

# Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 18 — Dykes, Lead and Prediction

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**Mark your answer sheet before you read this**

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## 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  | tide                          | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                                    | Paragraph 1.        |
| 2  | funnel                        | E2   | Answer sits after its own distractor                            | Paragraph 1.        |
| 3  | turf                          | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                                    | Paragraph 2.        |
| 4  | inland                        | A6   | Direction of change reversed                                    | Paragraph 2.        |
| 5  | sea                           | F2   | Word limit decides which words are the answer                   | Paragraph 2.        |
| 6  | ten thousand / 10,000 / 10000 | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                                    | Paragraph 6.        |
| 7  | coast / coastline             | F4   | Prose re-sorted into a table; column order $\neq$ passage order | Paragraph 6.        |
| 8  | two thousand / 2,000 / 2000   | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                                    | Paragraph 6.        |
| 9  | value                         | A1   | Quantity re-attached to another noun                            | Paragraph 6.        |
| 10 | TRUE                          | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                                    | Paragraph 3.        |
| 11 | FALSE                         | C3   | A conditional fact stated as universal                          | Paragraphs 5 and 6. |
| 12 | NOT GIVEN                     | B3   | Superlative moved to another dimension                          | Paragraph 7.        |
| 13 | FALSE                         | B4   | Cause supplied by the reader                                    | Paragraph 8.        |
| 14 | A                             | F1   | Answers out of order + repeats allowed                          | Section A.          |
| 15 | C                             | D1   | Statement moved from another paragraph                          | Section C.          |
| 16 | H                             | F1   | Answers out of order + repeats allowed                          | Section H.          |
| 17 | E                             | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                                    | Section E.          |
| 18 | F                             | F1   | Answers out of order + repeats allowed                          | Section F.          |
| 19 | B                             | D2   | Intermediate actor named beside the originator                  | Section B.          |
| 20 | C                             | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                                    | Section D.          |

| Q  | Answer          | Code | Mechanism                                               | Where               |
|----|-----------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 21 | D               | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                            | Section F.          |
| 22 | A               | A5   | Wrong agent for the action                              | Section A.          |
| 23 | contaminated    | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                            | Section C.          |
| 24 | 1920s / 1920's  | E1   | Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy | Section E.          |
| 25 | committee seats | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                            | Section F.          |
| 26 | eighty / 80     | E2   | Answer sits after its own distractor                    | Section G.          |
| 27 | NO              | C2   | The extreme version the writer explicitly refused       | Paragraphs 1 and 2. |
| 28 | YES             | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                            | Paragraph 1.        |
| 29 | NOT GIVEN       | A2   | Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier       | Paragraph 4.        |
| 30 | YES             | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                            | Paragraph 8.        |
| 31 | NO              | C1   | Overstatement — hedge removed                           | Paragraph 8.        |
| 32 | A               | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                            | Paragraph 3.        |
| 33 | B               | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                            | Paragraph 4.        |
| 34 | D               | D1   | Statement moved from another paragraph                  | Paragraph 5.        |
| 35 | C               | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                            | Paragraph 7.        |
| 36 | E               | E4   | Minimal-pair options                                    | Paragraph 6.        |
| 37 | A               | D1   | Statement moved from another paragraph                  | Paragraph 2.        |
| 38 | B               | C2   | The extreme version the writer explicitly refused       | Paragraph 3.        |
| 39 | C               | B1   | Relation swap                                           | Paragraph 5.        |
| 40 | A               | 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 **tide** · Paragraph 1.

'a deep storm crossing the North Sea met a spring **tide**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

2 **funnel** · Paragraph 1.

'the water piled up in the narrowing **funnel**'. *North Sea* is named first in the same sentence and is the body of water, not the shape that concentrates it.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

3 **turf** · Paragraph 2.

'built of clay and **turf**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

4 **inland** · Paragraph 2.

'ran down the **inland** side, cutting the earth away from behind'. The seaward face is the side the wall was built for — the direction is the whole point of the paragraph, and reversing it is the easiest mark to lose here.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

5 **sea** · Paragraph 2.

'country that lies below **sea** level'. The two-word limit rules out writing the whole phrase.

Mechanism F2 — Word limit decides which words are the answer

## Questions 6–9

6 **ten thousand / 10,000 / 10000** · Paragraph 6.

'a standard of one flood in **ten thousand** years'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

7 **coast / coastline** · Paragraph 6.

'Other stretches of **coast** are built to one in four thousand'. The table re-sorts the paragraph, so the column order is not the order the prose gives.

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

8 **two thousand / 2,000 / 2000** · Paragraph 6.

'between one in twelve hundred and fifty and one in **two thousand**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**9**     **value** · Paragraph 6.

'fewer people and less **value** stand behind them'. *Property* belongs to van Dantzig's calculation two paragraphs earlier, not to this reason.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

### Questions 10–13

**10**    **TRUE** · Paragraph 3.

'Forecasters knew a severe storm was coming and said so.' What was missing was any way of telling the population at that hour.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**11**    **FALSE** · Paragraphs 5 and 6.

'Those are not engineering limits. They are prices, arrived at deliberately.' A wall that cannot be overtopped 'does not exist at any price'.

Mechanism C3 — A conditional fact stated as universal

**12**    **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraph 7.

It is called the largest of the works and its cost is compared with the dam's. Its length is never given, and largest is not a claim about length.

Mechanism B3 — Superlative moved to another dimension

**13**    **FALSE** · Paragraph 8.

'It has shut against a storm twice in its working life. That is the intended rate.'

Mechanism B4 — Cause supplied by the reader

**Questions 14–18**

**14** A · Section A.

Midgley pouring the liquid over his hands and breathing the vapour. Matching information does not run in text order.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

**15** C · Section C.

'no laboratory in medicine was built to that standard or had any reason to be'. Section D describes the laboratory that could do it, which is a different point.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

**16** H · Section H.

The modest effect in any individual child, and the crime claim that goes beyond the evidence.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

**17** E · Section E.

Surface water many times higher than the deep water beneath it.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**18** F · Section F.

Teeth 'record exposure over years rather than the level circulating on the morning of the test'.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

**Questions 19–22**

**19** B · Section B.

Kehoe's position: absent evidence of harm, the additive is presumed safe. Midgley is named beside him as the man whose product it was, but the argument is not his.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

**20** C · Section D.

Four and a half billion years, 1953.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**21** D · Section F.

The shed milk teeth, high and low dentine lead.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**22** A · Section A.

Tetraethyl lead 'was patentable, which ethanol was not'. The discovery is Midgley's; Kehoe, named in the next section, defended it but did not make it.

Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

## Questions 23–26

**23**   **contaminated** · Section C.

'comparing contaminated people with other **contaminated** people'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**24**   **1920s / 1920's** · Section E.

'a sharp climb after the **1920s**'. The passage's other dates — 1921, 1953, 1965 — all sit nearby and none of them answers this sentence.

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

**25**   **committee seats** · Section F.

'he lost contracts and **committee seats** for some years'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**26**   **eighty / 80** · Section G.

'by something close to **eighty** per cent'. The sentence names the late 1970s and early 1980s first; the figure the question wants comes after them.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

**Questions 27–31**

**27** NO · Paragraphs 1 and 2.

The whole passage is against that rule: 'If prediction were really the criterion, we would have to demote the theory of evolution and keep astrology.'

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

**28** YES · Paragraph 1.

'It is the test a person reaches for when they suspect they are being asked to take something on trust, which is a reasonable suspicion and a bad instrument.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**29** NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 4.

The passage says his criterion has been mislaid and misreported. How widely he is read, then or now, is never discussed.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

**30** YES · Paragraph 8.

'Some of them do forbid very little, and the accusation lands.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**31** NO · Paragraph 8.

'None of this rescues every field that is currently accused of predicting badly.' The statement removes the qualification the paragraph exists to make.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

**Questions 32–36**

**32** A · Paragraph 3.

'What those subjects do instead is **forbid**' — a theory is judged by the size of the space it closes off.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**33** B · Paragraph 4.

'this turned into a demand for successful **forecasts**, which is a different and much weaker thing'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**34** D · Paragraph 5.

'Predicting the **trajectory** of a particular system through a chaotic regime and predicting the statistics of that system ... are separate problems.'

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

35 C · Paragraph 7.

'whether the field is being used to forecast a trajectory or to bound a **distribution**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

36 E · Paragraph 6.

'A theory that cannot fail is not modest. It is **empty**.' *Modest* is the word in the same sentence — and it is the one the writer refuses.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

### Questions 37–40

37 A · Paragraph 2.

'we would have to demote the theory of evolution and keep astrology, which predicts constantly'. D is close to the sentence's other half but is not why astrology is there.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

38 B · Paragraph 3.

'it says that a large earthquake cannot originate in the middle of a stable continental block'. A and C are the predictions the passage says it explicitly does not make.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

39 C · Paragraph 5.

The example exists to separate two questions that get run together. D swaps the relation the analogy is built on — the point is not which quantity is easier to measure.

Mechanism B1 — Relation swap

40 A · Paragraphs 7 and 8.

Set out in paragraph 7 and confirmed in paragraph 8. B is the licence the passage refuses in paragraph 6; C is refused throughout.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused