

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 08 — Triangles, Placebos and Interviews

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	chains	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
2	angles	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 2.
3	calculated / computed	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraphs 1 and 2.
4	country	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
5	shimmer	F3	Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative	Paragraph 3.
6	two months / nearly two months	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 1.
7	half a tonne	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
8	Radhanath Sikdar / Sikdar	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Paragraph 5.
9	isostasy	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
10	FALSE	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraphs 1 and 4.
11	FALSE	A5	Wrong agent for the action	Paragraph 6.
12	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraphs 3 and 4.
13	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
14	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section A.
15	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section B.
16	C	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Section C.
17	D	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section E.
18	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section A.
19	F	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section F.
20	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section B.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
21	D	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section D.
22	G	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section G.
23	F	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Section F.
24	regression	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Section A.
25	naloxone	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.
26	deception	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Section E.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 6.
28	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 8.
29	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 4.
30	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
31	NO	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 7.
32	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
33	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
34	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
35	D	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 5.
36	E	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
37	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 2.
38	C	A6	Direction of change reversed	Paragraph 4.
39	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraphs 1 and 5.
40	A	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraphs 6 and 7.

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 **chains** · Paragraph 1.
'measured it with steel **chains**'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 2 **angles** · Paragraph 2.
'sight a distant third point and measure the two **angles**'. Two *sides* appear in the next clause as the thing computed, not measured.
Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor
- 3 **calculated / computed** · Paragraphs 1 and 2.
'the two unmeasured sides can be computed'; paragraph 1 uses *calculated* for the same idea and both are accepted.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 4 **country** · Paragraph 2.
'until a net of triangles covers a **country**'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 5 **shimmer** · Paragraph 3.
'daytime air over the Indian plains **shimmers** badly enough to move a target'. The noun form is what the sentence needs, and the two-word limit rules out copying the clause.
Mechanism F3 — Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative

Questions 6–9

- 6 **two months / nearly two months** · Paragraph 1.
'it took him nearly **two months**'. The paragraph also offers April 1802, twelve kilometres and seventy years; only one of the four answers this question.
Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph
- 7 **half a tonne** · Paragraph 3.
'weighed about **half a tonne**'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 8 **Radhanath Sikdar / Sikdar** · Paragraph 5.
'the chief computer of the survey, **Radhanath Sikdar**, worked through the observations'. Waugh announced it four years later; announcing is not calculating.
Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

9 **isostasy** · Paragraph 7.

'the idea now called **isostasy**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 10–13

10 **FALSE** · Paragraphs 1 and 4.

Twelve kilometres is the *baseline* at Madras. The Arc ran 'some two and a half thousand kilometres north'. The figure is real and belongs to the other measurement.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

11 **FALSE** · Paragraph 6.

Waugh proposed it and Everest objected to it. Everything else about the sentence is correct, which is the whole of the difficulty.

Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

12 **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraphs 3 and 4.

Fewer deaths are described and one accident is mentioned, but the two are never compared and no accident figures are given.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

13 **TRUE** · Paragraph 5.

'computed in Calcutta from angles measured more than a hundred and fifty kilometres away'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 14–18

14 A · Section A.

Beecher's one-third, 1955.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

15 B · Section B.

The comparison Beecher had not made.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

16 C · Section C.

Benedetti's hidden administration. Kaptchuk is the tempting answer because both studies turn on what the patient is told — but concealing a real drug is Benedetti's design.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

17 D · Section E.

Kaptchuk's open-label trial in irritable bowel syndrome, 2010.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

18 A · Section A.

Beecher compared before with after, which confounds the placebo with natural recovery and with regression to the mean.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 19–23

19 F · Section F.

The nocebo response. Matching information does not run in text order.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

20 B · Section B.

'The paper was read in some quarters as showing that placebos do nothing, which is not what it says.' Section A also corrects a misreading, but of a figure rather than of a paper.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

21 D · Section D.

Naloxone blocking placebo analgesia, and dopamine release in Parkinson's disease.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

22 G · Section G.

'pain, nausea, itch, some motor symptoms'.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

23 F · Section F.

Side effects produced by warning rather than by the compound. Section H also concerns clinical practice, but about what to say rather than about why patients stop.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

Questions 24–26

24 regression · Section A.

'illnesses that would have improved anyway, and **regression** to the mean'. The answer is the first of the two words in the phrase, and the passage explains what it means straight afterwards, which pulls the eye past it.

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

25 naloxone · Section D.

'blocked by **naloxone**, a compound that occupies the receptors used by opioids'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

26 deception · Section E.

'**Deception**, which everybody had assumed was the mechanism, turned out not to be necessary.' The answer sits at the start of the sentence, before the clause most readers stop on.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

Questions 27–32

27 NO · Paragraph 6.

'It would be a mistake to conclude that interviews should be abolished' — and the following sentences list what an interview is for. This is the concession the passage is built around.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 NO · Paragraph 8.

'structure removes judgement, and it does not. It relocates judgement.'

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 4.

The participants are described as people asked to make predictions and the interviewees as students. Who the participants were is never stated.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

30 YES · Paragraph 6.

'It lets the candidate examine the employer, which matters and is not a side issue.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

31 NO · Paragraph 7.

'It would be a mistake to conclude that interviews should be abolished', and the advice is to 'replace **part** of the interview with a sample of the work itself'. The word *entirely* is what makes this contradict the passage.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

32 YES · Paragraph 8.

The final sentence says exactly that.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 33–37

33 A · Paragraph 2.

'every candidate is asked the same questions in the same order'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

34 C · Paragraph 4.

'The interviews made the predictions worse.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

35 D · Paragraph 5.

'the coherence of the account is not evidence about the person. It is evidence about the construction.' Ending F is the belief the whole passage is written against.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

36 E · Paragraph 8.

'It relocates judgement to the point at which it is being exercised on something.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

37 B · Paragraph 2.

'the conversation goes where it goes'. Ending G is offered because the passage says the format survives — which is the opposite of being abandoned.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

Questions 38–40

38 C · Paragraph 4.

'still formed confident impressions, still used them, and mostly failed to notice'. A reverses the last clause of that sentence.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

39 B · Paragraphs 1 and 5.

'An unstructured interview reliably produces the feeling of having learned something, which is why it survives.' D contradicts the opening paragraph's sixty years.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

40 A · Paragraphs 6 and 7.

The passage lists what an interview is for, then says 'None of that is an argument for scoring the conversation', and proposes structure for the scoring. D is nowhere in the passage, and B is the reverse of the whole argument.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused