

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 04 — Shells, Witnesses and Maps

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	crushed	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
2	three / 3	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 3.
3	lead	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
4	tenth / a tenth	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
5	darkens / darkened	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 3.
6	twelve thousand / 12,000 / 12000	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 1.
7	the city walls / city walls	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
8	permanence	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
9	mauveine	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
10	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
11	FALSE	A7	Time relation reversed	Paragraph 5.
12	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 6.
13	FALSE	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 7.
14	D	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section D.
15	C	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section C.
16	F	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section E.
17	A	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section A.
18	E	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section E.
19	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section B.
20	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section C.

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

22	D	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Section E.
23	D	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section E.
24	reconstruction	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Section B.
25	feedback	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.
26	description	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Section E.
27	NO	A5	Wrong agent for the action	Paragraph 3.
28	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 4.
29	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 4.
30	NO	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
31	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 6.
32	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
33	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
34	A	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraphs 2 and 7.
35	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
36	D	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph 7.
37	B	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraph 2.
38	C	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 3.
39	C	A6	Direction of change reversed	Paragraph 5.
40	B	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraphs 7 and 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 1–5

1 **crushed** · Paragraph 3.

'small ones were **crushed** shell and all'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

2 **three / 3** · Paragraph 3.

'salted and left for **three** days'. The nine or ten days of simmering follow in the same sentence and are the intended wrong answer.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

3 **lead** · Paragraph 3.

'in vats of **lead**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

4 **tenth / a tenth** · Paragraph 3.

'until a **tenth** of the original volume remained'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

5 **darkens / darkened** · Paragraph 3.

'a red-purple that **darkened** as it dried'. The sentence lists yellow and green first; both are stages the cloth passes through, not the answer to what happens as it dries.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

Questions 6–9

6 **twelve thousand / 12,000 / 12000** · Paragraph 1.

'needed **twelve thousand** snails to obtain 1.4 grams'. The paragraph also carries 1909, two thousand years and 1.4 grams; only one of the four answers the question asked.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

7 **the city walls / city walls** · Paragraph 3.

'Dyeworks stood **outside the city walls**, downwind'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

8 **permanence** · Paragraph 4.

'What justified the labour was **permanence**.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

9 **mauveine** · Paragraph 7.

'**Mauveine** was cheap, it could be made in any quantity'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 10–13

10 TRUE · Paragraph 4.

'Almost every other ancient dye faded ... and purple did not.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

11 FALSE · Paragraph 5.

Roman law restricted it to certain *ranks* and 'did not confine the colour to one man. That came later' — under the Byzantines. Both facts are in the paragraph; the item attaches the later rule to the earlier law.

Mechanism A7 — Time relation reversed

12 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 6.

Both sites are named in one sentence and neither is measured against the other. Two facts side by side with no comparison drawn between them.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

13 FALSE · Paragraph 7.

He 'was attempting to synthesise quinine, the anti-malarial'. The purple was the residue of a failure, which is stated in the next sentence.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

Questions 14–18

14 D · Section D.

Section D: a better view, greater certainty at the time, a faster identification. Matching information does not run in text order, so the previous answer never narrows the next one.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

15 C · Section C.

Loftus's verbs and the broken glass that was never in the film.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

16 F · Section F.

'sometimes on the ground that the subject is a matter of common sense'. Section G also discusses the limits of the evidence, which is the near-miss.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

17 A · Section A.

'around seven in ten'.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

18 E · Section E.

'told in as many words that the person may or may not be present'. Section D is about what is said *afterwards* — the same topic, the wrong side of the identification.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

Questions 19–23

19 A · Section B.

Bartlett's folk-tale retellings, 1932.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

20 B · Section C.

Loftus's verb study and the invented broken glass.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

21 C · Section D.

Wixted on confidence: reliable at the first clean identification, unreliable by the time it reaches court.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

22 D · Section E.

'Gary Wells is the name attached to most of it'. Wixted is the tempting answer because he is named in the paragraph immediately before, and the reform section opens by referring back to his observation.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

23 D · Section E.

The double-blind rule, in the list of reforms attributed to Wells.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 24–26

24 **reconstruction** · Section B.

'remembering is **reconstruction**, an act of rebuilding performed fresh each time'. The question says *afresh* where the passage says *fresh*, so scanning for the passage's own phrase does not land on the gap.

Mechanism E1 — Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy

25 **feedback** · Section D.

'What happens in between is **feedback**.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

26 **description** · Section E.

'The fillers should resemble the **description** the witness gave, not the suspect.' The answer sits before the contrast, and the word *suspect* after it is the pull.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

Questions 27–32

27 NO · Paragraph 3.

'had been published by the Scottish clergyman James Gall in 1855, and Peters appears not to have known it'. The projection is real, the campaign is his, the invention is not.

Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

28 NO · Paragraph 4.

'It is worth being clear that the campaign was answering something real.' The writer concedes the grievance and rejects only the remedy — and this item checks whether you noticed the concession.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 4.

He explains why web maps use it — angles are preserved at every zoom — and criticises its role as a mental image. No view on what web maps should do appears anywhere.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

30 NO · Paragraph 5.

'The resolution had modest effect.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

31 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 6.

The technique is described and credited; when or why it was devised is never stated. Its appearing late in the passage invites the reader to date it late.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

32 YES · Paragraph 8.

'What should be given up is the idea that somewhere there exists a neutral map ... There does not, and there cannot.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 33–36

33 C · Paragraph 1.

Gauss's theorem is about the **curvature** of a surface being intrinsic to it.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

34 A · Paragraphs 2 and 7.

'a line of constant compass **bearing** is a straight line'. *Distance* is the near-miss most readers reach for when they think about navigation.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

35 B · Paragraph 2.

'The distortion of **area** is the price of that property.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

36 D · Paragraph 7.

'it is not answering a question at all, it is forming an **impression**'. *Accuracy* is offered because the whole passage is about accuracy — and is not what that sentence says.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

Questions 37–40

37 B · Paragraph 2.

'Greenland appears comparable in size to Africa when it is about a fourteenth of it'. Option A is the true ratio attached to the wrong half of the sentence — it is what Greenland *is*, not what it *appears*.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

38 C · Paragraph 3.

'Several of the claims made for it ... were false'. D is true of the map and is stated in the same paragraph, but it is offered as evidence for C rather than as the reason for the irritation.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

39 C · Paragraph 5.

'abandon rectangular world maps altogether — Mercator and Peters together'. D reverses the sentence: curved meridians are what the resolution wanted, not what it opposed.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

40 B · Paragraphs 7 and 8.

'Ask what the map is for', followed by three cases. A is the position the writer spends paragraph 3 refusing and D is denied outright in the last line — in a global question, an option that a single sentence of the passage flatly contradicts is never the answer.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused