

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 05 — Eels, Counting and Failure

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	leptocephalus / leptocephali / larva	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
2	glass eel	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
3	yellow eel	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
4	silver eel	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
5	small / smallest / smaller	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 2.
6	1922	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 2.
7	currents	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
8	tags	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 5.
9	Sargasso Sea / Sargasso	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
10	TRUE	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraph 6.
11	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 1.
12	FALSE	A7	Time relation reversed	Paragraphs 1 and 4.
13	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
14	i	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section B.
15	iii	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section D.
16	v	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section E.
17	vii	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section F.
18	ix	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section G.
19	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section B.
20	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section C.

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

- 1 **leptocephalus / leptocephali / larva** · Paragraph 2.

'the transparent leaf-shaped larvae called **leptocephali**'. The singular is given in the glossary, and either form is accepted.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

- 2 **glass eel** · Paragraph 3.

'Reaching the continental shelf it stops feeding and transforms into a **glass eel**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

- 3 **yellow eel** · Paragraph 3.

'In fresh water it darkens into a **yellow eel** and stays there, growing slowly'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

- 4 **silver eel** · Paragraph 4.

'A **silver eel** leaving a European river is, in a strict sense, not yet an adult.' The name comes from the flanks turning silver, described a sentence earlier.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 5–9

- 5 **small / smallest / smaller** · Paragraph 2.

'he plotted where the **small** ones were found ... the smaller the larva, the closer to where it hatched'. The passage puts the comparative in the next clause; either form is accepted.

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

- 6 **1922** · Paragraph 2.

'converged, in **1922**, on the Sargasso Sea'. The paragraph opens with 1904 and mentions eighteen years — three numbers, one question.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

- 7 **currents** · Paragraph 2.

'bounded by **currents** rather than by land'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

- 8 **tags** · Paragraph 5.

'fitted satellite **tags** to silver eels released from the Azores'. The Azores is where they were released, not what they were followed with.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

9 **Sargasso Sea / Sargasso** · Paragraph 5.

Stated in the final sentence of the paragraph.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 10–13

10 **TRUE** · Paragraph 6.

'now around five per cent of what they were in the early 1980s' — a remaining five per cent is a fall of ninety-five, and the item asks you to do that one step.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

11 **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraph 1.

The passage says he was wrong about the mud and right about the difficulty, and gives his reason for thinking it. How long anybody went on believing him is never mentioned.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

12 **FALSE** · Paragraphs 1 and 4.

'it does not develop them until it has left', and paragraph 4 puts their development during the ocean crossing.

Mechanism A7 — Time relation reversed

13 **TRUE** · Paragraph 6.

'every farmed eel in the world begins as a wild glass eel', because the life cycle cannot be closed in captivity.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 14–18

14 i · Section B.

'shared with animals ... the same ratio limit turns up in rats, pigeons and undergraduates'. *ii* reverses it, and the section says the opposite in its first line.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

15 *iii* · Section D.

Gelman's three requirements. *iv* differs by one word and describes the section's opening clause rather than its content — the section sets out what counting *does* demand, having noted that adults underestimate it.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

16 v · Section E.

One, then two, then three, each acquired separately — and then 'the whole thing generalises at once'. *vi* puts the two halves in the wrong order.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

17 *vii* · Section F.

The Pirahã have one, two and many, 'and no exact numerals beyond that' — absent, not unusual.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

18 ix · Section G.

'The conclusion the field has converged on'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 19–22

19 A · Section B.

Dehaene, on the approximate system as the foundation.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

20 B · Section C.

Wynn's dolls behind the screen: babies stare at one or three, look away at two.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

21 C · Section D.

Gelman's principles: one word per object, a fixed order, and the last word as the answer.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

22 D · Section F.

Gordon among the Pirahã. Dehaene is the tempting answer because the approximate system is his idea — but the finding described here is the fieldwork, not the theory.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

Questions 23–26

23 A · Section B.

'its accuracy depends on **ratio** rather than on size'. *Size* is the word the sentence rules out, and it is in the box for that reason.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

24 B · Sections E and G.

'learned in a particular **order** over several years'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

25 F · Section E.

'The **generalisation**, not the memorisation, is the moment learning happens' — so the thing it is *not* is memorisation. Read which half of the contrast the sentence needs.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

26 G · Section E.

The other half of the same sentence: **generalisation**.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 27–31

27 NO · Paragraph 2.

'It was an argument from first principles rather than a survey, and it was widely misread as a survey.' The passage anticipates the misreading and then tests whether you made it.

Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

28 NO · Paragraph 4.

'That conclusion is worth resisting' — and the problem was found 'by the machinery working'.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 5.

He says other institutions cannot tell you their error rate. Whether theirs would prove worse is a comparison he never makes — and the paragraph is written so that the reader wants to make it for him.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

30 NO · Paragraph 6.

'The failure is not one of honesty ... almost all were produced by people following the ordinary practices of their field in good faith.'

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

31 YES · Paragraph 7.

'The most promising reform follows directly from that diagnosis.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 32–35

32 A · Paragraph 1.

'if only the studies that found an effect appear in print, the printed record will show an effect whether or not one exists'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

33 E · Paragraph 6.

'together create an incentive to keep analysing a dataset until something appears'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

34 B · Paragraphs 4 and 5.

'psychology is the only one of those institutions that has bothered to find out'. Ending C is the overstated version the writer spends paragraph 6 refusing.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

35 D · Paragraph 7.

The study is reviewed before the data exist, and publication is promised regardless of outcome.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 36–40

36 A · Paragraph 3.

A hundred experiments; 270 is the number of researchers who did the repeating; the original authors were consulted where possible, not by a third; and the effect size halved rather than doubled. Every wrong option uses a real figure from the paragraph and re-attaches it.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

37 B · Paragraph 4.

'It was exposed by scientists running replications ... which is to say, by the machinery working.' A and C are true-sounding but the passage says the opposite of A and never mentions funders withdrawing.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

38 C · Paragraph 7.

'Somewhere near sixty per cent of registered reports find no effect, against a single-figure percentage in the conventional literature'. Option A is the correct figure for the other half of the comparison.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

39 B · Paragraphs 3 and 6.

'the people who respond to that incentive are behaving exactly as the system asks'. C inverts the 2015 project's description of authors being consulted where possible.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

40 C · Paragraph 8.

'the fix for a bad incentive is a better one rather than an appeal to better people'. A is the reading the writer explicitly resists in paragraph 4, and B is contradicted in paragraph 6.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused