

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 06 — Saffron, Strangers and Amateurs

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	sterile	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
2	two / 2	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 3.
3	grip	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
4	safranal	F4	Prose re-sorted into a table; column order $\neq$ passage order	Paragraph 4.
5	laboratory / lab	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
6	150,000 / 150000	F6	A range given, one end wanted	Paragraph 1.
7	the stigmas / stigmas / three stigmas	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
8	Iran	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
9	water	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
10	FALSE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
11	FALSE	A3	Category swap inside a pair the passage keeps apart	Paragraph 4.
12	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 5.
13	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
14	D	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section D.
15	C	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section C.
16	E	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section E.
17	F	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section F.
18	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section B.
19	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section A.
20	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section C.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
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21	C	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Section F.
22	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section E.
23	fifty / 50	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section B.
24	puzzling	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.
25	economy	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Section E.
26	fixed	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section G.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 3.
28	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	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	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 7.
32	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
33	G	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph 3.
34	H	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
35	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
36	B	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph 7.
37	A	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 4.
38	B	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 3.
39	B	A6	Direction of change reversed	Paragraph 5.
40	C	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 **sterile** · Paragraph 2.

'*Crocus sativus* is **sterile**: it produces no viable seed'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

2 **two** / **2** · Paragraph 3.

'one or **two** weeks in autumn'. The paragraph also offers *hours* and *mid-morning*; only the week count answers the question.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

3 **grip** · Paragraph 3.

'the operation requires a soft **grip**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

4 **safranal** · Paragraph 4.

'**safranal**, the aroma, which barely exists in the fresh stigma and is formed during drying'. The table asks by column, and the passage lists all three compounds in one sentence in a different order.

Mechanism F4 — Prose re-sorted into a table; column order ≠ passage order

5 **laboratory** / **lab** · Paragraph 4.

'a **laboratory** can tell where a sample sits without anybody tasting it'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 6–9

6 **150,000** / **150000** · Paragraph 1.

'between **150,000** and 170,000'. The question asks for the lower end of a range, and the higher figure is the one most readers write down.

Mechanism F6 — A range given, one end wanted

7 **the stigmas** / **stigmas** / **three stigmas** · Paragraph 1.

'the three red **stigmas** at the centre of the flower'. The styles are named later as the worthless part.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

8 **Iran** · Paragraph 5.

'**Iran** grows something close to ninety per cent'. Kashmir and Spain follow in the same paragraph.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

9 **water** · Paragraph 6.

'The simplest test needs only **water**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 10–13

10 FALSE · Paragraph 2.

'the agricultural improvement that transformed wheat and rice ... has largely passed saffron by', because a sterile clone offers nothing to select from.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

11 FALSE · Paragraph 4.

It 'barely exists in the fresh stigma and is formed during drying'. Crocin and picrocrocin are in the same sentence and are present beforehand — the item works only if you kept the three compounds apart.

Mechanism A3 — Category swap inside a pair the passage keeps apart

12 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 5.

Kashmir 'commands a high price'. Price is not quality, and no comparison between the two is made anywhere.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

13 TRUE · Paragraph 6.

'Real stigmas release their colour slowly, over several minutes ... a dye gives up its colour at once.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 14–18

14 D · Section D.

'accepting a large gift places the receiver under an obligation'. Matching information does not run in order, so nothing about the previous answer narrows this one.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

15 C · Section C.

'the human beings in question were almost entirely university students in a handful of rich countries'. Section B reports those same findings without commenting on who produced them, which is the near-miss.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

16 E · Section E.

Exchange outside the household, and dependence on cooperation with non-relatives.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

17 F · Section F.

Fehr and Gächter's group without punishment: contributions 'declined steadily towards nothing'.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

18 B · Section B.

'A person who wants only to maximise their own payment should offer the smallest possible amount'. Section A describes the rules of the game; Section B is where the prediction is stated.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

Questions 19–22

19 A · Section A.

Güth and colleagues, 1982.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

20 B · Section C.

Henrich's fifteen small-scale societies on four continents.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

21 C · Section F.

Fehr and Gächter, including the reshuffled version where no punisher could benefit. Henrich is the tempting answer because his name dominates the two sections before it, and both studies are about paying a cost for a principle.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

22 B · Section E.

The two predictors in Section E belong to Henrich's cross-cultural study.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 23–26

23 fifty / 50 · Section B.

'between forty and **fifty** per cent'. A fifth appears in the next clause and belongs to the refusal threshold.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

24 puzzling · Section D.

'appeared to find the whole idea of turning down free money **puzzling**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

25 economy · Section E.

'It was a measurement of an **economy**.' The preceding sentence offers *human nature*, which is what the passage says it was **not**.

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

26 fixed · Section G.

'It is not **fixed**, and it is not free.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 27–32

27 NO · Paragraph 3.

'Professionalisation was not a loss of openness that we should regret; it was ... the arrival of quality control.' The concession is the paragraph's whole purpose.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 YES · Paragraph 4.

'more than a century later, professional astronomers still draw on that archive'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 5.

She is described as a Dutch schoolteacher and as someone who flagged an object fitting no category she had been given. What she had studied is never mentioned, and the passage is written so that the reader assumes an answer either way.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

30 NO · Paragraph 6.

'it is not the same as the contribution Darwin made'. What they supply is attention, not the question.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

31 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 7.

The argument is that the open and closed categories were always poorly drawn, and that a field is open to the degree that an outsider can hold the question. No comparison of worth between the two groups is made anywhere.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

32 YES · Paragraph 7.

'the categories were always poorly drawn', and neither Darwin nor a modern volunteer was paid.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 33–36

33 G · Paragraph 3.

'it was ... the arrival of **quality** control'. *Training* is mentioned in the same paragraph as one of the means, not as the thing that arrived.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

34 H · Paragraph 5.

'The internet then changed the **scale** rather than the principle.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

35 C · Paragraph 6.

'What they supply is **attention**: hours of it'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

36 B · Paragraph 7.

'It is the possession of the **question**.' *Payment* is offered because the sentence names it — as the thing the line is **not** drawn by.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

Questions 37–40

37 A · Paragraph 4.

'a group of American observers of variable stars founded an association to pool their measurements'. C belongs to Robert Evans two sentences later, and D inverts 'more than a century later ... still draw on that archive'.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

38 B · Paragraph 3.

'The nineteenth-century field that welcomed the enthusiastic gentleman also welcomed his phrenology.' A overstates it into a claim about who produced bad science, which the passage does not make.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

39 B · Paragraph 5.

'the first data set was exhausted in weeks'. C reverses the reasoning given for the project: human eyes were still better than the available software.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

40 C · Paragraphs 7 and 8.

The final sentence, and the list of fields in paragraph 7. A is what the writer explicitly refuses in paragraph 3, and D is refuted by the whole of paragraphs 4 and 5.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused