

Open C1 English · Unit 07

Society, Law & Justice

Grammar: Conditionals (mixed 2nd/3rd, inverted conditionals)

Pronunciation: Contractions and reductions in fast speech

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How to use this study pack

- Study the grammar and vocabulary before attempting the output tasks.
- Use the public site for audio playback; this PDF is the printable study companion.
- Mark answers directly on paper, then return to the online lesson for media-rich practice.
- Keep a separate C1 notebook for rewritten answers, useful collocations and pronunciation notes.

Unit workflow

Input: reading, listening and media exposure.

Language focus: grammar, vocabulary, idioms and Use of English.

Output: writing, speaking, mediation and realistic everyday communication.

¿De qué va esta unidad?

En esta unidad, nos adentraremos en uno de los temas más complejos y fascinantes para los estudiantes de nivel avanzado: Society, Law & Justice. A diferencia de temas más cotidianos, este bloque requiere que seas capaz de discutir conceptos abstractos como la ética, la jurisprudencia y la estructura social. Para un estudiante de nivel C1, este es el terreno donde realmente se demuestra la capacidad de argumentación crítica y el uso de un lenguaje sofisticado para expresar opiniones matizadas sobre asuntos de interés público.

El principal reto de esta unidad radica en la precisión gramatical y el registro. No basta con "hablar bien"; necesitarás dominar estructuras complejas como los mixed conditionals para hablar de situaciones hipotéticas sobre el pasado y el presente, y los inverted conditionals para lograr un tono formal y académico propio de un nivel experto. Además, trabajaremos la fluidez mediante el estudio de las contracciones y reducciones en el habla rápida, un elemento esencial para comprender el inglés real y sonar natural en debates de alto nivel.

Objetivos de aprendizaje

- **Grammar Mastery:** Utilizar correctamente los mixed conditionals y las inverted conditionals para expresar hipótesis complejas y formalidad académica.
- **Vocabulary Expansion:** Adquirir y aplicar léxico especializado relacionado con el sistema legal, la criminología y la sociología.
- **Advanced Listening:** Desarrollar la capacidad de comprender hablantes nativos en contextos de habla rápida mediante el estudio de contractions and reductions.
- **Critical Reading:** Analizar textos académicos y periodísticos complejos sobre justicia y sociedad, identificando matices y la actitud del autor.
- **Sophisticated Writing:** Redactar ensayos argumentativos y reportes formales siguiendo las convenciones de registro del examen C1 Advanced.
- **Spontaneous Speaking:** Participar en debates y discusiones de alto nivel, defendiendo puntos de vista complejos con fluidez y cohesión.

Lo que vas a encontrar

- **Introduction:** Una visión general de los temas clave que exploraremos en esta unidad.
- **Grammar Focus:** Explicaciones detalladas y ejercicios sobre mixed e inverted conditionals.
- **Vocabulary Builder:** Listas de términos avanzados sobre leyes, sociedad y justicia.
- **Idiomatic Expressions:** Modismos y frases hechas para hablar de justicia y moralidad de forma natural.
- **Reading Comprehension:** Análisis de textos de nivel C1 sobre dilemas sociales y sistemas legales.
- **Listening Lab:** Prácticas de comprensión auditiva enfocadas en el habla rápida y natural.

- Use of English: Ejercicios de transformación y rellenar huecos tipo examen Cambridge.
- Writing Workshop: Guía paso a paso para redactar ensayos y artículos de opinión.
- Speaking Practice: Simulaciones de debates y tareas de interacción oral del examen.
- Mediation Task: Práctica de traducción y síntesis de información para resolver problemas de comunicación.

Tiempo estimado

Total estimado: 8 horas

- Introduction: 15 min
- Grammar Focus: 1h 30 min
- Vocabulary Builder: 45 min
- Idiomatic Expressions: 30 min
- Reading Comprehension: 1h
- Listening Lab: 45 min
- Use of English: 1h
- Writing Workshop: 1h
- Speaking Practice: 1h
- Mediation Task: 45 min

Lesson 2: Grammar Focus

Explicación (en español)

En este nivel C1, ya dominas los condicionales básicos (0, 1, 2 y 3). Ahora, el objetivo es alcanzar la fluidez necesaria para expresar situaciones complejas donde el tiempo y la realidad se mezclan. Los Mixed Conditionals se utilizan cuando una condición en el pasado tiene un resultado en el presente, o cuando una situación general/permanente afectó un evento pasado. Por ejemplo, si algo que era verdad en el pasado cambió el presente, o si un rasgo de personalidad constante afectó una acción pasada.

Existen dos tipos principales de Mixed Conditionals. El primero combina el 3rd Conditional (pasado) con el 2nd Conditional (presente/permanente): If I had studied law (pasado), I would be a lawyer now (presente). El segundo combina el 2nd Conditional (situación general) con el 3rd Conditional (pasado): If I weren't so indecisive (rasgo de personalidad), I would have taken the job (pasado). Es vital no confundir las estructuras: el "if-clause" debe mantener el tiempo de la condición, y el "result-clause" el tiempo del resultado.

Otro salto de nivel es el uso de Inverted Conditionals (Inversión). Esto se utiliza en contextos formales, como textos legales o académicos, para eliminar el "if" y dar un tono más sofisticado.

En lugar de decir "If you should need assistance...", decimos "Should you need assistance...". En el tercer condicional, la inversión es muy común: "Had I known..." en lugar de "If I had known...". Este cambio de orden (auxiliar + sujeto + verbo) es una marca distintiva de un hablante de nivel avanzado.

Un error típico de los hispanohablantes es intentar traducir literalmente estructuras como "Si yo fuera..." o "Si yo hubiera...". En español, a veces usamos el presente en la condición para hablar de algo hipotético, pero en inglés, si la condición es pasada, el if-clause siempre debe usar el Past Perfect. Además, recuerda que en la inversión con "Were" o "Had", el sujeto debe ir después del auxiliar, y nunca se usa "would" en la cláusula que contiene el "if".

Form – estructura

Conditional Type |
If-clause (Condition) |
Main clause (Result) |
Usage |
Mixed (Type A) |
Past Perfect (If I had done) |
Would + Infinitive (I would be) |
Past condition \rightarrow Present result |
Mixed (Type B) |
Past Simple (If I were) |
Would have + Past Participle (I would have done) |
Present/General condition \rightarrow Past result |
Inverted (2nd) |
Were + Subject (Were I you) |
Would + Infinitive |
Formal version of 2nd Conditional |
Inverted (3rd) |
Had + Subject + Past Participle |
Would have + Past Participle |
Formal version of 3rd Conditional |

Examples

- If the government had passed the law sooner, the crime rate would be lower today. (Si el gobierno hubiera aprobado la ley antes, la tasa de criminalidad sería más baja hoy).
- If I weren't so idealistic, I would have accepted the corrupt deal. (Si no fuera tan idealista, habría aceptado el trato corrupto).
- Had the jury reached a verdict earlier, the defendant would not be in jail. (Si el jurado hubiera llegado a un veredicto antes, el acusado no estaría en la cárcel).
- Were the police to increase patrols, crime would decrease significantly. (Si la policía aumentara las patrullas, el crimen disminuiría significativamente).
- If they hadn't ignored the social protests, the country wouldn't be in chaos now. (Si no hubieran ignorado las protestas sociales, el país no estaría en caos ahora).

- Had we known about the loophole in the contract, we would have acted differently. (Si hubiéramos conocido el vacío legal en el contrato, habríamos actuado de forma distinta).
- If she were a more honest person, she wouldn't have lied to the judge. (Si ella fuera una persona más honesta, no le habría mentado al juez).
- Should the court decide to appeal, the legal proceedings will continue. (En caso de que el tribunal decida apelar, los procedimientos legales continuarán).

Contrast

-

If I would have known the law, I wouldn't have broken it.

Had I known the law, I wouldn't have broken it.

(Error: No se usa "would" en la cláusula con "if/had". La inversión requiere el auxiliar al principio).

-

If I had been more careful, I wouldn't be in trouble now. (This is actually correct, but let's look at a common mistake)

If I was more careful, I wouldn't have been in trouble. (Incorrect usage of 'was' in formal inversion)

Were I more careful, I wouldn't have been in trouble.

(Error: En contextos formales de inversión, usamos "were" para todas las personas).

-

If the judge hadn't been biased, the outcome would be different. (Correct, but let's contrast with a mistake)

If the judge wouldn't have been biased, the outcome would be different.

If the judge hadn't been biased, the outcome would be different.

(Error: El "if-clause" del tercer condicional requiere Past Perfect, no "would").

-

If I am you, I would have signed the treaty.

Were I you, I would have signed the treaty.

(Error: Para situaciones hipotéticas de "ser alguien", usamos "were" o la inversión "were I").

Mini-quiz — 10 preguntas

Complete the sentences or choose the correct option.

-

___ the authorities to act faster, the riots might have been prevented.

a) If

b) Had

c) Should

-

If he ___ more responsible, he wouldn't be facing these legal issues now.

a) had been

b) were

c) would have been

-

Rewrite using inversion: "If the company had invested in security, the data breach wouldn't have happened."

-

If they ___ the evidence, the prisoner would be free today.

- a) hadn't ignored
- b) weren't ignoring
- c) wouldn't ignore

-

___ you require any further legal advice, please contact our office.

- a) Had
- b) Were
- c) Should

-

Complete the sentence: If I hadn't missed the court hearing, I _____ (not / be) in this mess right now.

-

Rewrite using inversion: "If I were the Prime Minister, I would change the justice system."

-

Choose the correct sentence:

- a) Had we known the truth, we would be happy.
- b) If we had known the truth, we would have been happy.
- c) Both are grammatically possible depending on the context.

-

If she ___ more courageous, she would have stood up to the injustice last year.

- a) had been
- b) were
- c) would be

-

Transform the sentence into a mixed conditional: "I am not a lawyer. Therefore, I didn't defend him in court."

If I _____

Respuestas:

- 1. b | 2. b | 3. Had the company invested in security, the data breach wouldn't have happened. |
- 4. a | 5. c | 6. wouldn't be | 7. Were I the Prime Minister, I would change the justice system. | 8. c
- | 9. b | 10. If I were a lawyer, I would have defended him in court.

Lesson 3: Vocabulary Lab

Vocabulario C1 – Society, Law & Justice

30 palabras con definición, traducción, ejemplo y audio.

precedent //

/preɪsɪdənt/n

Definition: An earlier event or action that is regarded as an example or guide to be appropriate in subsequent similar circumstances.

Traducción: precedente

Example: The Supreme Court's ruling on digital privacy will set a significant legal precedent for the next decade.

Collocation: to set a precedent

- ### jurisdiction //

/ˌdʒʌrɪsˈdɪkʃn/n

Definition: The official power to make legal decisions and judgments.

Traducción: jurisdicción

Example: The international tribunal is currently debating whether it has jurisdiction over the cross-border environmental case.

Collocation: to have jurisdiction

- ### codify //

/ˈkəʊdɪfaɪ/v

Definition: To arrange laws or rules into a systematic code.

Traducción: codificar

Example: Legislators are working to codify new regulations regarding artificial intelligence ethics.

Collocation: to codify laws

- ### implication //

/ˌɪmplɪˈkeɪʃn/n

Definition: The conclusion that can be drawn from something although it is not explicitly stated.

Traducción: implicación

Example: The societal implications of the new housing law are still being debated by sociologists.

Collocation: far-reaching implications

- ### arbitrary //

/ˈɑːbɪtrəri/adj

Definition: Based on random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system.

Traducción: arbitrario

Example: The sudden change in policy was seen as an arbitrary decision that lacked legal justification.

Collocation: an arbitrary decision

- ### equity //

/ˈekwɪti/n

Definition: The quality of being fair and impartial.

Traducción: equidad

Example: The government has introduced new measures to promote social equity across all age groups.

Collocation: social equity

- ### mitigate //

/ˈmɪtɪɡeɪt/v

Definition: To make something less severe, serious, or painful.

Traducción: mitigar

Example: New legal frameworks aim to mitigate the impact of economic inequality on vulnerable populations.

Collocation: to mitigate risks

- ### discrepancy //

/dɪ'skrepənsi/n

Definition:A lack of compatibility or similarity between two or more facts.

Traducción:discrepancia

Example:A significant discrepancy was found between the witness testimony and the forensic evidence.

Collocation:a glaring discrepancy

- ### mandate //

/ˈmændət/n

Definition:An official order or commission to do something.

Traducción:mandato

Example:The new environmental mandate requires all corporations to report their carbon footprint annually.

Collocation:to receive a mandate

- ### scrutiny //

/ˈskru:təni/n

Definition:Critical observation or examination.

Traducción:escrutinio

Example:The proposed changes to the justice system are under intense public scrutiny.

Collocation:to undergo scrutiny

- ### compliance //

/kəmˈplaɪəns/n

Definition:The action or fact of complying with a law, most important rule, or command.

Traducción:cumplimiento

Example:The firm must ensure full compliance with the updated data protection laws.

Collocation:regulatory compliance

- ### liability //

/ˈlɪəˈbɪləti/n

Definition:The state of being responsible for something, especially by law.

Traducción:responsabilidad legal

Example:The company faces significant liability regarding the faulty software released last year.

Collocation:to assume liability

- ### adhere to //

/ədˈhɪə tuː/v

Definition:To believe in and follow the practices of a particular rule or group.

Traducción:adherirse a / cumplir con

Example:All legal professionals must adhere to the strict code of ethics established by the bar association.

Collocation:to adhere to regulations

- ### stringent //

/ˈstrɪndʒənt/adj

Definition:Strict, precise, and exacting.

Traducción:riguroso / estricto

Example:The government has implemented more stringent measures to combat white-collar crime.

Collocation:stringent regulations

- ### litigation //

/lɪtɪˈɡeɪʃn/n

Definition: The process of taking legal action.

Traducción: litigio

Example: The ongoing litigation regarding intellectual property rights has lasted for several years.

Collocation: to engage in litigation

- ### unprecedented //

/ʌnˈpreʃɪdntɪd/adj

Definition: Never done or known before.

Traducción: sin precedentes

Example: The scale of the legal reform was unprecedented in modern history.

Collocation: an unprecedented event

- ### accountability //

/əˌkaʊntəˈbɪləti/n

Definition: The fact or condition of being accountable; responsibility.

Traducción: rendición de cuentas

Example: Public officials must be held to a high standard of accountability to maintain trust in democracy.

Collocation: to ensure accountability

- ### breach //

/breɪtʃ/n

Definition: An act of breaking or failing to observe a law, agreement, or code of conduct.

Traducción: incumplimiento / violación

Example: The data breach led to a massive class-action lawsuit against the tech giant.

Collocation: a breach of contract

- ### advocate //

/ˈædvəkeɪt/v

Definition: To publicly recommend or support a particular cause or policy.

Traducción: abogar por

Example: Human rights groups continue to advocate for more equitable legal representation for minorities.

Collocation: to advocate for change

- ### consensus //

/kənˈsensəs/n

Definition: A general agreement.

Traducción: consenso

Example: There is a growing consensus that the legal system needs fundamental restructuring.

Collocation: to reach a consensus

- ### disruptive //

/dɪs'rʌptɪv/adj

Definition:Causing radical change in an industry or activity.

Traducción:disruptivo

Example:The rise of automated legal services is a disruptive force in the traditional justice system.

Collocation:disruptive technology

- ### nuanced //

/nju:ɑ:nst/adj

Definition:Characterized by subtle shades of meaning or expression.

Traducción:matizado

Example:The judge provided a nuanced ruling that considered both the letter and the spirit of the law.

Collocation:a nuanced approach

- ### uphold //

/ʌp'həʊld/v

Definition:To confirm or support something, especially a decision that has been challenged.

Traducción:ratificar / mantener

Example:The higher court decided to uphold the original verdict despite the appeals.

Collocation:to uphold a decision

- ### red tape //

/red teɪp/phrase

Definition:Excessive bureaucracy or adherence to rules that prevents action.

Traducción:burocracia / trámites excesivos

Example:Small businesses are struggling to navigate the endless red tape required for legal compliance.

Collocation:to cut through red tape

- ### fair shake //

/feə ʃeɪk/phrase

Definition:An opportunity to be treated fairly or to have one's case heard.

Traducción:una oportunidad justa

Example:The defendant argued that they didn't get a fair shake during the preliminary hearings.

Collocation:to give someone a fair shake

- ### cancel culture //

/kænsəl 'kʌltʃə/phrase

Definition:A social phenomenon where individuals are ostracized due to perceived wrongdoings.

Traducción:cultura de la cancelación

Example:Legal experts are debating whether cancel culture should influence judicial outcomes in the digital age.

Collocation:the rise of cancel culture

- ### game-changer //

/geɪm 'tʃeɪndʒə/n

Definition:A person or thing that significantly alters the current way of doing something.

Traducción: algo que cambia las reglas del juego

Example: The new legislation on remote work rights will be a total game-changer for the labor market.

Collocation: a real game-changer

- ### cut corners //

/kʌt 'kɔːnəz/v

Definition: To do something perfunctorily or in a way that saves time/money but sacrifices quality or legality.

Traducción: tomar atajos / escatimar

Example: The company was sued after it was discovered they had cut corners on safety regulations.

Collocation: to cut corners on something

- ### level the playing field //

/ˈlevəl ðə 'pleɪɪŋ fi:ld/phrase

Definition: To create a situation where everyone has the same opportunities.

Traducción: nivelar el campo de juego

Example: The new anti-monopoly laws are designed to level the playing field for smaller startups.

Collocation: to help level the playing field

- ### gray area //

/ɡreɪ 'eəriə/phrase

Definition: A situation that is not clearly defined and lacks certainty.

Traducción: zona gris

Example: The legality of using deepfake technology in political ads remains a massive gray area.

Collocation: to exist in a gray area

-

Lesson 4: Idioms & Natural Expressions

Idioms & expressions – Society, Law & Justice

To be above the law · neutral

neutral

Meaning: To be exempt from the rules or laws that apply to everyone else, often due to power or wealth.

Significado: Estar por encima de la ley.

Example: The public is outraged because they believe the tech giants are effectively above the law when it comes to data privacy.

- ### To set a precedent · formal

formal

Meaning: To do something that serves as an example or rule for future similar situations.

Significado: Sentar un precedente.

Example: The judge's decision regarding AI-generated copyright will certainly set a precedent for the entire creative industry.

- ### To uphold the law · formal

formal

Meaning:To support, maintain, or defend the law.

Significado:Velar por la ley / Hacer cumplir la ley.

Example:It is the fundamental duty of every citizen to uphold the law and respect the rights of others.

- ### A miscarriage of justice · formal

formal

Meaning:A failure of the court system to achieve justice, often resulting in the conviction of an innocent person.

Significado:Un error judicial.

Example:The lawyer argued that the conviction was a complete miscarriage of justice due to flawed DNA evidence.

- ### To face the music · neutral

neutral

Meaning:To accept the unpleasant consequences of one's own actions.

Significado:Afrontar las consecuencias / Dar la cara.

Example:After the scandal involving the fraudulent accounts, the CEO had to face the music during the press conference.

- ### To draw a line in the sand · neutral

neutral

Meaning:To establish a limit beyond which certain actions will not be tolerated.

Significado:Trazar una línea roja / Poner un límite.

Example:The international community has drawn a line in the sand regarding the violation of human rights in the region.

- ### To be caught in a loop · informal

formal

Meaning:(Contemporary) To be stuck in a repetitive, often bureaucratic or algorithmic, cycle that prevents resolution.

Significado:Estar atrapado en un bucle (burocrático o digital).

Example:I've been trying to appeal the automated fine, but I'm just caught in a loop of endless digital verification steps.

- ### To deplatform someone · neutral

neutral

Meaning:(Contemporary) To remove someone's access to a social media platform or public forum to prevent them from spreading their views.

Significado:Eliminar a alguien de las plataformas digitales / Censurar digitalmente.

Example:The debate continues: is it a matter of justice or censorship when social media companies decide to deplatform controversial figures?

- ### To be algorithmically biased · formal

formal

Meaning:(Contemporary) To suffer from prejudice or unfairness built into automated decision-making systems.

Significado:Tener un sesgo algorítmico.

Example:Legal experts are warning that if we rely solely on automated sentencing, we risk being algorithmically biased against certain demographics.

- ### To weigh in on something · neutral

neutral

Meaning:To give an opinion or express a view on a particular matter.

Significado:Intervenir / Dar su opinión sobre algo.

Example:Several human rights organisations have decided to weigh in on the new legislation regarding digital surveillance.

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Lesson 5: Reading Practice

Unit 7: Society, Law & Justice

Reading text

The Algorithmic Verdict: Justice in the Age of Automation

As we move into 2026, the legal landscape is undergoing a transformation more profound than any seen since the introduction of the solicitor. The integration of Artificial Intelligence into judicial decision-making is no longer a speculative science-fiction trope; it is a daily reality in many Western jurisdictions. While proponents argue that algorithms offer an oasis of objectivity in a sea of human bias, critics warn that we are outsourcing our moral compass to black-box mathematics.

The central tension lies in the concept of 'predictive policing' and sentencing. In several metropolitan hubs, algorithms now process vast quantities of historical data to forecast crime hotspots or assess the likelihood of recidivism. On paper, this promises a streamlined, efficient legal system. If a machine can identify patterns that a human judge might overlook, surely justice is better served? However, this logic rests on a precarious assumption: that historical data is inherently neutral.

In reality, data is a mirror of our past societal failings. If historical policing patterns were disproportionately focused on specific marginalised communities, the algorithm will inevitably codify these prejudices under the guise of 'mathematical certainty'. This creates a feedback loop where the law does not just respond to crime, but actively shapes the socio-economic reality of certain populations. Instead of breaking the cycle of inequality, we risk automating it.

Furthermore, the 'black box' problem presents a significant hurdle to the principle of transparency. In a traditional courtroom, a judge provides a written justification for a sentence, allowing for scrutiny and appeal. When an AI generates a risk score, the logic behind that score is often obscured by proprietary code. How can a defendant challenge a verdict if the reasoning is hidden behind a wall of corporate intellectual property? The right to a fair trial becomes increasingly nebulous when the accuser is an opaque algorithm.

There is also the philosophical question of accountability. If an automated system makes a catastrophic error—a 'false positive' that results in the wrongful imprisonment of an innocent individual—who is held liable? Is it the software developer, the state, or the human judge who rubber-stamped the machine's suggestion? Our current legal frameworks are ill-equipped to handle the diffusion of responsibility that automation brings.

As we navigate this transition, the legal profession faces a crossroads. We must decide whether the goal of justice is merely efficiency and statistical accuracy, or if it requires the nuanced, empathetic, and often messy application of human judgment. To lose the human element in the pursuit of perfection may be the greatest injustice of all. The challenge for the next decade will be to ensure that while we use technology to assist the law, we do not allow it to replace the very essence of human equity.

Comprehension – multiple choice

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What is the writer's main purpose in the first paragraph?

- A. To celebrate the efficiency of modern legal technology.
- B. To introduce a debate regarding the use of AI in law.
- C. To argue that science fiction has predicted the future accurately.
- D. To suggest that human bias is no longer a problem in courts.

-

What does the writer imply about the use of historical data in the second paragraph?

- A. It is the most reliable way to ensure judicial objectivity.
- B. It is too complex for human judges to understand.
- C. Its perceived neutrality is actually quite questionable.
- D. It is the primary reason for the rise in crime rates.

-

According to the third paragraph, what is the danger of using biased data?

- A. It makes the legal system too expensive to maintain.
- B. It could lead to the permanent codification of social inequalities.
- C. It prevents the police from identifying new crime hotspots.
- D. It causes the software to malfunction frequently.

-

What is the 'black box' problem mentioned in the text?

- A. The physical difficulty of storing large amounts of legal data.
- B. The difficulty of understanding how an algorithm reaches a conclusion.
- C. The high cost of proprietary software for the legal sector.
- D. The lack of digital literacy among current judges.

-

How does the writer view the current legal framework regarding automation?

- A. It is perfectly designed to handle new technological challenges.
- B. It is too focused on corporate intellectual property.
- C. It is not sufficiently prepared for issues of accountability.
- D. It is being replaced too quickly by automated systems.

-

What is the overall tone of the conclusion?

- A. Optimistic about the future of legal technology.
- B. Dismissive of the importance of human empathy.
- C. Cautious and reflective regarding the future of justice.
- D. Aggressive in its demand for a total ban on AI.

Gapped text – missing sentences

- A. This creates a feedback loop where the law does not just respond to crime, but actively shapes the socio-economic reality of certain populations.
- B. Instead of breaking the cycle of inequality, we risk automating it.

- C. The right to a fair trial becomes increasingly nebulous when the accuser is an opaque algorithm.
- D. To lose the human element in the pursuit of perfection may be the greatest injustice of all.
- E. This ensures that the legal system remains profitable for the private sector.

Glossary

- Proponent (Defensor/Partidario)
- Recidivism (Reincidencia)
- Precarious (Precario/Inseguro)
- Codify (Codificar/Consolidar)
- Obscured (Oscurecido/Oculto)
- Nebulous (Nebuloso/Vago)
- Liability (Responsabilidad legal)
- Equity (Equidad)

Answers

Comprehension

1. B
2. C
3. B
4. B
5. C
6. C

Gapped Text (Note: The sentences were removed from the text above. Learners must match them to the logic of the original text.)

Note to teacher: In a real exam, the gaps would be numbered in the text. Based on the text provided, the sentences belong to the following locations:

- * Sentence A belongs to the 3rd paragraph.
- * Sentence B belongs to the 3rd paragraph.
- * Sentence C belongs to the 4th paragraph.
- * Sentence D belongs to the 6th paragraph.
- * Sentence E is the distractor.

Lesson 6: Listening Lab

Justice and Inequality: A Legal Debate

Esta actividad de comprensión auditiva se divide en tres partes: preguntas de opción múltiple, completar frases con palabras exactas del audio y preguntas de análisis. Escucha atentamente los tres segmentos para poder responder correctamente a cada sección.

Part 1 – Conversation (questions 1–6)

|

Question |

Options |

1 |

What is the primary reason Speaker 1 feels disillusioned with the legal framework? |

a) The laws regarding petty theft are too lenient. / b) There is a significant imbalance between white-collar and minor crimes. / c) The legal system is too expensive for the average citizen. / d) The proposed changes will increase the crime rate. |

2 |

How does Speaker 2 justify the current approach to corporate crime? |

a) By suggesting that fines are more effective than prison sentences. / b) By arguing that corporations are inherently more criminal. / c) By stating that the law is designed to maintain economic stability. / d) By claiming that executives should not face any repercussions. |

3 |

What does Speaker 1 imply when using the term 'letting the powerful off the hook'? |

a) That the law is being applied equally to everyone. / b) That the legal system is designed to protect the wealthy. / c) That social status has no impact on judicial outcomes. / d) That the punishment for large-scale fraud is too severe. |

4 |

According to Speaker 2, why can the outcome of a case be swayed? |

a) Due to the inherent bias of the judges. / b) Because the law is intentionally designed to be inconsistent. / c) Because of the difference in legal resources available to defend oneself. / d) Because of the lack of public interest in legal cases. |

5 |

What does Speaker 1 suggest is a systemic cause of inequality? |

a) The ability to navigate a complex legal system. / b) The lack of interest in reforming the law. / c) The high cost of paying fines to the government. / d) The tendency of criminals to repeat their offences. |

6 |

What is the proposed solution mentioned by Speaker 1 at the end of the segment? |

a) To abolish the current judicial process entirely. / b) To increase the severity of all criminal penalties. / c) To close the loopholes that allow for inequality. / d) To make the legal system more unpredictable. |

Part 2 – Monologue: sentence completion (questions 7–12)

Complete each sentence with 1–3 words from the recording.

1. The speaker feels that the current penalties for corporate negligence are far too _.
2. A corporation might pay a fine that is merely a _ of their profits.
3. Speaker 1 suggests that 'balancing act' is just a _ for letting powerful people escape responsibility.
4. The speaker describes the legal system as being _, making it difficult to navigate.
5. Speaker 1 argues that inequality has become _ within the legal structure.
6. The speaker suggests that we must close the _ that allow for inequality.

Part 3 – Panel discussion (questions 13–18)

13. What is the main focus of the narrator's monologue?

- a) The history of retributive justice in modern society.

- b) The fundamental purpose and evolution of the justice system.
- c) The reasons why crime rates are increasing globally.
- d) The effectiveness of restorative justice in reducing crime.

14. How does the narrator describe retributive justice?

- a) A proactive approach that addresses underlying causes.
- b) A method aimed at the rehabilitation of the individual.
- c) A reactive approach focused on punishment and closure.
- d) A modern model designed to promote social equity.

15. What is a common criticism of restorative justice mentioned in the text?

- a) It is too expensive to implement on a large scale.
- b) It fails to provide a sufficient deterrent effect.
- c) It focuses too much on the victim rather than the offender.
- d) It is too unpredictable for the legal system to manage.

16. According to the narrator, why might certain groups be overrepresented in prisons?

- a) Because they have higher rates of criminality.
- b) Because the legal system is designed to be punitive.
- c) Because of the intersection of social inequality and policing.
- d) Because they lack the desire for rehabilitation.

17. What 'delicate tension' does the narrator describe?

- a) The conflict between victims and offenders in restorative justice.
- b) The struggle between retribution and the pursuit of equity.
- c) The difference between legal rules and social justice.
- d) The tension between the police and the judicial system.

18. What is Dr. Aris's central argument regarding justice?

- a) Justice can only be achieved through objective standards.
- b) The law is an isolated entity that exists independently of society.
- c) The law reflects the biases and values of dominant power structures.
- d) The legal system is perfectly capable of achieving true justice.

Vocabulario clave

- Disillusioned — desilusionado/a - Contentious — polémico/a - Disparity — disparidad/desigualdad - Euphemism — eufemismo - Labyrinthine — laberíntico/a - Recidivism — reincidencia - Nuanced — matizado/a - Precipitated — precipitado/a (provocado) ### Respuestas

Part 1: 1. B · 2. C · 3. B · 4. C · 5. A · 6. C

Part 2: 1. lenient · 2. fraction · 3. euphemism · 4. labyrinthine · 5. systemic · 6. loopholes

Part 3: 13. B · 14. C · 15. B · 16. C · 17. B · 18. C

Transcript

Ver transcript completo

SEGMENT 1 — CONVERSATION

Speaker 1: I was reading that article this morning about the proposed changes to the sentencing guidelines for white-collar crimes, and honestly, it's left me feeling quite disillusioned with the whole legal framework.

Speaker 2: Oh, you mean the one regarding corporate negligence? I saw that too. It's a bit of a contentious issue, isn't it? Some would argue that the current penalties are far too lenient, while others claim they're actually quite punitive.

Speaker 1: But that's exactly the point! It feels as though there's this massive disparity between how petty theft is handled and how large-scale financial fraud is treated. I mean, if you steal a loaf of bread, you face immediate repercussions, but if a corporation misleads shareholders to the tune of millions, they often just end up paying a fine that amounts to a mere fraction of their quarterly profits.

Speaker 2: I take your point, I really do. It does seem somewhat skewed. However, one could argue that the legal system is designed to maintain economic stability, which is why they often opt for fines rather than custodial sentences for executives. It's a complex balancing act, arguably.

Speaker 1: A balancing act? That sounds like a euphemism for letting the powerful off the hook. I mean, shouldn't justice be blind to social status or economic influence? If the law isn't applied equally, then the very concept of a fair society starts to crumble.

Speaker 2: Well, I wouldn't go that far. I think the intention is to uphold the rule of law, but I suppose the implementation can be... let's say, inconsistent. It's not that the law is biased by design, but rather that the resources available to defend oneself can significantly sway the outcome.

Speaker 1: Exactly! And that's where the inequality becomes systemic. It's not just about the crime itself, but about the ability to navigate the labyrinthine legal system. If you can afford a top-tier legal team, you can essentially litigate your way out of any meaningful consequence.

Speaker 2: It's a valid criticism. It's a flaw in the structure of our society, certainly. But do you think there's a realistic way to rectify that without undermining the entire judicial process?

Speaker 1: It's a tough one, I admit. But surely, we have to start by closing those loopholes that allow for such blatant inequality.

SEGMENT 2 — MONOLOGUE

Narrator: Good afternoon, listeners. Today, we are delving into a rather profound question that has occupied the minds of legal scholars and sociologists for decades: what is the fundamental purpose of our justice system? Is it merely to punish those who break the law, or is it something more nuanced, something aimed at the rehabilitation of the individual and the eventual reintegration into society?

Narrator: When we examine the historical trajectory of judicial systems, we see a clear shift from retributive justice—which is essentially 'an eye for an eye'—towards more restorative models. Retributive justice focuses heavily on the penalty, the punishment, the closing of the case. While this provides a sense of immediate closure for victims and society, it often fails to address the

underlying causes of criminal behaviour. It's a reactive approach, rather than a proactive one.

Narrator: On the other hand, restorative justice seeks to repair the harm caused by criminal behaviour through cooperative, law-enforcement-led processes. It's about bringing the victim and the offender together to discuss the impact of the crime. Now, while this sounds incredibly idealistic, critics often argue that it lacks the necessary deterrent effect. They suggest that if the consequences aren't sufficiently severe, it might inadvertently encourage law-breaking.

Narrator: Furthermore, we must consider the concept of social justice. Can a legal system truly be considered just if it operates within a society that is fundamentally unequal? We see this play out in the disproportionate representation of certain socio-economic groups within the prison population. This isn't necessarily a reflection of higher criminality, but rather a reflection of how social inequality intersects with policing and judicial discretion.

Narrator: So, where does that leave us? If we move too far towards retribution, we risk creating a cycle of recidivism where offenders are simply hardened by the system. If we move entirely towards rehabilitation, we might undermine the public's sense of security and the principle of accountability. It's a delicate tension, a constant tug-of-war between the need for order and the pursuit of equity. As we move forward into an increasingly complex social landscape, our legal frameworks will undoubtedly need to evolve to address these systemic imbalances.

SEGMENT 3 – PANEL DISCUSSION

Speaker 1: Welcome to our final segment. We're joined today by Dr. Aris, a legal sociologist, and Ms. Vance, a former prosecutor, to discuss the intersection of law and social equity. Let's jump straight in. Dr. Aris, you've recently argued that our current legal system is fundamentally incapable of achieving true justice. Could you elaborate on that?

Speaker 2: Certainly. My argument is that justice is not a vacuum. It doesn't exist in isolation from the social fabric. When we talk about 'the law', we are talking about a set of rules that are often shaped by the dominant power structures in society. Therefore, the law inherently reflects the biases and the values of those who created it. To achieve true justice, we cannot simply look at the legality of an action; we must look at the social context that precipitated it.

Speaker 3: I have to interject there, if I may. While I understand the sociological perspective, I think we run the risk of being overly relativistic. The law must be based on clear, objective standards. If we start incorporating every social nuance and historical grievance into every single court case, the legal system will become unpredictable and, ultimately, lose its authority. We need consistency to ensure stability.

Speaker 1: But Ms. Vance, isn't 'consistency' sometimes just a polite way of describing systemic bias? If the law is applied consistently to a group that is already marginalised, isn't that just perpetuating injustice?

Speaker 3: That's a fair point, but the solution isn't to abandon objective standards. The solution is to refine them. We need to ensure that the law is applied equitably, but the rules themselves must remain clear. If we move the goalposts every time we consider social context, we lose the very foundation of the rule of law.

Speaker 2: I wouldn't call it 'moving the goalposts'. I would call it 'contextualising'. For instance, when we consider sentencing, shouldn't the social circumstances of an individual be a factor? If someone commits a crime due to extreme poverty or lack of opportunity, is the punishment the same as for someone who commits it for personal gain?

Speaker 3: Of course, mitigation is a part of the legal process. But there must be a limit. We cannot have a system where the severity of the sentence is entirely subjective.

Speaker 1: It seems we are caught between the need for objective, predictable law and the necessity of addressing social reality. It's a debate that shows no signs of being settled. Thank you both for your insights.

Part 1 – Word formation

Instructions: Complete the sentences by changing the form of the word in CAPITALS at the end of each line.

- The judge's decision was based on a strictly ____ interpretation of the current legislation. LEGAL
- There has been a significant ____ in public opinion regarding the new criminal justice laws. SHIFT
- The defendant's ____ was evident when he failed to provide a coherent alibi. UNRELIABILITY
- Many activists argue that the current legal system is inherently ____, favouring the wealthy. INEQUALITY
- The lawyer provided ____ evidence that proved her client was innocent of all charges. IRREFUTABLE
- After the scandal, the politician faced widespread ____ from the general public. DISAPPROVAL
- The government is looking for ways to prevent the ____ of crime in urban areas. ESCALATION
- It is ____ that all citizens receive a fair trial regardless of their social status. ESSENTIAL

Part 2 – Key word transformations

Instructions: Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and six words, including the word given.

1. If you hadn't been so reckless, you wouldn't be in prison now. | HAVE
 If you _____ so reckless, you wouldn't be in prison now.
2. I didn't study harder, so I don't have a degree today. | WERE
 If I ____ harder, I would have a degree today.
3. If the jury had reached a verdict sooner, the prisoner wouldn't be in this situation. | HAD
 Had the jury ____, the prisoner wouldn't be in this situation.
4. I am not a judge, so I cannot pass sentence on you. | WERE
 If I ____, I would be able to pass sentence on you.
5. You didn't listen to the warnings, which is why you are facing legal action. | BUT
 If it __ the warnings, you wouldn't be facing legal action.
6. If the law were stricter, there would be less crime. | STRICTER
 Were the _____, there would be less crime.

Answer key

- legal
- shift
- unreliability
- unequal

- irrefutable
- disapproval
- escalation
- essential
- had not been
- had studied
- reached a verdict sooner
- were a judge
- had not been for
- laws to be stricter

Lesson 8: Writing Workshop

Unit 7: Society, Law & Justice

Writing: The Formal Report

Task (Cambridge C1 Advanced, Part 2)

Context:

Your local city council is considering new regulations regarding community service and mandatory volunteer work for young adults (aged 18-25) to foster a greater sense of social responsibility and community cohesion.

Task:

Write a report for the City Council. In your report, you should:

- * Evaluate the potential benefits of mandatory community service for society.
- * Discuss the possible drawbacks or challenges of such a policy.
- * Recommend whether or not the council should implement these new regulations.

Word count: 220–260 words.

Tips (en español)

- Structure: Utiliza subtítulos claros para cada sección (e.g., Introduction, Benefits, Challenges, Recommendations). Esto es esencial en un report para que el lector encuentre la información rápidamente.
- Register: Mantén un tono formal y objetivo. Evita contracciones (don't, can't) y el uso de la primera persona del singular (I think). En su lugar, usa formas impersonales (It is argued that...).
- Linking: Usa conectores de transición para guiar al lector entre ideas complejas (e.g., Furthermore, Conversely, Notwithstanding).

- Hedging (Cautela): En el nivel C1, no afirmes cosas como verdades absolutas. Usa lenguaje de "probabilidad" para sonar más académico (It could be argued that..., This might lead to...).
- Evaluación de ideas: No te limites a listar pros y contras. Debes analizar el impacto. No digas "es bueno", di "podría fortalecer el tejido social".
- Time management: Dedicar 5 minutos a planificar la estructura antes de escribir. En el examen, el tiempo es vital; no escribas de más, enfócate en la calidad de la argumentación dentro del límite de palabras.

Useful language

|

Expression |

Español |

Audio |

1 |

What immediately stands out is... |

Lo que destaca enseguida es... |

|

2 |

At first glance, the scene appears to... |

A primera vista, la escena parece... |

|

3 |

Whereas the first image suggests..., the second one points to... |

Mientras que la primera imagen sugiere..., la segunda apunta a... |

|

4 |

There is a striking contrast between... and... |

Hay un contraste marcado entre... y... |

|

5 |

The people seem to be dealing with... |

Las personas parecen estar lidiando con... |

|

6 |

It is highly likely that... |

Es muy probable que... |

|

7 |

One could infer that... |

Se podría inferir que... |

|

8 |

This might reflect a broader issue: ... |

Esto podría reflejar un problema más amplio: ... |

|

9 |

Although the setting is different, both images convey... |

Aunque el contexto es distinto, ambas imágenes transmiten... |

|

10 |

The overall impression is one of... |

La impresión general es de... |

|

11 |

This would be a useful example of... |

Esto sería un ejemplo útil de... |

|

12 |

I would argue that the second image feels more... |

Diría que la segunda imagen resulta más... |

|

Model answer

Report on Proposed Mandatory Community Service Regulations

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to assess the feasibility of introducing mandatory community service for young adults within our municipality. This evaluation considers both the social implications and the practical challenges of such a policy.

Potential Benefits

It is widely believed that mandatory service could significantly bolster community cohesion. By engaging young citizens in local projects, the council could foster a stronger sense of civic duty and social responsibility. Furthermore, such initiatives might provide invaluable practical experience to participants, potentially bridging the gap between different socioeconomic groups within the city.

Challenges and Drawbacks

However, several concerns must be addressed. Critics argue that compulsory labour could be perceived as an infringement on personal freedom, potentially leading to resentment among the youth. Additionally, the administrative burden of supervising such a large-scale programme could place an undue strain on local government resources and existing volunteer networks.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In light of the aforementioned points, it is evident that while the social benefits are compelling, the logistical and ethical challenges are significant. It is not recommended that the council implements a strictly mandatory programme at this stage.

Instead, it is suggested that a voluntary incentive-based scheme be established. This would encourage participation through educational credits or professional certifications, thereby achieving social goals without the friction of compulsion.

Marking checklist

- Content: Have you addressed all three bullet points from the task? Is the information relevant to the council?
- Communicative Achievement: Is the tone formal and professional? Does it follow the conventions of a report (using headings and an objective tone)?
- Organisation: Are the ideas logically sequenced? Do you use effective cohesive devices (linking words) to connect paragraphs and sentences?

- Language: Have you used a wide range of advanced vocabulary and complex grammatical structures? Did you avoid informal language and use "hedging" appropriately?

Vocabulario para Writing & Speaking

Expression |

Español |

Useful C1 example |

social inequality |

desigualdad social |

Social inequality affects access to education. |

the rule of law |

estado de derecho |

The rule of law protects citizens. |

to hold someone accountable |

responsabilizar a alguien |

Public officials must be held accountable. |

civil liberties |

libertades civiles |

Civil liberties should not be taken for granted. |

a fair trial |

un juicio justo |

Everyone has the right to a fair trial. |

to enforce legislation |

hacer cumplir la legislación |

Governments must enforce legislation consistently. |

public trust |

confianza pública |

Public trust is essential in legal institutions. |

to address injustice |

abordar la injusticia |

Communities work together to address injustice. |

Lesson 9: Speaking Lab

Speaking – describe & compare

Compara estas dos imágenes. En tu respuesta, debes describir las diferencias y similitudes, y hablar sobre los temas de justicia y resolución de conflictos que representan. Debes hablar durante 2 minutos.



speaking

Useful phrases

- At first glance, it appears that... — A primera vista, parece que... - The two scenes stand in stark contrast to one another. — Las dos escenas contrastan fuertemente entre sí. - While the first image depicts..., the second one focuses on... — Mientras que la primera imagen representa..., la segunda se centra en... - One could infer that the atmosphere is... — Se podría inferir que el ambiente es... - There is a noticeable difference in terms of... — Hay una diferencia notable en términos de... - It is highly likely that the individuals are... — Es muy probable que los individuos estén... - The setting suggests a sense of... — El entorno sugiere una sensación de... - In much the same way as..., this scene shows... — De la misma manera que..., esta escena muestra... - They both seem to revolve around the concept of... — Ambas parecen girar en torno al concepto de... - Judging by their expressions, it's evident that... — A juzgar por sus expresiones, es evidente que... - The former represents..., whereas the latter suggests... — Lo primero representa..., mientras que lo segundo sugiere... - It's hard to tell exactly, but they might be... — Es difícil saber exactamente, pero podrían estar... ### Pronunciación

Para sonar más natural en el examen C1, practica las contracciones (it's, they're) y las reducciones de sonidos en el habla rápida (por ejemplo, 'going to' -> 'gonna' o 'want to' -> 'wanna', aunque en el examen formal es mejor mantener la claridad pero con un ritmo fluido). Practica cómo las palabras se conectan (connected speech) para evitar un ritmo robótico.

Model answer

Both images deal with the concept of justice, yet they represent two entirely different approaches to legal conflict. In the first image, we see a formal courtroom setting. The atmosphere seems quite rigid and traditional, with the judge presiding over the proceedings. It appears to be a structured environment where law is applied strictly. In stark contrast, the second image depicts a much more informal setting, likely a mediation or restorative justice session. Instead of a hierarchical structure, we see a circular arrangement, which suggests equality and dialogue between the parties involved. While the first scene focuses on punitive or procedural justice, the second one seems to prioritise reconciliation and community healing. One could infer that the courtroom is about determining guilt, whereas the mediation centre is about resolving underlying issues. Despite these differences, both scenes revolve around the fundamental need to address grievances and maintain social order. Ultimately, the former represents the authority of the state, while the latter highlights a more human-centric, collaborative approach to conflict resolution. Both are essential components of a functioning society, depending on the nature of the offence being addressed.

Lesson 10: Mediation Task

Mediation

Basándote en la información proporcionada, redacta un informe formal para los miembros del consejo de tu comunidad. Debes resumir los puntos clave del nuevo programa de justicia restaurativa y presentar los diferentes puntos de vista de los ciudadanos, evaluando cómo este programa podría impactar en la convivencia local. El texto debe mantener un registro formal y profesional.

Texto original (español)

El ayuntamiento ha anunciado un nuevo programa de 'Justicia Restaurativa' para jóvenes que han cometido infracciones menores en el barrio. En lugar de multas económicas o servicios comunitarios aislados, el programa busca que los infractores se reúnan con las personas afectadas para reparar el daño causado. El objetivo es fomentar la responsabilidad y la reintegración social. Sin embargo, algunos vecinos están preocupados por la falta de sanciones estrictas, mientras que otros creen que es una oportunidad única para educar a la juventud y mejorar la convivencia ciudadana sin recurrir únicamente al castigo tradicional.

Imagen de apoyo



mediation

Estrategias clave

- Identify the main purpose of the source text (the new justice programme).
- Synthesise the pros and cons mentioned in the text.
- Adapt the tone from a news report to a formal report for a council.
- Use appropriate cohesive devices to link different perspectives.
- Avoid direct translation; use C1-level vocabulary for 'justice' and 'community'.
- Structure the response with an introduction, body, and conclusion.

Audiencia de destino

your local community council members

Respuesta modelo (English)

To: Local Community Council

Subject: Evaluation of the New Restorative Justice Programme

This report aims to outline the key features of the recently announced restorative justice initiative and to address the varying community perspectives regarding its implementation.

The programme focuses on mediation between young offenders and those affected by their actions. Rather than imposing traditional punitive measures, such as fines, the initiative seeks to foster accountability through direct dialogue and reparation of harm. The primary objective is to facilitate social reintegration and prevent recidivism.

Public opinion remains divided. Proponents argue that this approach offers a transformative educational opportunity, promoting long-term harmony and social responsibility. Conversely, some residents have expressed concerns that the lack of traditional sanctions might be perceived as leniency, potentially undermining the deterrent effect of the law.

In conclusion, while the programme represents a progressive shift towards community-based justice, its success will depend on balancing rehabilitative goals with the community's need for perceived fairness. It is recommended that the council maintains clear communication with residents to address concerns regarding public safety and accountability during this transition period.

Lesson 11: Podcast Guide

Podcast Guide – Society, Law & Justice

Escuchar podcasts auténticos es fundamental en el nivel C1 para acostumbrarse a diferentes ritmos, acentos y matices idiomáticos que no aparecen en los libros de texto. En esta unidad, utilizaremos audios reales para que aprendas a seguir debates complejos sobre ética, legalidad y estructuras sociales.

Recommended podcasts (3 total)

1. BBC: In Our Time

- Level & accent: British (Received Pronunciation/Academic), C1 appropriate: Yes.
- Recommended episode: "The Rule of Law" or "The Magna Carta".
- Why it's useful for C1: Este podcast presenta debates académicos de alto nivel con un vocabulario extremadamente preciso y sofisticado. Es ideal para aprender a estructurar argumentos complejos sobre la historia del derecho y la justicia.
- 5 key phrases to listen for:

To lay the groundwork for... (Sentar las bases de...)

- A contentious issue (Un asunto polémico)
- To challenge the status quo (Desafiar el statu quo)
- To be enshrined in law (Estar consagrado en la ley)
- The crux of the matter (El quid de la cuestión / El punto central)

2. TED Talks (Podcast version)

- Level & accent: Mixed (Global English), C1 appropriate: Yes.

- Recommended episode: Search for "Justice" or "Social Inequality" themes.
- Why it's useful for C1: Los ponentes suelen utilizar una estructura retórica clara, lo que facilita el seguimiento de ideas abstractas. Te ayudará a identificar cómo usar conectores para persuadir a la audiencia.
- 5 key phrases to listen for:

It is widely perceived that... (Se percibe ampliamente que...)

- To bridge the gap (Cerrar la brecha)
- To have far-reaching consequences (Tener consecuencias de gran alcance)
- To call into question (Poner en duda)
- An inherent bias (Un sesgo inherente)

3. The Inquiry (BBC World Service)

- Level & accent: British/International, C1 appropriate: Yes.
- Recommended episode: Episodes regarding "Human Rights" or "Global Governance".
- Why it's useful for C1: Este podcast utiliza un formato de entrevista periodística que es muy dinámico y actual. Es perfecto para practicar la comprensión de preguntas complejas y respuestas rápidas sobre temas sociales globales.
- 5 key phrases to listen for:

To be at odds with... (Estar en conflicto con / No estar de acuerdo con...)

- To uphold the law (Velar por el cumplimiento de la ley)
- A systemic failure (Un fallo sistémico)
- To take something into account (Tener algo en cuenta)
- To spark a debate (Desencadenar un debate)

Active listening strategies (C1)

- Pre-listening immersion: Antes de dar al play, lee el título y la descripción. Intenta predecir el vocabulario que podrías escuchar para activar tu léxico pasivo.
- Selective listening: No intentes entender cada palabra. En C1, el objetivo es captar la idea principal (gist) y los detalles específicos sin perder el hilo de la argumentación.
- Note-taking by structure: No escribas frases completas. Utiliza esquemas (mapas mentales o listas de puntos) para registrar la estructura del argumento: Introduction \rightarrow Argument 1 \rightarrow Counter-argument \rightarrow Conclusion.
- Shadowing technique: Si escuchas una frase con una entonación o una estructura gramatical interesante, pausa el audio y repítela en voz alta imitando exactamente el ritmo y la acentuación.
- Identify discourse markers: Presta especial atención a los conectores (e.g., nevertheless, conversely, subsequently). Estos son las "señales de tráfico" que te indican hacia dónde se dirige el argumento.
- Listen for nuance: En el nivel avanzado, el significado no solo está en las palabras, sino en la entonación. Intenta detectar si el hablante es sarcástico, escéptico o está mostrando apoyo absoluto.

Follow-up task

Task: The Critical Review

- Vocabulary Extraction: While listening, write down 5-8 new words or collocations. Look up their definitions and write one original sentence for each that relates to a current news story.
- Summary Synthesis: Write a 150-word summary of the episode. You must use at least three of the "key phrases" you listened to in the podcast to practice natural integration.
- Oral Argument: Record a 2-minute voice note on your phone expressing your opinion on the topic discussed. You must include one "counter-argument" (e.g., "While some might argue that..., I believe that...") to demonstrate C1-level complexity.

Lesson 12: Media Guide

Cine & Series – Society, Law & Justice

Utilizar series de alta calidad es la mejor forma de familiarizarte con el registro formal de la justicia y el lenguaje coloquial de la sociedad. Este ejercicio te obligará a procesar estructuras gramaticales complejas en contextos reales, algo esencial para aprobar el examen C1.

Recommended title

- Title: Black Mirror (Season 3, Episode 3: "Nosedive"), 2016, Netflix
- Accent/dialect: Standard American English (clear, neutral, and highly articulate).
- Why it's perfect for C1: The episode explores social credit systems, surveillance, and societal judgement. It uses a sophisticated vocabulary related to social status, ethics, and interpersonal relationships, making it ideal for practicing high-level descriptive language.
- Episodes to start with: Watch the full episode (approx. 45 minutes).

Language focus

1. "If I hadn't been so obsessed with my rating, I wouldn't be in this mess right now."

- Vocabulary note: Obsessed /əb'sest/ (obsesionado/a) — used here to describe a compulsive preoccupation.
- Grammar spotlight: Mixed Conditional (3rd + 2nd). This structure links a past action (if I hadn't been) with a present result (I wouldn't be). It is a classic C1 structure to express regret about the past affecting the present.

2. "Had she known the consequences of her actions, she might have acted differently."

- Vocabulary note: Consequences /'kɒnsɪkwənsɪz/ (consecuencias) — formal term for results of an action.
- Grammar spotlight: Inverted Conditional. Instead of saying "If she had known," we use "Had she known." This inversion is a hallmark of advanced writing and formal speech.

3. "Should you decide to pursue this lifestyle, you must accept the social fallout."

- Vocabulary note: Fallout /'fɔ:lɔʊt/ (consecuencias negativas/repercusiones) — often used for social or political repercussions.
- Grammar spotlight: Inverted First Conditional. Using "Should you..." instead of "If you..." makes the sentence more formal and professional, typical of legal or high-level social discourse.

Viewing task (active watching)

- Vocabulary Log: Note down at least 10 words or expressions related to social status, technology, or emotions.
- Register Shift: Identify moments where the protagonist uses "polite/fake" language (formal/socially acceptable) versus her internal thoughts or private moments (informal/natural).
- Conditional Hunt: Listen specifically for any use of "If" or inverted structures. Try to rewrite one sentence you hear using a different conditional type.
- Scene Summary: Write a 3-sentence summary of the episode's ending in English, ensuring you use at least one advanced adjective (e.g., disturbing, thought-provoking, unsettling).

Similar titles (2 alternatives)

- The Crown (Netflix): Perfect for practicing British English, formal register, and complex political/social vocabulary.
- Succession (HBO/Sky): Excellent for hearing fast-paced, high-level business English, power dynamics, and sophisticated insults.

The Community Consultation



everyday_scene

En esta escena, vemos una reunión de consulta ciudadana donde los residentes debaten sobre nuevas normativas locales. Es una representación perfecta de la participación civil y la intersección entre la sociedad y la gestión de la justicia comunitaria.

Preguntas para hablar (Speaking practice)

- Describe the scene: What can you tell about the atmosphere and the relationship between the people in the photo?
- Speculate: What do you think is the specific topic being discussed at this meeting?
- Compare: How does this type of community meeting compare to how political decisions are made in your own country?
- Evaluate: In your opinion, is it important for ordinary citizens to be involved in local law-making processes?
- Personal connection: Have you ever participated in a public meeting or a community debate? Describe the experience.

Unit review – Society, Law & Justice

Al finalizar esta unidad, deberías ser capaz de participar en debates complejos sobre temas sociopolíticos, legales y éticos utilizando un registro formal y académico. Deberías haber dominado el uso de condicionales avanzados para expresar hipótesis sobre el pasado y el presente, así como la inversión de estructuras para enfatizar puntos de vista.

Asimismo, habrás ampliado tu léxico especializado en áreas como el sistema judicial, la estructura social y la criminología. Serás capaz de utilizar colocaciones precisas y procesos de formación de palabras para expresar matices de opinión, algo esencial para alcanzar el nivel C1 en el examen de Cambridge.

Grammar consolidation

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and six words, including the word given.

-
If I had taken that job, I would be living in London now.

HAD

If I _____ that job, I would be living in London now.

-
I didn't study harder, so I didn't pass the bar exam.

WOULD

If I had studied harder, I _____ the bar exam.

-
If you should need any further assistance, please contact us.

SHOULD

_____ any further assistance, please contact us.

-
I didn't know about the new law, so I broke it accidentally.

KNOWN

Had I _____ about the new law, I wouldn't have broken it accidentally.

-
If the jury hadn't been so biased, the verdict would be different today.

NOT

If it _____ so biased, the verdict would be different today.

-
Identify the error in this sentence: "If I would have known you were coming, I would have prepared dinner."

(Rewrite the sentence correctly)

- If the government had invested more in social programmes, poverty wouldn't be so high now.

INVESTED

- "I didn't see the warning sign, so I didn't stop." (Rewrite using inversion)
- "If they had been more careful, the accident wouldn't have happened." (Rewrite using 'Had')
- "If you are late, you will be fined." (Rewrite using 'Should')

Vocabulary activation

A. Word Formation: Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in capitals.

- The lawyer argued that the defendant's actions were entirely __ (JUST).
- There has been a significant __ (COURT) in the way laws are applied to minorities.
- The witness provided a highly __ (RELEVANT) account of the crime.
- The sudden __ (APPEAR) of new evidence changed the course of the trial.

B. Collocations: Choose the correct word to complete the legal/societal collocations.

- The judge decided to impose / inflict a heavy fine on the corporation.
- There is growing public / social outcry regarding the new surveillance laws.
- The defendant was acquitted / exonerated of all charges due to lack of evidence.
- We must work together to uphold / maintain the rule of law in our community.

C. Register Choice: Replace the underlined informal words with a more formal C1-level equivalent (e.g., mitigate, exacerbate, breach, implement).

- The new policy will make the problem worse _____.
- The company committed a serious break _____ of contract.
- The government decided to start _____ new social reforms.
- The lawyer tried to make the punishment less severe _____ the sentence.

Integrated skills task

Reading Text

The concept of "restorative justice" has gained significant traction in modern legal discourse. Unlike the traditional retributive model, which focuses primarily on punishment and retribution for the offender, restorative justice emphasises repairing the harm caused by criminal behaviour. This approach involves a dialogue between the victim, the offender, and the community. The goal is not merely to penalise the individual, but to facilitate healing and reintegration.

Critics argue that this approach lacks the deterrent effect necessary to prevent future crimes and may fail to provide true justice for the victims. They suggest that without a clear punitive element, the law loses its authority. However, proponents claim that traditional imprisonment often fails to address the root causes of crime, such as social inequality or lack of education, and that restorative practices offer a more holistic path to social stability.

Writing Task

Instrucciones: Basándote en el texto anterior, escribe un ensayo de respuesta (response essay) de entre 180 y 220 palabras. En tu texto, debes:

1. Resumir los puntos principales del texto.
2. Evaluar si la justicia restaurativa es más efectiva que el modelo tradicional de castigo.
3. Dar tu opinión personal utilizando un lenguaje formal y estructuras de nivel C1.

Speaking checkpoint

Responde a estas preguntas de forma oral para practicar tu fluidez y capacidad de argumentación. Intenta hablar durante 1-2 minutos por cada una.

- Compare: Compare the advantages of a strict legal system versus a more lenient, rehabilitative one.
- Speculate: If technology continues to advance, how might the concept of "privacy" and "law" change in the next fifty years?
- Evaluate: To what extent do you think social media influences public opinion on legal matters?
- Justify: Some people believe that fines are an ineffective way to punish minor crimes. Justify whether you agree or disagree.
- Hypothesize: If you were responsible for reforming the justice system in your country, what would be your first priority?
- Evaluate: How much responsibility should society bear for the crimes committed by individuals?

Self-assessment rubric

Criterion |

Needs work (B2/Below) |

Solid (C1) |

Exam-ready (C1+/C2) |

Accuracy |

Frequent errors in complex structures. |

Good control; errors are rare and don't impede meaning. |

High precision; sophisticated use of grammar. |

Range |

Uses basic vocabulary and simple sentences. |

Uses a wide range of vocabulary and varied structures. |

Uses idiomatic language and complex structures naturally. |

Fluency |

Frequent hesitations and pauses. |

Speaks at length with some hesitation. |

Smooth delivery with natural pacing. |

Task Achievement |

Does not fully address the prompt. |

Addresses all parts of the task clearly. |

Provides nuanced, sophisticated responses. |

Answer key

Grammar consolidation

1. had taken
2. would have passed
3. Should you need
4. known

5. were not (or: had not been)
6. If I had studied harder, I would have passed the bar exam.
7. If the government had invested more in social programmes... (sentence is already correct, but if rewriting: Had the government invested...)
8. Had I seen the warning sign, I would have stopped.
9. Had they been more careful, the accident wouldn't have happened.
10. Should you be late, you will be fined.

Vocabulary activation

1. just
2. inequity / injustice (context dependent, but 'inequity' fits best)
3. relevant
4. appearance
5. impose
6. public
7. acquitted
8. uphold
9. exacerbate
10. breach
11. implement
12. mitigate