

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 17 — Noons, Octopuses and Offices

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	ten / 10	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
2	two / 2	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 1.
3	London	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
4	minute	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 3.
5	Dublin	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
6	fifty / 50	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
7	twenty-two / 22 / twenty two	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraph 7.
8	twenty-one / 21 / twenty one	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 7.
9	1918	A7	Time relation reversed	Paragraph 6.
10	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraphs 2 and 3.
11	FALSE	B1	Relation swap	Paragraph 5.
12	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 4.
13	NOT GIVEN	B4	Cause supplied by the reader	Paragraph 7.
14	i	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section A.
15	iv	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section B.
16	vi	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section C.
17	vii	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.
18	viii	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section E.
19	x	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section F.
20	xi	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section G.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
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21	xii	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section H.
22	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section C.
23	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.
24	C	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Sections C and G.
25	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section F.
26	C	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Section H.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraphs 1 and 2.
28	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
29	NOT GIVEN	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Throughout.
30	NO	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraph 3.
31	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
32	badges / badge	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
33	seventy / 70	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
34	interruptions	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 4.
35	half / a half	F2	Word limit decides which words are the answer	Paragraph 6.
36	cutting	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
37	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 5.
38	C	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 4.
39	A	A5	Wrong agent for the action	Paragraph 6.
40	A	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 **ten** / 10 · Paragraph 1.

'about **ten** minutes behind the time in London'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

2 **two** / 2 · Paragraph 1.

'five minutes and **two** seconds behind it'. The figure the eye lands on first is *five*, which belongs to the minutes.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

3 **London** · Paragraph 2.

'by ordering that **London** time be kept at every station it owned'. Greenwich arrives in the next paragraph, in 1847.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

4 **minute** · Paragraph 3.

'was given a second **minute** hand, ten minutes behind the first'. The words *ten minutes* sit immediately after the answer and fit the gap grammatically.

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

5 **Dublin** · Paragraph 5.

'Greenwich mean time in Great Britain and **Dublin** mean time in Ireland'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 6–9

6 **fifty** / 50 · Paragraph 6.

'running on more than **fifty** local times'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

7 **twenty-two** / 22 / **twenty two** · Paragraph 7.

'passed with **twenty-two** votes in favour'. Twenty-five is in the same paragraph, but it counts nations attending, not votes cast.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

8 **twenty-one** / 21 / **twenty one** · Paragraph 7.

'retarded by nine minutes and **twenty-one** seconds'. Again the first figure in the phrase is the wrong one.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

9 **1918** · Paragraph 6.

'Congress did not make any of this law until **1918**, thirty-five years later.' 1883 is when the railroads did it themselves.

Mechanism A7 — Time relation reversed

Questions 10–13

10 **TRUE** · Paragraphs 2 and 3.

November 1840 against 1847.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

11 **FALSE** · Paragraph 5.

'The law did not create the standard; it recorded one that had already won.' The railways had been on Greenwich for thirty-three years. Recording and creating are not the same relation.

Mechanism B1 — Relation swap

12 **FALSE** · Paragraph 4.

'It was a correct decision and an impossible one.' The statement keeps half of that and drops the qualification.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

13 **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraph 7.

The passage says Greenwich was already used by about two-thirds of shipping *and* that the resolution passed. It never says the first was the reason for the second — the causal link is supplied by the reader.

Mechanism B4 — Cause supplied by the reader

Questions 14–21**14 i · Section A.**

The two lineages separated about six hundred million years ago and 'everything either lineage has built since then was built separately'. Heading ii reverses it into a loss.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

15 iv · Section B.

The section gives a total but spends itself on the distribution — 'roughly two thirds of those neurons are not in the central brain at all'. Heading iii names the figure the section opens with and then leaves behind.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

16 vi · Section C.

'the arm supplies everything else' — the movement is produced in the limb. Heading v states the vertebrate arrangement the section is contrasting with.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

17 vii · Section D.

Pushing bottles into the jet, 'with no food involved and nothing gained'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

18 viii · Section E.

Two keepers in identical uniforms, treated differently by the animals after a fortnight.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

19 x · Section F.

Short lives, small numbers, wide individual variation, rare replication. Heading ix inverts the section: it argues the evidence is weak, not that it is better than it appears.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

20 xi · Section G.

'there may be no single place in the animal where things come together'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

21 xii · Section H.

Testing the animal on our problems 'measures how close it comes to us, which is the one thing about it that is not worth knowing'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 22–24

22 A · Section C.

'an arm severed from the body still produces the movement when its nerve cord is stimulated'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

23 B · Section D.

The pill bottles pushed into the inflow jet.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

24 C · Sections C and G.

Godfrey-Smith draws the conclusion; Hochner supplied the anatomy it rests on and is named in the same argument, which is what makes A tempting. The conclusion is not his.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

Questions 25–26

25 B · Section F.

'an experiment runs on a handful of short-lived animals that have no species-typical behaviour to average towards'. A is close to the passage's 'replication is rare' but rare is not never; C is refused outright — the keepers were 'not wrong often enough'.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

26 C · Section H.

'a nervous system arranged on a different plan produces behaviour we are obliged to call intelligent'. A and B are the two readings the section exists to refuse.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

Questions 27–31

27 NO · Paragraphs 1 and 2.

The badge study found face-to-face interaction fell by around seventy per cent. The collaboration claim is the position the passage is written against.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 YES · Paragraph 5.

'Their behaviour was rational.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NOT GIVEN · Throughout.

The passage discusses firms, floor area and fashion, but never compares industries.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

30 NO · Paragraph 3.

'None of this establishes that walls are what matters' — the wall arrives with a dozen other changes the studies cannot separate. The finding is accepted; the conclusion drawn from it is wider than the writer allows.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

31 YES · Paragraph 6.

'it is almost never the reason given'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 32–36

32 badges / badge · Paragraph 2.

'using **badges** that recorded who spoke to whom rather than asking people to remember'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

33 seventy / 70 · Paragraph 2.

'Face-to-face interaction fell by around **seventy** per cent.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

34 interruptions · Paragraph 4.

'It is whether they control their own **interruptions**.' *Noise* and *concentration* are the words the paragraph before offers, and neither is what the sentence asks for.

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

35 **half / a half** · Paragraph 6.

'has fallen by roughly **half** since the nineteen-seventies'. The date is not the answer, and the two-word limit rules out writing the whole phrase.

Mechanism F2 — Word limit decides which words are the answer

36 **cutting** · Paragraph 6.

'a company that says square footage sounds like it is **cutting**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 37–40

37 **B** · Paragraph 5.

'the wall had been the thing that let them choose when to be available, and nothing replaced it'. A states something the passage reports — messaging did rise — but reports it as the consequence, not the cause.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

38 **C** · Paragraph 4.

'The wall is a crude and expensive way of buying something that a convention can supply for nothing.' A, B and D are all positions the passage holds.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

39 **A** · Paragraph 6.

'the collaboration argument gets made by people who do not depend on it'. B, C and D each put the argument in somebody else's mouth.

Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

40 **A** · Paragraph 8.

Stated in the last paragraph. B and C are the two extremes the passage explicitly declines, and D goes further than 'stop measuring collaboration by proximity'.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused