

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 20 — Elms, Sleep and Checklists

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	galleries	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
2	spores	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 2.
3	twigs	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
4	water supply / water	A7	Time relation reversed	Paragraph 3.
5	graft	F2	Word limit decides which words are the answer	Paragraph 4.
6	1921	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
7	logs	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 5.
8	twenty-five million / 25 million	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraph 6.
9	collection	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
10	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
11	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 5.
12	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 1.
13	FALSE	A5	Wrong agent for the action	Paragraph 7.
14	C	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section C.
15	A	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section A.
16	F	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section F.
17	B	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section B.
18	D	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Section D.
19	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section B.
20	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section A.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
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21	C	B1	Relation swap	Section C.
22	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Sections A and G.
23	B	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section E.
24	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section E.
25	G	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section E.
26	D	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section G.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 4.
28	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
29	NOT GIVEN	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraphs 2 and 7.
30	NO	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
31	YES	B4	Cause supplied by the reader	Paragraph 7.
32	attention	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
33	ingredient	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 5.
34	suspected	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
35	audit	F3	Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative	Paragraph 8.
36	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraphs 1 and 2.
37	C	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 6.
38	C	A6	Direction of change reversed	Paragraph 3.
39	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
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 **galleries** · Paragraph 2.

'the fungus grows in the same **galleries**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

2 **spores** · Paragraph 2.

'comes out dusted with **spores**'. *Fungus* is the organism; the thing carried on the beetle is named precisely.

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

3 **twigs** · Paragraph 2.

'feeds in the crotches of young **twigs** high in the crown'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

4 **water supply** / **water** · Paragraph 3.

'the tree is progressively cutting off its own **water supply**'. The sealing happens after the fungus is already ahead of it — the order in the paragraph matters and is easy to invert.

Mechanism A7 — Time relation reversed

5 **graft** · Paragraph 4.

'can pass directly into the next through the **graft**'. The limit of two words rules out copying the whole phrase about fusing roots.

Mechanism F2 — Word limit decides which words are the answer

Questions 6–9

6 **1921** · Paragraph 1.

'in **1921** isolated a fungus from diseased elms'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

7 **logs** · Paragraph 5.

'in a consignment of veneer **logs**'. Britain and the late 1960s are named in the very next sentence, and both belong to the second arrival, not this one.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

8 **twenty-five million** / **25 million** · Paragraph 6.

'in the region of **twenty-five million** elms in about two decades'. Two decades is the period, not the count.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

- 9** **collection** · Paragraph 8.
'the national **collection** of the species'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 10–13

- 10** **TRUE** · Paragraph 6.
'The species did not become extinct, because elms sucker freely from their roots' — though the suckers are killed once they thicken.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 11** **FALSE** · Paragraph 5.
'was not the same organism. It was a far more aggressive species.'
Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed
- 12** **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraph 1.
Schwarz is identified as a doctoral student and Buisman as another Dutch researcher who repeated the work at a larger scale. Buisman's position is never given — the detail sits beside the answer without being it.
Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject
- 13** **FALSE** · Paragraph 7.
'On its own it slows the disease and does not stop it, because new beetles keep arriving from outside.' It succeeds only where geography limits that arrival.
Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

Questions 14–17

14 C · Section C.

Disturbing one stage removed the gain and disturbing the other, 'which is equally unpleasant', did not. Matching information does not follow the order of the text.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

15 A · Section A.

Forgetting was already understood as crowding, 'and sleep simply stopped the crowd arriving'.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

16 F · Section F.

'The first concerns holding on to something already learned; the second would require the brain to do new work on it.' Section G also discusses what sleep does, but it is describing selection, not this distinction.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

17 B · Section B.

Half a minute on the track reproduced in about a second and a half.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

Questions 18–21

18 D · Section D.

The rose odour, effective in slow-wave sleep and useless in rapid eye movement sleep. Karni and Sagi also found a stage-specific effect, which is what makes C tempting — but theirs was a skill improving on its own, with nothing summoned.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

19 B · Section B.

The place cells firing again in the order the routes had been run.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

20 A · Section A.

The 1924 nonsense-syllable experiment.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

21 C · Section C.

'performance improved between one day and the next with no practice in between'.

Mechanism B1 — Relation swap

Questions 22–26

22 A · Sections A and G.

'a period in which nothing else arrived to interfere with it', which Section G later names outright:
'Sleep is not the absence of **interference**.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

23 B · Section E.

'held first in the **hippocampus**'. *Cortex* is the other structure in the same sentence and is where the material ends up, not where it starts.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

24 C · Section E.

'is progressively established in the **cortex**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

25 G · Section E.

'A single night contains several **cycles** through those stages, and their proportions change across it.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

26 D · Section G.

'anybody who thinks of memory as a **recording**' is the person the finding should unsettle. *Selection* is the process the passage describes and is therefore the wrong half of the contrast — the gap asks for what memory is *not*.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

Questions 27–31

27 NO · Paragraph 4.

'This is usually reported as a failure of the checklist, and it is not.' What Ontario mandated was the document, which is not what worked in the trials.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 YES · Paragraph 6.

'what they are usually resisting is a form that must be signed whether or not anybody read it, and their objection is accurate'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraphs 2 and 7.

The original is described as short enough to fit on an index card, and the modern aviation version is described as a conversation between two people. Nothing is said about length now.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

30 NO · Paragraph 1.

'The newspapers concluded that the aeroplane was too much for one man to fly, which was the wrong lesson.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

31 YES · Paragraph 7.

'the cost is immediate, specific and paid by the same person every time'.

Mechanism B4 — Cause supplied by the reader

Questions 32–35

32 **attention** · Paragraph 2.

'The failure was of **attention**, in a situation with more items in it than attention reliably covers.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

33 **ingredient** · Paragraph 5.

'which sounds like a formality and is the active **ingredient**'. *Formality* is the word in the same clause and is what the writer says it only sounds like.

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

34 **suspected** · Paragraph 5.

'caught by somebody who already **suspected**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

35 **audit** · Paragraph 8.

'expensive, slow, and hard to **audit**, which is why the version that spreads is reliably the version that does nothing'. Three adjectives are listed before the answer, and the gap wants the verb that follows them.

Mechanism F3 — Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative

Questions 36–40

36 **B** · Paragraphs 1 and 2.

'the pilot who crashed was the most experienced man available and more training would have insulted him without helping'. C is the newspapers' conclusion, which the passage calls the wrong lesson.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

37 **C** · Paragraph 6.

'That gets the purpose backwards.' A, B and D are all positions the passage holds.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

38 **C** · Paragraph 3.

'infection rates fell to near zero and stayed there'. A belongs to the surgical trial's complication figures, one sentence later.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

39 **B** · Paragraph 5.

'a pause in which people who do not ordinarily speak were required to'. A is ruled out by the passage's insistence that the failure is not one of knowledge.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

40 **A** · Paragraph 8.

'the answer appears to be the part nobody thinks to copy'. B produces the Ontario result the passage has just analysed, and C is refused throughout.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused