

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 09 — Seeds, Clocks and Journeys

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	five / 5	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
2	insect	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
3	twenty / 20	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
4	decade	F4	Prose re-sorted into a table; column order $\neq$ passage order	Paragraph 3.
5	million	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
6	Morocco	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 5.
7	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
8	FALSE	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraph 4.
9	FALSE	A7	Time relation reversed	Paragraph 5.
10	FALSE	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 5.
11	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
12	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 6.
13	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraphs 6 and 8.
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	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.
18	ix	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section F.
19	xi	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section H.
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	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Section D.
23	D	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section F.
24	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.
25	E	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section D.
26	C	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section G.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 2.
28	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 6.
29	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 1.
30	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
31	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraphs 1 and 6.
32	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
33	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 2.
34	B	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 3.
35	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 4.
36	C	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 8.
37	equals	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
38	anxiety	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 3.
39	paid	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
40	consumption	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	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 1–6

1 **five** / 5 · Paragraph 2.

'until the moisture content inside the seed falls to somewhere around **five** per cent'. Fifteen appears twice earlier in the same sentence, as the temperature and the humidity of the room.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

2 **insect** · Paragraph 2.

'already eaten from the inside by an **insect**'. The list runs empty, malformed, eaten — and the answer is at the end of it.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

3 **twenty** / 20 · Paragraph 2.

'put into a vault at minus **twenty** degrees'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

4 **decade** · Paragraph 3.

'at intervals of about a **decade**'. The table asks by column, and the passage gives the interval and the consequence in one sentence with the interval first.

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

5 **million** · Paragraph 4.

'holds more than a **million** samples'. Kew's two billion seeds and forty thousand species sit in the sentence before it.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

6 **Morocco** · Paragraph 5.

'at new sites in Lebanon and **Morocco**'. Aleppo and Syria are in the same paragraph and are where the collection came from.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

Questions 7–13

7 **TRUE** · Paragraph 3.

'A seed bank that is not tested is not a seed bank; it is a cupboard.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

8 **FALSE** · Paragraph 4.

Around forty thousand *species* and something over two billion *seeds*. Both figures are correct and the statement has swapped the nouns they belong to.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

9 FALSE · Paragraph 5.

The vault existed and the Syrian withdrawal in 2015 was the first claim on it — 'the withdrawal is the reason the vault exists' means it justified the vault, not that it caused it. The order of events is given plainly.

Mechanism A7 — Time relation reversed

10 FALSE · Paragraph 5.

'the Svalbard Global Seed Vault stores duplicates of **crop** collections held elsewhere'. The large wild collection named in the passage is Kew's, which is a different institution.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

11 TRUE · Paragraph 6.

They 'are shed with a high water content and are killed by drying them out'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

12 FALSE · Paragraph 6.

It 'has to be worked out separately for each species and mostly has not been'.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

13 NOT GIVEN · Paragraphs 6 and 8.

The passage calls a jar of dried seed 'the cheapest form of preservation anyone has devised', and mentions orchards as the alternative for recalcitrant species, but never compares the two on cost per species. The general claim is not the specific comparison.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

Questions 14–19

14 i · Section A.

The mimosa in the dark cupboard goes on opening and closing. *ii* states the outcome the experiment ruled out.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

15 iii · Section B.

'it raised a question nobody had a method for' — not disbelief but the absence of a tool, which is what *iv* offers instead.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

16 v · Section C.

Three mutant lines, 'all three mutations turned out to lie in the same gene'. *vi* reverses the two numbers.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

17 vii · Section D.

The protein accumulates, enters the nucleus and switches off its own gene.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

18 ix · Section F.

'corrected a figure of twenty-five hours that had stood for decades'.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

19 xi · Section H.

The closing section names what every step had in common: remove the obvious cause and find the thing still happening. *xii* is its twin and describes something the passage never claims.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

Questions 20–23

20 A · Section A.

De Mairan's mimosa, 1729.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

21 B · Section C.

Konopka and Benzer's three mutant lines, all in *period*.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

22 C · Section D.

Young's second gene. Hall and Rosbash are named in the same sentence and did the cloning, but the second gene is credited specifically to Young.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

23 D · Section F.

Czeisler's forced-desynchrony work: about twenty-four hours and eleven minutes.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 24–26

24 A · Section D.

'The clock is a **loop** that turns itself off.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

25 E · Section D.

'it enters the **nucleus** and switches off the very gene that produces it'. *Cytoplasm* is where the protein accumulates, which the passage does not say and the reader may supply.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

26 C · Section G.

'If the clock is reset by **light**'. *Habit* is offered because the final paragraph explicitly says the effect has nothing to do with the patient's habits.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

Questions 27–32

27 NO · Paragraph 2.

'Allport's point was not that contact is good. It was that contact is a mechanism with requirements.'
The two sentences exist to catch this reading.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 NO · Paragraph 6.

'None of this shows that travel cannot change anybody' — and the following sentences describe the conditions under which it does.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 1.

The remark is quoted and dated, and the uses it has been put to are described. What Twain meant by it is never discussed.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

30 YES · Paragraph 3.

'it does so even where Allport's conditions are not fully met — the conditions are not strictly necessary'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

31 NOT GIVEN · Paragraphs 1 and 6.

Universities appear once, as people who repeat the claim, and long structured exchanges are described as the case where the effect does appear. What should happen to the programmes is never addressed.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

32 YES · Paragraph 7.

'the variable doing the work is the structure of the encounter, and distance is at best a weak proxy for it'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 33–36

33 B · Paragraph 2.

'he specified four'. Five hundred is the number of studies in the meta-analysis, two paragraphs later.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

34 B · Paragraph 3.

The effect appears without the conditions and is 'markedly larger where they are met'. A is the stronger claim the sentence explicitly denies, and it is the one most readers arrive with.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

35 B · Paragraph 4.

'the anxiety reduction Pettigrew and Tropp identify takes time it does not have'. D is a real point in the passage and belongs to the next paragraph.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

36 C · Paragraph 8.

'the claim should be stated in a form that can be acted on'. A is refused in the same sentence and D is contradicted by the whole of paragraph 3.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

Questions 37–40

37 **equals** · Paragraph 2.

'that the parties meet as **equals** within the situation'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

38 **anxiety** · Paragraph 3.

'the reduction of **anxiety** about the encounter'. The question says *a reduction in* where the passage says *the reduction of*, so scanning for the passage's phrase does not land on the gap.

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

39 **paid** · Paragraph 4.

'one is paying and one is being **paid**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

40 **consumption** · Paragraph 8.

'Travel arranged as **consumption** will mostly confirm what the traveller brought with them.' The sentence before it describes the opposite arrangement, and the eye tends to stop there.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor