

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 03 — Containers, Birdsong and Forecasts

Mark your answer sheet before you read this

HOW TO USE THIS

- Mark one point for each correct answer. Spelling must be correct.
- Convert your total with the band table on the next page.
- Then read the explanation for **every** question you got wrong, and for every one you guessed. The explanation names the mechanism the wrong answer was built on.

The band figure is an estimate. A real paper is pre-tested on thousands of candidates and these have not been, so read the band as a position, not a prediction.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
1	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
2	FALSE	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraphs 2 and 3.
3	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraphs 1 and 4.
4	FALSE	A7	Time relation reversed	Paragraph 4.
5	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 5.
6	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 5.
7	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
8	rolls	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
9	tied up / alongside	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
10	sixteen / 16	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 3.
11	arrives / arrived	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
12	stacking	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
13	Felixstowe	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph 5.
14	i	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section A.
15	iii	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section B.
16	v	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section C.
17	vii	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section E.
18	ix	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section F.
19	x	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section G.
20	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section A.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
21	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section C.

22	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.
23	C	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Section D.
24	A	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section B.
25	C	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section B.
26	E	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section B.
27	NO	A5	Wrong agent for the action	Paragraph 3.
28	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraphs 2 and 4.
29	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 1.
30	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
31	NOT GIVEN	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 6.
32	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
33	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
34	D	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
35	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
36	B	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 7.
37	A	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraph 1.
38	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraphs 2 and 3.
39	B	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Paragraph 5.
40	C	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 8.

Score to band

Raw score out of 40	Estimated band
39–40	9
37–38	8.5
35–36	8
33–34	7.5
30–32	7
27–29	6.5
23–26	6
19–22	5.5
15–18	5
13–14	4.5
10–12	4
8–9	3.5
6–7	3
4–5	2.5

Questions 1–7

1 TRUE · Paragraph 1.

'a converted oil tanker ... carrying fifty-eight aluminium boxes bolted to a deck built over her tanks'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

2 FALSE · Paragraphs 2 and 3.

It fell **from** about \$5.86 **to** about sixteen cents — a fall of roughly \$5.70, not of \$5.86. The starting figure is offered back as the size of the change.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

3 NOT GIVEN · Paragraphs 1 and 4.

The voyage described ran from Newark to Houston, and the passage follows the idea through standard sizes and port costs. No transatlantic route is mentioned anywhere, and being first on one is a claim the text never touches.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

4 FALSE · Paragraph 4.

They were 'settled by international committee between 1968 and 1970, fourteen years after the *Ideal-X* sailed'. The passage does the arithmetic for you precisely so that this item can catch anyone who did not read to the end of the sentence.

Mechanism A7 — Time relation reversed

5 FALSE · Paragraph 5.

'Some old ports did survive by specialising in cargo that will not go into a box'. *Every* and *most* are different claims, and the passage supplies the exception on purpose.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

6 FALSE · Paragraph 5.

'In New York and London the unions negotiated payments ... elsewhere they got nothing.'

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

7 TRUE · Paragraph 6.

'Levinson's argument is that a steel box with a standard corner fitting did more than either' — either being tariffs and treaties.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 8–13

8 **rolls** · Paragraph 2.

'since a badly stowed ship **rolls**'. One word, and the reason is given in a subordinate clause — which is where completion answers usually sit.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

9 **tied up / alongside** · Paragraph 2.

'incurred while the ship was **tied up** and going nowhere'. 'Alongside' from the previous sentence is accepted as the same idea.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

10 **sixteen / 16** · Paragraph 3.

'the same tonne cost about **sixteen** cents to load'. The figure \$5.86 sits one paragraph earlier and is the intended wrong answer.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

11 **arrives / arrived** · Paragraph 3.

'the ship's plan can be worked out before she **arrives**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

12 **stacking** · Paragraph 5.

'acres of flat land for **stacking**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

13 **Felixstowe** · Paragraph 5.

'from London's docks to **Felixstowe**'. Elizabeth, New Jersey is in the same sentence and is the American half of the pair.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

Questions 14–19

14 i · Section A.

Thorpe's isolated chaffinch sings without ever hearing another: inherited, and unmistakably incomplete. *ii* reverses the two words and is contradicted — the isolate bird has learned nothing.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

15 iii · Section B.

'The account that emerged has three stages and is worth setting out'. *iv* shares the sentence shape and swaps one noun.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

16 v · Section C.

'The window closes whether or not it has been used.' *vi* says the opposite of the section's own last sentence, which is the point of the pair.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

17 vii · Section E.

Dialects and the boundaries that 'have held for decades'; how they arose is explicitly left open, which rules out *viii*.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

18 ix · Section F.

Adult neurogenesis against a textbook that denied it.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

19 x · Section G.

The parallels with speech, and the paragraph's careful statement of where they stop.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 20–23

20 A · Section A.

Thorpe's soundproof-box chaffinches, Cambridge, the 1950s.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

21 B · Section C.

Marler's tape-tutored white-crowned sparrows, ten to fifty days.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

22 C · Section D.

Konishi's deafening experiments: the memory survives, the performance does not.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

23 C · Section D.

'The stored memory was intact and useless.' Marler is the tempting answer because he is the one who put songs into birds' memories — but the finding that a stored song can be useless is Konishi's.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

Questions 24–26

24 A · Section B.

'The bird is born with a rough inherited **template**.' The word is in the passage; *instinct* is the near-miss a reader supplies from general knowledge.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

25 C · Section B.

'what it does then is not imitation so much as **search**'. *Imitation* is the option the sentence explicitly rejects — and it is offered in the box for exactly that reason.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

26 E · Section B.

'**Practice**, not hearing, is the slow part.' *Exposure* belongs to the following section and is about a different claim.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

Questions 27–32

27 NO · Paragraph 3.

He borrowed it from Isaiah Berlin, who had drawn it 'half a century earlier'. Everything else about the sentence is correct, which is what makes it work.

Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

28 NO · Paragraphs 2 and 4.

'The finding was not that expertise is worthless', and the cardiologist and the engineer are supplied to block exactly this reading.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 1.

The passage says he scored them; whether the experts ever saw those scores is never mentioned. A step in the procedure the reader assumes must have happened.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

30 YES · Paragraph 5.

They 'held their lead year after year, which rules out luck'. The writer draws the inference himself, so agreeing with it is YES rather than NO.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

31 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 6.

He explains vagueness as a response to what is costly and what is free, but never says anything about how commentators are paid or what would change if they were. An economic explanation is not a proposal.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

32 YES · Paragraph 7.

'the most encouraging finding in the whole literature and the least reported'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 33–36

33 A · Paragraph 3.

'The style of thought predicted accuracy; the quantity of knowledge did not.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

34 D · Paragraph 4.

'the same error as the hedgehogs': taking one big finding and driving every question through it'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

35 C · Paragraph 6.

'Vagueness is what survives when being wrong in public is expensive and being useless is free.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

36 B · Paragraph 7.

'If forecasting skill were a gift, the tournament would have found a fixed elite.' Ending E is the overstated version the writer spends paragraph 4 refusing.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

Questions 37–40

37 A · Paragraph 1.

'Between 1984 and 2004 ... some twenty-eight thousand predictions'. B moves the figure twenty from the years to the people; D takes the start date for the finish.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

38 B · Paragraphs 2 and 3.

Accuracy 'did not improve with their credentials, their access to classified material, or their years in the field'. A, C and D are the things that *did* track accuracy — the stem asks for the one that did not, and the other three are all true statements from the passage.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

39 B · Paragraph 5.

'They were not the most credentialed ... What they had in common was a set of habits.' C takes 'an American intelligence agency' from the sentence that says who ran the tournament and hands it to the volunteers.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

40 C · Paragraph 8.

'The remedy is not fewer experts. It is dated forecasts, kept records, and a willingness to say a number.' B is contradicted by paragraph 7 and D by the whole of paragraph 5 — in a global question, check each option against the paragraph that would have to be wrong for it to be right.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused