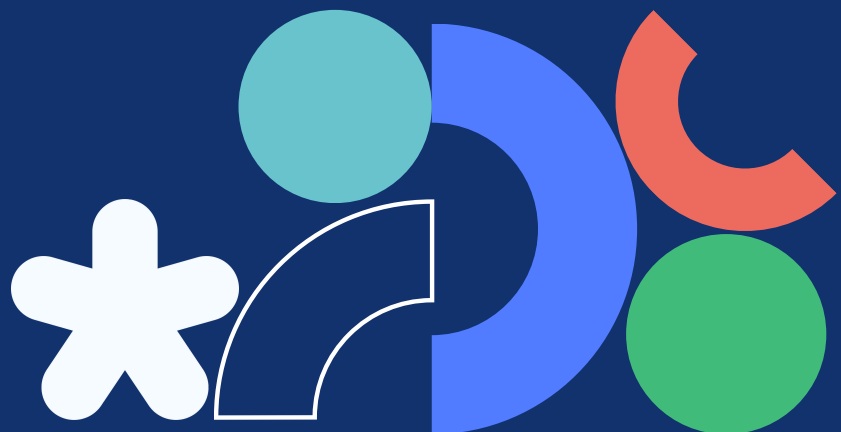




The 2026 OET Reading Part C: Clinical Logic Toolkit





The 2026 OET Reading Part C: Clinical Logic Toolkit

Master the Art of Inference and Escape the 330-340 Plateau

In OET Reading Part C, you aren't being tested on your medical knowledge; you are being tested on your ability to identify **Authorial Intent**. Use this toolkit to spot the difference between a "fact" and the "answer."



1. The "Pivot" Markers (Where the Answer Lives)

These words signal a shift from a general statement to the author's actual point of view. When you see these, slow down - the answer is usually in the sentence that follows.

The Pivot Word	The Logical Function	Example
However / Yet	Reverses the previous point.	"Initial trials were positive; however , long-term efficacy remains dubious."
Conversely	Presents an opposing view.	" Conversely , some clinicians argue that the cost outweighs the benefit."
Despite / While	Dismisses a fact to highlight a concern.	" While the drug is fast-acting, its side-effect profile is 'alarming'."
Nevertheless	Acknowledges a point but maintains a stance.	"The data is limited; nevertheless , the procedure is now standard."

The Logic: If a paragraph starts with "Many believe X," but a pivot word appears halfway through, the question will almost always be about what follows the pivot word (the author's true stance).



2. The "Hedge" Toolkit (Degrees of Certainty)

Something often confusing to students is turning a "maybe" into an "always", or when a "possible" result looks like a "guaranteed" one. If the text "hedges," the correct answer must also "hedge."

- **Low Certainty (The Hedge):** Suggests, appears to, indicates, potentially, theoretically, may, might, purports.
- **High Certainty (The Fact):** Demonstrates, proves, establishes, confirms, determines, will, causes.
- **The Trap:** If the text says a treatment "**may lead to**" recovery, and the answer option says it "**results in**" recovery, that option is **WRONG**. It is too certain



3. Attitudinal Markers (The "Silent" Opinion)

The author rarely says "I think." Instead, they use "Value Adverbs" to tell you how they feel.

- **Negative/Skeptical:** *Alarmingly, regrettably, controversially, dubious, purportedly, ostensibly.*
- **Positive/Supportive:** *Remarkably, significantly, notably, predictably, breakthrough.*
- **Neutral/Objective:** *Typically, traditionally, consistently, observationally.*

Pro-Tip: If a question asks for the author's *attitude* and you find the word "**regrettably**" in the paragraph, look for an answer choice that contains a word like "**disappointment**" or "**concern**."



4. The "Scope Trap" (Common Distractors)

Before you pick an answer, check the **Scope** of the answer option. If it's too broad or too narrow, it is a "Logical Lie." These "Absolute" words are almost always used in distractor options to make a true statement false.

- **The "Absolute" Trap Words (Usually WRONG):** *All, Every, Always, Only, Entirely, Solely, Never, Ceased.*
- **The "General" Logic Words (Usually RIGHT):** *Most, Many, Often, Majority, Typically, Usually, Likely.*
- **Logic Check:** If the text says "**Most patients responded well,**" and Option A says "**The treatment is successful for all patients,**" Option A is a **Distractor**.



How to Use This During the Exam

- **Read the Question first:** Identify if it's asking for a **fact** or an **opinion**.
- **Locate the "Pivot":** Scan the paragraph for words like *However* or *Despite*.
- **Match the "Hedge":** Ensure the answer option has the same level of certainty as the text.
- **Eliminate the "Absolutes":** Cross out any options that use words like *Always* or *Only* unless the text explicitly supports them.