

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 15 — Clones, Colonies and Labels

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	chromosomes	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
2	sucker	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 1.
3	variation	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
4	vessels	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
5	resting	F2	Word limit decides which words are the answer	Paragraph 3.
6	Gros Michel	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 3.
7	Taiwan	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 5.
8	a thousand / 1,000 / 1000	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
9	several hundred million / hundred million people	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
10	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 4.
11	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
12	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 4.
13	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 8.
14	i	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section A.
15	iii	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section B.
16	v	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section C.
17	vii	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section D.
18	ix	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section F.
19	xi	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section G.
20	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section B.

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

'They carry three sets of **chromosomes** rather than two'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

2 **sucker** · Paragraph 1.

'He removes a **sucker** from the base of an existing one'. The cuttings mentioned earlier in the paragraph describe the same idea in general terms, not the part taken.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

3 **variation** · Paragraph 2.

'there is no **variation** anywhere for it to fail against'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

4 **vessels** · Paragraph 3.

'blocks the **vessels** that carry water up the plant'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

5 **resting** · Paragraph 3.

'survives in the soil for decades in a **resting** form'. Two words at most, which rules out copying the clause.

Mechanism F2 — Word limit decides which words are the answer

Questions 6–9**6** **Gros Michel** · Paragraph 3.

'a different clone called **Gros Michel**'. Cavendish is the replacement and appears in the next paragraph.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

7 **Taiwan** · Paragraph 5.

'a new strain was identified in **Taiwan**'. Australia, Mozambique and Colombia are all in the same sentence as places it later reached.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

8 **a thousand / 1,000 / 1000** · Paragraph 6.

'perhaps a **a thousand** banana varieties grown around the world'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

9 **several hundred million / hundred million people** · Paragraph 8.

'For **several hundred million** people in East Africa and parts of Asia'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 10–13

10 FALSE · Paragraph 4.

'it was not chosen because it tasted better, and by general agreement it does not'. It was chosen for resistance, which the same sentence states.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

11 TRUE · Paragraph 5.

'in 2019 to Colombia, which was the first confirmed case in Latin America'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

12 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 4.

The two are compared on resistance to the disease and on taste, and Cavendish loses on the second. Ease of cultivation is a third dimension the passage never supplies.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

13 FALSE · Paragraph 8.

'those varieties are not immune'. The final sentence exists to prevent the reader from filing the problem under commercial agriculture only.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

Questions 14–19

14 i · Section A.

'The reassessment ... has been substantial, and it has also been oversold, and both of those things need saying in the same breath.' Nothing in the section is about resistance to the idea.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

15 iii · Section B.

Animals 'raised without any microbes at all'. iv would describe the antibiotic case in Section E, where a community that existed is destroyed.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

16 v · Section C.

Microbes moved from twins into mice, and the weight difference moved with them.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

17 vii · Section D.

'a second half to that experiment which is less often quoted'. viii is wrong on the facts: the second half worked and produced a result.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

18 ix · Section F.

Correlational, small, and comparing averages of communities that vary hugely between healthy people.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

19 xi · Section G.

'giving that a clinical-sounding name makes it sound like a diagnosis'. xii states the opposite of the section, which says the word is in continuous use.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

Questions 20–23

20 A · Section B.

The germ-free mice: thinner gut wall, immature immune system, altered behaviour.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

21 C · Section E.

'stopped before it was complete, because the difference was large enough that continuing to give the control treatment could not be justified'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

22 B · Section D.

The lean community invaded the obese one and not the reverse. The germ-free work is the tempting answer because it is the other mouse study, but the asymmetry belongs to the co-housing half of Gordon's experiment.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

23 B · Section C.

'fed identical diets ... and the diet did not vary'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 24–26

24 **passengers** · Section A.

'these were regarded as **passengers**'. The question says *treated as* where the passage says *regarded as*, so the phrase itself cannot be scanned for.

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

25 **antibiotics** · Section E.

'has been destroyed by **antibiotics**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

26 **overreach** · Section G.

'The word that carries most of the **overreach** is dysbiosis.' The answer opens the section rather than sitting beside the definition, which is where the eye goes.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

Questions 27–32

27 NO · Paragraph 2.

'Stated like that the argument seems to finish the discussion, and it does not, because nobody who buys the packet believes hemlock is safe.'

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 NO · Paragraph 5.

'It would be a mistake to conclude from this that the people using the word are simply confused', followed by five things that are genuinely being tracked.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 4.

Their number, method and regulatory status are given. Nothing is said about their safety in either direction, and the paragraph is written so that a reader supplies a verdict.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

30 YES · Paragraph 7.

'a shortcut that is wrong some of the time may still be better than no shortcut at all. That would be a good argument if the errors were random.' The value is granted and then the condition on it is denied.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

31 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 4.

That they are permitted in organic production is stated as a fact about where the regulatory line falls. What should be done about it is never addressed.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

32 YES · Paragraph 6.

'They are also properties that can come apart from each other, which is why collapsing them into one word produces the results it does.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 33–36

33 A · Paragraph 3.

'The label is describing the **route**, and the route is invisible in the product.' *Molecule* is the thing it is *not* describing, which is why it is in the box.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

34 C · Paragraphs 5 and 6.

'that they can recognise the ingredients, that the process has been used for a long time' — the passage's own summary term for this in the next paragraph is **familiarity**.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

35 E · Paragraph 6.

'whether **consent** was sought' — listed among the properties that can be stated and regulated.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

36 G · Paragraph 7.

'a label is a **shortcut**, and a shortcut that is wrong some of the time may still be better than no shortcut at all'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 37–40

37 A · Paragraph 4.

'Several thousand crop varieties in commercial use were produced this way.' B moves the figure onto the mutations, and C and D reverse the two regulatory facts in the same sentence.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

38 A · Paragraph 2.

They follow 'the reverse holds equally' — the counterpart to hemlock and cyanide. D describes the previous sentence's examples, not these.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

39 B · Paragraph 7.

'The errors were random. They are not. The word systematically favours long-established processes over new ones.' A is the position the sentence is constructed to refuse.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

40 B · Paragraph 8.

'the remedy is to say which one is meant'. A is explicitly disowned in the same paragraph, and C and D appear nowhere.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused