far / recently / already / yet / just / for long → **PRESENT PERFECT**
- While [A] was happening, [B] happened → **Past Continuous + Past Simple**
- By the time / before / after → **Past Perfect**
- keen on / good at / fond of / look forward to / be used to / get used to → always **V-ING**
- manage / fail / afford / decide / hope / agree → always **to + V**
- *used to + V* = past habit | *be used to + V-ing* = accustomed | *get used to + V-ing* = becoming accustomed

Word Form Suffixes

Suffix	Form	Example
-tion / -sion	Noun	pollute → pollution dispose → disposal
-ity / -ness / -ment	Noun	able → ability happy → happiness achieve → achievement
-ful / -less / -al / -ic	Adjective	care → careful/careless environment → environmental
-ify / -ize / -en	Verb	simple → simplify broad → broaden
-ly	Adverb	rapid → rapidly possible → possibly

☆ Compound Adjectives

The Rule: [modifier] + [noun/adjective/participle] → hyphenated compound adjective placed BEFORE the noun.

Original Phrase	Compound Adjective
the heat pump that weighs 30 pounds	the 30-pound heat pump
radiators that are mounted on walls	wall-mounted radiators
a device that releases vapour	a vapour-releasing device
a device with sharp edges	a sharp-edged device
a report backed by the government	a government-backed report
models that consume energy	energy-consuming models
electricity whose carbon is low	low-carbon electricity
a project lasting five years	a five-year project
a message written by hand	a handwritten message
a family composed of five children	a five-child family
people who looked friendly	friendly-looking people
a cat with a long tail	a long-tailed cat

Most Common Patterns:

- **Number + Noun:** a 30-pound pump | a five-year project | a six-storey building
- **Noun + Past Participle:** government-backed | handwritten | wall-mounted | AI-driven
- **Adj/Adv + Past Participle:** low-carbon | well-designed | heavily-criticised
- **Noun + Present Participle:** vapour-releasing | energy-consuming | far-reaching
- **Adj + Noun + -ed:** sharp-edged | long-tailed | broad-minded

⚠ TRAP: The Plural 'S' Rule — NEVER pluralise the noun inside a compound adjective

When a number or quantity is used inside a hyphenated compound adjective, the noun inside it **NEVER takes a plural -s**, even though the meaning is plural.

- ✓ **a 50-page document** ✗ NEVER "a 50-pages document"
- ✓ **a five-year project** ✗ NEVER "a five-years project"
- ✓ **a three-hour exam** ✗ NEVER "a three-hours exam"
- ✓ **a ten-storey building** ✗ NEVER "a ten-storeys building"
- ✓ **a five-child family** ✗ NEVER "a five-children family"
- ✓ **a 30-pound heat pump** ✗ NEVER "a 30-pounds heat pump"

Rule: Inside a hyphenated compound adjective, ALL nouns remain in their SINGULAR form regardless of quantity.

C.2 — Fill in the Blanks (10 pts)

Function	Linkers	Rule
Addition	Furthermore • Moreover • In addition • Besides • As well as	. Furthermore, ... (period before; comma after)
Contrast	However • Nevertheless • On the contrary • Yet • Though	. However, ... (period before; comma after)
Cause (clause)	Because • Since • As	... because + S+V
Cause (noun)	Due to • Because of • Owing to	due to + noun/V-ing (NO full clause)
Effect	Therefore • Thus • Consequently • As a result	. Therefore, ... (period before; comma after)
Concession	Although • Even though • While • Despite the fact that	Although + S+V, ...

(clause)		
Concession (noun)	Despite • In spite of	Despite + noun/V-ing (NO verb after)
Sequence	First • Then • Next • Finally • Eventually	Comma after each
Illustration	For example • For instance • Such as • Namely	For example, ... (comma after)
Condition	If • Unless • Provided that • As long as	If + S+V, S+V
Purpose	In order to • So as to • So that	in order to + V (infinitive)

Modal Verbs at a Glance

Modal	Meaning	Example
can / could	ability (present / past)	She can speak French.
must	strong personal obligation / logical certainty	You must wear a seatbelt.
have to	external obligation (rules, regulations)	I have to submit the form by Friday.
should	advice / recommendation	You should study harder.
may / might	possibility (may = more certain)	It might rain tonight.
would	hypothetical / polite request	I would appreciate your help.
needn't	no necessity (= do not have to)	You needn't come early.
mustn't	prohibition (= forbidden)	You mustn't park here.

Key distinctions:

- **must** = personal obligation | **have to** = external rule
- **mustn't** (forbidden) ≠ **needn't** (not necessary — you can but don't have to)
- **could** = general past ability | **was able to** = specific success on one occasion

Express Differently — 26 Complete Structures (10 pts)

› Worth 10 pts. Master every structure. Target: 1 minute per sentence.

1. Conditionals

1 IF → UNLESS

Rule: Unless + affirmative = If + negative. Negate the CONDITION only.

Original	Transformed
If you do not work hard, you will not succeed.	Unless you work hard, you will not succeed.
He will not get well if he does not give up smoking.	Unless he gives up smoking, he will not get well.

△ NEVER "unless you don't" — double negative always wrong.

2 IF → PROVIDED THAT / AS LONG AS / ON CONDITION THAT

Rule: All three mean "if and only if" — fully interchangeable for positive conditions.

Original	Transformed
If she leaves home at once, she will not be late.	As long as she leaves home at once, she will not be late.

3 TYPE 2 — IF I WERE YOU (Advice)

Rule: If + Past Simple, would + V. Always use WERE (not was). Triggered by: "should" / "ought to".

Original	Transformed
You should consult a doctor about that symptom.	If I were you, I would consult a doctor about that symptom.

△ Always WERE — never "If I was you".

4 TYPE 3 INVERSION — HAD + V3

Rule: Remove "If" → move "Had" to front. Result clause stays unchanged (would have + V3).

Original	Transformed
We did not have an efficient marketing style so we did not conquer the market.	Had we had an efficient marketing style, we would have conquered the German market.
He did not brake hard so he ran over the boy.	Had he braked hard, he would not have run over the boy.

5 FORMAL TYPE 1 — SHOULD INVERSION

Rule: Replace "If" with "Should". Remove "if" and invert. Formal register only.

Original	Transformed
If you need help, do not hesitate to contact us.	Should you need help, do not hesitate to contact us.

6 FORMAL TYPE 2 — WERE + S + TO + V

Rule: Replace "If + S + were" with "Were + S + to + V".

Original	Transformed
If she were to apply, she would be accepted.	Were she to apply, she would be accepted.

⚠ Only WERE — never "Was + S + to". Always "to + V" after subject.

2. Wishes & Regrets

7 I WISH / IF ONLY — Present Regret

Rule: Wish + Past Simple = regret about a PRESENT situation (want something to be different NOW).

Original	Transformed
It is a pity that he does not study harder.	I wish he studied harder. / If only he studied harder.
Unfortunately, I do not have a car.	I wish I had a car.

⚠ wish + Past Simple = PRESENT wish. "I wish I had a car" means I do not have one NOW.

8 I WISH / IF ONLY — Past Regret

Rule: Wish + Past Perfect = regret about a PAST event that cannot be changed.

Original	Transformed
It is a pity I did not see the film last night.	I wish I had seen the film last night.
I regret not having taken a university degree.	I wish I had taken a university degree.

✓ Trigger: "I regret..." / "It is a pity..." + past event → I wish + Past Perfect.

Rule: Wish + would + V = annoyance about someone else's recurring behaviour.

Original	Transformed
He always interrupts me. (annoying habit)	I wish he would not interrupt me.
It keeps raining every day.	I wish it would stop raining.

△ ONLY for others' actions. NEVER "I wish I would..." for your own actions.

3. Modal Equivalents & Necessity

Original	Express Differently As	Key Note
needn't have + V3	It was not necessary to + V (but you did it)	Action HAPPENED — was unnecessary
didn't need to + V	It was not necessary to + V (and you didn't)	Action did NOT happen
The organisers needn't postpone the games. (action happened)	The organisers needn't have postponed the games.	—
managed to + V	succeeded in + V-ing	—
was/were able to + V	managed to + V / succeeded in + V-ing	specific one-time success
could not + V	was/were unable to + V / failed to + V	—
is/are keen on + V-ing	would like to + V / enjoys + V-ing	—
We managed to account for all papers.	We succeeded in accounting for all the papers.	—

needn't have vs didn't need to:

- **needn't have + V3** = action **happened** but was unnecessary. (*You needn't have cooked so much — he is a vegetarian. You cooked it anyway.*)
- **didn't need to + V** = action did **not** happen. (*I didn't need to go to the bank — I paid online.*)

4. Negative Adverb Inversions

Rule: Negative adverb at START → invert subject and auxiliary (do/does/did/has/have/had/can).

Normal Sentence	Inverted Form
Children rarely go to museums.	Rarely do children go to museums.
He never arrived on time.	Never did he arrive on time.
We had hardly started when it rained.	Hardly had we started when it rained.
You can breathe clean air nowhere.	Nowhere can you breathe clean air.
Young people scarcely read books today.	Scarcely do young people read books today.
You breathe pure air in no city.	In no city do you breathe pure air.

△ Always use DO/DOES/DID after the negative adverb — never omit the auxiliary.

5. NOT UNTIL — Delayed Action Inversion

5 NOT UNTIL + Clause + Auxiliary + Subject + Verb

Rule: "Not until" = the action only happened AFTER a delay. Invert subject and auxiliary in the MAIN clause.

Original	Transformed
Paul did not realize he had forgotten his mobile phone until he got in his car.	Not until he got in his car did he realize that he had forgotten his mobile phone.
She did not understand the concept until she read the second explanation.	Not until she read the second explanation did she understand the concept.

△ Formula: Not until + [time clause] + auxiliary + subject + verb. HIGH-FREQUENCY structure in the concours.

6. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES — Absolute Prohibition Inversion

6 UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES + Auxiliary + Subject + Verb

Rule: "Under no circumstances" at the start = emphatic prohibition. The MAIN clause MUST be inverted.

Original	Transformed
We were not allowed to make personal calls at work under any circumstances.	Under no circumstances were we allowed to make personal calls at work.
You should never reveal your password to anyone.	Under no circumstances should you reveal your password to anyone.

△ Formula: Under no circumstances + auxiliary + subject + verb.

7. Active ↔ Passive

Active Tense	Passive Formula	Example
Present Simple	is/are + V3	Scientists study it → It is studied
Past Simple	was/were + V3	He built it → It was built
Present Continuous	is/are being + V3	is studying → is being studied
Past Continuous	was/were being + V3	She watched me → I was being watched
Present Perfect	has/have been + V3	has hit → has been hit
Past Perfect	had been + V3	had planned → had been planned
Future	will be + V3	will build → will be built
Modal	modal + be + V3	must submit → must be submitted

8. Impersonal Passive — People say/believe/think

Rule: (A) It is V3 + that + clause | (B) Subject + is V3 + to + V

Key: For a PAST event → use **to have + V3** (perfect infinitive).

Original	Formula A	Formula B
People believe that AI will transform society.	It is believed that AI will transform society.	AI is believed to transform society.
They say he is one of the most powerful businessmen.	It is said that he is one of the most powerful businessmen.	He is said to be one of the most powerful businessmen.
We know the Industrial Revolution took place in England.	It is known that the Industrial Revolution took place in England.	The Industrial Revolution is known to have taken place in England.

9. Reported Speech

Rule: Remove quotes → backshift tense → change pronouns and time expressions.

Direct Tense	Reported Tense
Present Simple (is)	Past Simple (was)
Present Continuous (is V-ing)	Past Continuous (was V-ing)
Present Perfect (has V3)	Past Perfect (had V3)
Past Simple (V2)	Past Perfect (had V3)
Will / Can / May / Must	Would / Could / Might / Had to

Time/Place changes: here → there | this → that | now → then | today → that day | tomorrow → the next day | yesterday → the day before

★ Reporting Imperatives (Commands) — Formula:

Reporting verb (told / ordered / asked / warned / advised) + object + **(not) to + V**

Direct Speech (Imperative)	Reported Speech
"Do not throw litter everywhere," she told the visitors.	She told the visitors not to throw litter everywhere.
"Open the window," the teacher said to us.	The teacher told us to open the window.
"Do not touch that button!" the engineer warned us.	The engineer warned us not to touch that button.
"Please help me," she asked him.	She asked him to help her.

★ Reporting Questions — Two Types:

Type 1 — Yes/No Questions → asked **if / whether** + S + V (no inversion, no question mark)

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
"Do you know the way to the museum?" the tourist asked the boy.	The tourist asked the boy if/whether he knew the way to the museum.
"Can you help me with this exercise?" she asked him.	She asked him if/whether he could help her with that exercise.

Type 2 — Wh- Questions → asked + **wh-word** + S + V (no inversion, no question mark)

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
"How did you get on with the new device?" they asked.	They asked how we had got on with the new device.
"Why did you leave early?" the manager asked him.	The manager asked him why he had left early.
"Where is the laboratory?" she asked.	She asked where the laboratory was.

△ KEY DIFFERENCES: Yes/No questions → **if/whether** | Wh- questions → keep the **wh-word**. In BOTH types: NO inversion (S+V order), NO question mark, backshift the tense.

10. Concession Structures

Structure	Followed by	Example
Although / Even though	Subject + Verb (full clause)	Although he is rich, he is unhappy.
Despite / In spite of	Noun / V-ing (NO finite verb)	Despite being rich, he is unhappy.
However / Nevertheless	New sentence	He is rich. However, he is unhappy.
Yet / But	Same sentence	He is rich yet unhappy.

Original	Transformed
Although it was raining heavily, we enjoyed the holidays.	Despite the heavy rain, we enjoyed the holidays.
Although he was highly qualified, he did not get the job.	Despite his high qualifications, he did not get the job.
In spite of his brilliant success, Paul was not recruited.	Even though Paul was brilliantly successful, he was not recruited.

△ 'Despite' + NOUN. Nominalise: "it was raining" → "the heavy rain".

11. Cause & Result Structures

Structure	Use	Example
because + clause	Full reason clause	We left because it was raining.
because of / due to + noun	Noun/gerund reason	We left because of the rain.
so as to / in order to + V	Purpose	He left early so as not to miss the plane.
so + adj + that	Intensified result	It was so cold that we froze.
such (a) + noun + that	Intensified noun result	Such a storm that trees fell.

△ "due to" / "because of" + NOUN only — never a full clause after them.

12. Too / Enough / So / Such

Structure	Formula	Example
too ... to	too + adj + to + V	He is too tired to work.
enough to	adj/adv + enough + to + V	She is old enough to vote.
not ... enough to	not + adj + enough + to + V	The old man was not strong enough to lift the box.
so ... that	so + adj/adv + that + clause	It was so cold that we froze.
such ... that	such + (a/an) + adj + noun + that	Such a cold day that we froze.

- too tired **TO** work | old enough **TO** vote | so cold **THAT** it froze | such **A** cold day **THAT**...

13-15. It is High Time / Had Better / Would Rather

13 IT IS HIGH TIME + Past Simple

Rule: It is high time + Subject + PAST SIMPLE. Past tense = urgency about the PRESENT.

Original	Transformed
We should take action against pollution now.	It is high time we took action against pollution.

⚠ NEVER present tense after "It is high time".

14 HAD BETTER + Bare Infinitive

Rule: S + had better + bare infinitive (NO "to"). Stronger than "should" — implies negative consequence.

Original	Transformed
You should revise your lessons before the exam.	You had better revise your lessons before the exam.

⚠ NEVER "had better to + V".

15 WOULD RATHER — Preference

Rule: Own pref: S + would rather + bare V. Other person: S + would rather + S2 + Past Simple.

Original	Transformed
I prefer to stay home tonight.	I would rather stay home tonight.
I prefer that you stay home tonight.	I would rather you stayed home tonight.

⚠ For someone ELSE → Past Simple ("stayed" not "stay").

16-17. No Sooner / Not Only

16 NO SOONER ... THAN / HARDLY ... WHEN

Rule: "Had" moves before subject. Inversion required. One action immediately follows another.

Original	Transformed
As soon as he arrived, the phone rang.	No sooner had he arrived than the phone rang.
As soon as she left the house, it started to rain.	Hardly had she left the house when it started to rain.

△ No sooner → THAN | Hardly/Scarcely → WHEN.

17 NOT ONLY ... BUT ALSO — Emphatic Addition

Rule: Inversion in FIRST clause only: Not only + aux + S + V, but + S + also + V.

Original	Transformed
Technology creates jobs and it also boosts productivity.	Not only does technology create jobs, but it also boosts productivity.

△ Inversion ONLY in the first clause.

18. But for / Without + Noun

18 BUT FOR / WITHOUT + Noun (Conditional 3 Substitute)

Rule: "But for + noun" = "If it had not been for...". Always followed by would have + V3.

Original	Transformed
If you had not helped me, I would have failed.	But for your help, I would have failed.
If it had not been for the bad weather, we would have arrived on time.	Without the bad weather, we would have arrived on time.

△ "But for" + NOUN only. Main clause MUST use "would have + V3".

✓ Formal and literary — signals high-level English.

19. Adjective + as / though — Advanced Concession

19 [Adjective/Adverb/Noun] + as/though + Subject + Verb

Rule: Move the adjective/adverb/noun to the VERY FRONT before "as" or "though". Same meaning as "although". Formal literary inversion.

Original (Although...)	Transformed
Although the test was difficult, she passed.	Difficult as the test was, she passed.
Although he is young, he is very mature.	Young as he is, he is very mature.
Although she tried hard, she did not win.	Hard as she tried, she did not win. (adverb)
Although he is a doctor, he could not help.	Doctor though he is, he could not help. (noun)

△ Adj/Adv goes to the VERY START — before "as" or "though". Never "As difficult as...".

20. Causative Structures — Passive vs Active

The Causative means someone else performs an action for you, or you cause someone else to do something. There are THREE forms — the concours tests all of them.

20a PASSIVE CAUSATIVE — have/get + Object + V3

Rule: S + have/get + Object + V3 (Past Participle). The THING receives the action. We do not mention WHO did it.

Original (Someone does it for you)	Passive Causative
A technician installed the software on his laptop.	He had the software installed on his laptop.
Someone repaired my car last week.	I had my car repaired last week.
A mechanic fixed her bicycle.	She got her bicycle fixed .

△ MUST use V3 — NEVER "have + object + V-ing". "Get" can replace "have".

20b ACTIVE CAUSATIVE (have) — have + Person + Bare Verb

Rule: S + have + PERSON + bare verb (infinitive WITHOUT "to"). We mention WHO is doing the action. Meaning: you arrange for someone to do it.

Meaning	Active Causative (have)
I arranged for the mechanic to repair my car.	I had the mechanic repair my car.
The manager arranged for the secretary to type the report.	The manager had the secretary type the report.

△ After HAVE + person → bare infinitive (NO "to"). "I had him repair" ✓ | "I had him to repair" ✗

20c ACTIVE CAUSATIVE (get) — get + Person + TO + Verb

Rule: S + get + PERSON + **to** + verb. Similar meaning to "have" but uses the TO-infinitive. Implies persuading or convincing someone.

Meaning	Active Causative (get)
I persuaded the mechanic to repair my car.	I got the mechanic to repair my car.
She convinced her brother to help her move.	She got her brother to help her move.

⚠ After GET + person → TO-infinitive (WITH "to"). "I got him to repair" ✓ | "I got him repair" ✗

Complete Comparison — Three Causative Forms:

Type	Formula	Example	Focus
Passive Causative (have)	have + <i>object</i> + V3	I had <i>my car</i> repaired .	The THING — who did it is unimportant
Passive Causative (get)	get + <i>object</i> + V3	I got <i>my car</i> repaired .	The THING — informal variant
Active Causative (have)	have + <i>person</i> + bare V	I had <i>the mechanic</i> repair it.	The PERSON — you arrange it
Active Causative (get)	get + <i>person</i> + to + V	I got <i>the mechanic</i> to repair it.	The PERSON — you persuade them

21. Compound Nouns & Comparatives

21 COMPOUND NOUN → RELATIVE CLAUSE

Rule: Break compound nouns into a relative clause: noun + that/which + V3 / of + noun.

Original	Transformed
The battery-operated beeper displays sports data.	The beeper that is operated by batteries displays sports data.

Structure	Formula	Example
Comparative	adj + -er / more + adj + than	She is smarter than him.
Superlative	the + adj + -est / most + adj	He is the most intelligent.
Double comparative	The more ... the more	The more you study, the better.
As ... as	as + adj + as	She is as tall as her sister.
Not as ... as	not as + adj + as	He is not as fast as her.

22. Historical Exam Patterns — Complete Drill Set

These transformation patterns are recurring across all sessions. Study the structure type, not just the answer.

#	Original Sentence	Official Transformed Answer	Structure Type
1	In many parts of Africa, people do not eat enough food.	In many parts of Africa, people are starving / suffering from starvation .	Paraphrase / Vocabulary
2	I suddenly realized that my neighbour was watching me.	I suddenly realized that I was being watched by my neighbour .	Past Continuous Passive
3	The old man did not have the strength to lift the heavy box.	The old man was not strong enough to lift the heavy box.	not + adj + enough + to V
4	It is a pity I did not see the film last night.	I wish I had seen the film last night.	Wish + Past Perfect
5	My friend suggested we spent the night there.	"How about spending the night there?", said my friend.	Indirect → Direct (reversal)
6	She started working in that factory two years ago.	She has been working in that factory for two years .	Present Perfect Continuous
7	I did not see the red light, that is why I did not stop.	If I had seen the red light, I would have stopped. / Had I seen the red light, I would have stopped.	Type 3 Conditional / Had-inversion
8	There will be someone to meet you on arrival.	When you arrive, you will be met / someone will meet you .	Future Passive / Restructuring
9	Young people scarcely read books today.	Scarcely do young people read books today .	Negative adverb inversion
10	We know the Industrial Revolution took place in England.	The Industrial Revolution is known to have taken place in England.	Impersonal passive (perfect infinitive)

Key patterns from historical exams:

- Past Continuous Passive = **was/were being + V3**
- "started V-ing X years ago" → **has been V-ing for X years** (Present Perfect Continuous)
- "There will be someone to meet you" → **you will be met** (Future Passive)
- **is known to have taken place** — impersonal passive with perfect infinitive for a PAST event

Historical Exam Find Mistakes — Official Error Patterns

Wrong Sentence	Error	Correction
Polar storms are among the most vicious <u>whether</u> systems.	Homophone / false friend	weather systems
Rural people find it difficult to cope <u>about</u> new living conditions.	Wrong preposition	cope with
The Titanic <u>stroke</u> an iceberg on April 14, 1912.	Wrong irregular past tense	The Titanic struck (strike → struck)
He has been in England for ten years and still <u>couldn't</u> speak English.	Wrong tense (present context)	still cannot speak
Provided <u>working</u> hard, they will succeed.	Gerund after conditional conjunction	Provided (that) they work hard

No explanations. Cover and recall.

Conditional 1

If + Pres → will + V

Conditional 2

If + Past → would + V

Conditional 3

If + Past Perf → would have + V3

Inversion Cond. 3

Had + S + V3, would have + V3

Inversion Cond. 2

Were + S + to + V, would + V

Inversion Cond. 1

Should + S + V (remove "if")

Unless

Unless + affirmative = if ... not

Provided / As long as

= if and only if (interchangeable)

Wish (present)

I wish + S + Past Simple

Wish (past)

I wish + S + Past Perfect

If only (present)

If only + S + Past Simple

If only (past)

If only + S + Past Perfect

It's a pity (pres.)

+ S + don't/doesn't + V

It's a pity (past)

+ S + didn't + V

Passive Present

is/are + V3

Passive Past

was/were + V3

Passive Pres. Perf.

has/have been + V3

Passive Pres. Cont.

is/are being + V3

Passive Past Perf.

had been + V3

Passive Past Cont.

was/were being + V3

Passive Modal

modal + be + V3

Reported statement

said (that) + backshift

Reported Yes/No Q

asked if/whether + S + V (no inversion)

Reported Wh-Q

asked + wh-word + S + V (backshift)

Reported Imperative

told/ordered/asked + obj + (not) to + V

Despite

Despite / In spite of + Noun/V-ing

Although

Although + Subject + Verb

Because of / Due to

+ Noun/V-ing (formal)

Too ... to

too + adj + to + V

Enough to

adj/adv + enough + to + V

So ... that

so + adj/adv + that + clause

Such ... that

such + (a/an) + adj + noun + that

Managed to

succeeded in + V-ing

Needn't have

not necessary to V (but did)

Negative inversion

Rarely/Scarcely/Hardly + aux + S + V

In no + noun

In no + noun + aux + S + V

Keen on + V-ing

Would like to + V / Enjoys + V-ing

Not keen on

Would not like to + V

It is high time

+ S + Past Simple (urgency)

Had better

+ bare V (NO "to")

Would rather (own)

+ bare V

Would rather (other)

+ S2 + Past Simple

No sooner ... than

had + S + V3 + than + Past Simple

Hardly/Scarcely ... when

had + S + V3 + when + Past Simple

Not only ... but also

+ aux + S + V, but S + also + V

Causative Passive (have)

have + object + V3

Causative Passive (get)

get + object + V3

Causative Active (have)

have + person + bare V (no to)

Causative Active (get)

get + person + to + V

Not until

Not until + clause + aux + S + V

Under no circumstances

+ aux + S + V (inversion)

But for / Without

But for + noun, would have + V3

Adj + as/though

[Adj/Adv] + as + S + V = Although...

Known to have + V3

is known to have + V3 (past event)

Pres. Perf. Continuous

has/have been + V-ing (started X ago)

Synonyms & Antonyms Bank

Five themes — memorise by category

Theme 1 — Environment & Climate

Word	Synonym(s)	Antonym(s)	Key Collocation
depletion	exhaustion / extinction	replenishment / abundance	depletion of resources
eco-friendly	harmless to environment / sustainable	polluting / toxic	eco-friendly alternative
renewable	sustainable / replenishable	non-renewable / finite	renewable energy
biodegradable	decomposable / organic	non-biodegradable	biodegradable packaging
catastrophic	disastrous / devastating	beneficial / helpful	catastrophic consequences
deteriorate	worsen / decline / degrade	improve / recover	deteriorate rapidly
alleviate	relieve / ease / reduce	worsen / aggravate	alleviate pollution
desalination	salt removal / water purification	—	desalination plant
brine	saline sludge / salt waste	fresh water	brine discharge

Theme 2 — Technology & Innovation

Word	Synonym(s)	Antonym(s)	Key Collocation
proliferation	spread / expansion / growth	reduction / containment	proliferation of tech
viable	feasible / workable / practical	impractical / impossible	a viable solution
trigger	cause / spark / prompt	prevent / stop	trigger a reaction
mitigate	alleviate / reduce / lessen	worsen / intensify	mitigate the risks
autobesity	trend toward larger, more polluting cars	—	reversing autobesity
reconnaissance	surveillance / scouting / mapping	—	reconnaissance drone
expedite	speed up / accelerate / hasten	delay / slow down	expedite decision-making
adroitly	skilfully / dexterously / cleverly	clumsily / awkwardly	fly adroitly
dampen	lessen / reduce / diminish	increase / boost	dampen enthusiasm

Theme 3 — Abstract / General

Word	Synonym(s)	Antonym(s)	Key Collocation
prominent	well-known / notable	obscure / unknown	play a prominent role
staggering	astonishing / overwhelming	unsurprising / expected	a staggering amount
inevitable	unavoidable / certain	avoidable / preventable	inevitable outcome
adequate	sufficient / enough / suitable	inadequate / insufficient	adequate funding
hardship	difficulty / suffering	ease / comfort	face hardship
formerly	previously / in the past	currently / nowadays	formerly known as
gruelling	difficult / exhausting / laborious	easy / effortless	gruelling work culture
to subsidise	to support financially / fund	to defund / withdraw support	subsidise companies

think tank	advisory group / policy institute	—	UK think tank
moonshot idea	exceptionally ambitious plan	practical / down-to-earth idea	a moonshot idea

Theme 4 — Engineering & Research (MP/PC/PT/BG)

Verb	Meaning	Antonym	Example
devise	invent / create / design a plan	abandon / discard	Engineers devised a new desalination method.
yield	produce / generate / result in	fail to produce	The experiment yielded unexpected results.
carry out	conduct / perform / execute	abandon / halt	Scientists carried out several trials.
implement	apply / put into action	abandon / reverse	The government implemented strict regulations.
verify	confirm / validate / test	disprove / refute	The results verified the initial hypothesis.
assess	evaluate / measure / analyse	ignore / overlook	Researchers assessed the environmental impact.
derive	obtain / deduce / extract a formula	discard	The equation was derived from experimental data.
demonstrate	show / prove / illustrate	disprove / conceal	This model demonstrates Newton's third law.

Theme 5 — Globalisation, Economics & Society

Word	Synonym(s)	Antonym(s)	Key Collocation
interconnected	linked globally / interdependent	isolated / independent	an interconnected world
inequality	disparity / unfairness	equality / fairness	income inequality
liberalisation	opening up / deregulation	restriction / protectionism	trade liberalisation
disparity	difference / gap / inequality	equality / uniformity	wealth disparity
eradicate	eliminate / wipe out / abolish	introduce / spread	eradicate poverty
alleviate	reduce / ease / lessen	worsen / aggravate	alleviate poverty
renewable	sustainable / replenishable	finite / non-renewable	renewable energy
emission	discharge / release (of gases)	absorption / capture	carbon emissions
interdependence	mutual reliance / interconnection	self-sufficiency / autonomy	global interdependence
hereditary	genetic / inherited	acquired / non-genetic	hereditary disease
livelihood	means of income / living	unemployment / destitution	destroy livelihoods
destitution	extreme poverty / absolute need	affluence / prosperity	live in destitution

Past Exam Antonyms (Direct Questions)

Word	Antonym	Notes
prominence	obscurity	—
staggering	unsurprising / modest	—
unaware	aware / conscious	—
enable	disable / hinder	—
catastrophic	beneficial	—
alleviate	aggravate / worsen	—
rural	urban	—
allowed	forbidden / banned	—

🔪 Last-Minute Quick Reference Card

Read this on exam morning only.

Express Differently — Instant Reminders

- IF → UNLESS: Unless + affirmative = If + negative
- IF → PROVIDED / AS LONG AS / ON CONDITION THAT
- IF + had V3 → HAD + S + V3 (Type 3 inversion)
- IF + past → WERE + S + to V (Type 2 formal)
- IF (possible) → SHOULD + S + V (formal Type 1)
- I wish + Past Simple = present regret
- I wish + Past Perfect = past regret
- I wish + would = annoyance / desire for change
- Although + S+V → Despite / In spite of + noun
- Because + S+V → Because of / Due to + noun
- too adj to V ↔ not adj enough to V
- so adj that ↔ such (a/an) adj noun that
- Active → Passive: obj + be(tense) + V3
- Reported: said that + backshift tense
- Reported Imperative: told/asked + obj + (not) to + V
- Reported Yes/No Q: asked if/whether + S + V
- Reported Wh- Q: asked + wh-word + S + V
- Rarely/Scarcely → Aux + S + V (inversion)
- Needn't have → not necessary to V (but DID)
- It is high time + S + Past Simple
- had better + bare V (NO "to")
- would rather + V / + S + Past Simple
- No sooner had S V3 THAN Past Simple
- Not only + aux + S + V, but S + also + V
- ★ **Causative: have + obj + V3 | have + person + bare V | get + person + to V**
- ★ **Not until + clause + did/aux + S + V**
- ★ **Under no circumstances + aux + S + V**
- ★ **But for + noun, would have + V3**
- ★ **[Adj/Adv] + as + S + V = Although...**
- ★ **is known to have + V3 (past event)**

Find Mistakes Checklist

- ☐ **Top Trap 1:** Uncountable nouns (Researches → Researchers)
- ☐ **Top Trap 2:** Adj vs Adverb (possible → possibly)
- ☐ **Top Trap 3:** Noun-noun order (cancer breast → breast cancer)
- ☐ **Top Trap 4:** Prepositions (thanks for → thanks to)
- ☐ Tense (so far → present perfect)
- ☐ Article (such **a** / the **first** three)
- ☐ Few vs Little (uncountable → little)
- ☐ Phrasal verbs: turn down / carry out / beat out
- ☐ Irregular plurals: criteria, phenomena, axes, bases
- ☐ Contractions: don't → do not (formal writing)
- ☐ whether → weather (homophone)
- ☐ cope with (not cope about/to)
- ☐ struck (not stroke — irregular past of 'strike')

- ❑ Provided (that) + S + V (not Provided + V-ing)
- ❑ **Compound Adj: NEVER pluralise the noun inside**
(50-page ✓ | 50-pages ✗)

Essay Fast Kit

STRICT DON'TS: No contractions • No slang • No "And/But" to start • No anecdotes unless asked

INTRO V2: The rapid [rise] of **[TOPIC]** has sparked considerable debate, especially regarding **[SPECIFIC DEBATE/CONTEXT]**. While advocates highlight [Benefit], critics warn of [Drawback].

CONNECTORS: Furthermore (add) | However (contrast) | Consequently (result) | Although + clause / Despite + noun

CONCLUSION V2: To summarise, the multifaceted nature of **[TOPIC]**, and specifically **[SPECIFIC DEBATE/CONTEXT]**, means no single solution suffices. A collaborative approach is essential.

Exam Day Strategy

① **Language** (10+10+10) → ② **Writing** → ③ **Comprehension**

Never leave Express Differently blank — partial credit exists.

Essay: intro + 2 arguments + conclusion = PASS.

Do NOT exceed 15 lines — mark strictly enforced.

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