

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 23 — Cartouches, Signals and Speakers

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	scripts	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
2	engravings	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 4.
3	cartouches	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
4	Coptic	A7	Time relation reversed	Paragraphs 6 and 7.
5	machinery	F2	Word limit decides which words are the answer	Paragraph 7.
6	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
7	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 2.
8	NOT GIVEN	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraph 4.
9	FALSE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraphs 5 and 7.
10	394	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
11	fourteen / 14	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 3.
12	words	A3	Category swap inside a pair the passage keeps apart	Paragraph 8.
13	vowels	B1	Relation swap	Paragraph 8.
14	ii	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section A.
15	iii	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section B.
16	v	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section C.
17	vi	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.
18	vii	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section E.
19	viii	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section F.
20	ix	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section G.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
21	B	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Section C.
22	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section B.
23	D	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section F.
24	C	A5	Wrong agent for the action	Sections E and F.
25	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section B.
26	C	C3	A conditional fact stated as universal	Section D.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 3.
28	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraphs 3 and 8.
29	NOT GIVEN	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraph 2.
30	NO	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
31	YES	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 7.
32	broke down	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
33	trouble	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 4.
34	quality	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
35	foreign	F3	Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative	Paragraph 5.
36	audience	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
37	A	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 2.
38	B	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 2.
39	C	B1	Relation swap	Paragraphs 4 and 5.

40	A	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 8.
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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 **scripts** · Paragraph 3.

'the same decree in three **scripts**'. Two of the three are forms of Egyptian and one is Greek, so *languages* is the word the passage carefully does not use.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

2 **engravings** · Paragraph 4.

'Casts were taken and **engravings** printed and distributed across Europe'. The stone itself went to London and is not what scholars worked from.

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

3 **cartouches** · Paragraph 5.

'the oval rings which appear in the hieroglyphic text, now called **cartouches**, enclose royal names'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

4 **Coptic** · Paragraphs 6 and 7.

'He had studied **Coptic**, the last stage of the Egyptian language'. Greek is the script he could already read on the stone, and it is not what unlocked the cartouche.

Mechanism A7 — Time relation reversed

5 **machinery** · Paragraph 7.

'not a foreign borrowing but the ordinary **machinery** of the script'.

Mechanism F2 — Word limit decides which words are the answer

Questions 6–9

6 **TRUE** · Paragraph 1.

'a few of its readings are even roughly right, which did it no favours at all'. Being partly right is what made the book hard to discard.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

7 **FALSE** · Paragraph 2.

'He was learned, industrious and working from a premise that made the correct answer unreachable.' The fault named is the premise, not the effort.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

8 **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraph 4.

'distributed across Europe from 1802 onwards' — the passage states where they went, and says nothing at all about anywhere else. A statement that widens the stated scope is not contradicted by it.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

9 FALSE · Paragraphs 5 and 7.

'he continued to hold that phonetic writing was a special device the Egyptians had adopted only to record foreign names'. That is the belief Champollion overturned.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 10–13

10 394 · Paragraph 1.

'was cut at Philae in the year **394**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

11 fourteen / 14 · Paragraph 3.

'**fourteen** damaged lines of hieroglyphs at the top'. Thirty-two and fifty-four follow in the same sentence and belong to the other two scripts — the first figure in the list is the one the question wants, and it is the one the eye passes over fastest.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

12 words · Paragraph 8.

'Some signs stand for sounds, some stand for whole **words**, and some are not pronounced at all.' Three categories are listed in one sentence and the question asks for the second; the first is handed to you in the stem.

Mechanism A3 — Category swap inside a pair the passage keeps apart

13 vowels · Paragraph 8.

'It records consonants and leaves the **vowels** out.' Consonants are given to you in the stem; the pair has to be kept the right way round.

Mechanism B1 — Relation swap

Questions 14–20

14 ii · Section A.

'the defences are induced' — made after the damage, because 'manufacturing poison is expensive and most leaves are never attacked'. Heading i states the arrangement the section says plants do *not* use.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

15 iii · Section B.

'too interesting to forget and too poorly supported to build on'. Heading iv is the opposite verdict on the same experiment.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

16 v · Section C.

Methyl jasmonate: 'a named molecule, a measurable dose and a specific response'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

17 vi · Section D.

Maize calls parasitic wasps: 'The plant is not defending itself directly at all.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

18 vii · Section E.

Simard's carbon moving between fir and birch through one fungal network — 'a real one, carefully done and repeatedly confirmed'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

19 viii · Section F.

The claims 'had grown steadily more confident over time without the data growing with them'. Heading x says the networks are imaginary, which Section G explicitly denies.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

20 ix · Section G.

'The reliable part of this field remains what it was in 1990.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 21–24

21 B · Section C.

Methyl jasmonate in a sealed jar. Baldwin and Schultz are named first in the passage as the airborne-signalling people, which is what makes A tempting; they proposed no molecule at all.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

- 22** **A** · Section B.
The sealed chambers, 1983.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 23** **D** · Section F.
The 2023 review of the literature.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 24** **C** · Sections E and F.
Carbon labelled with isotopes, Douglas fir to paper birch. The 2023 authors wrote about that work, which is why D is offered here; they measured nothing themselves.
Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

Questions 25–26

- 25** **B** · Section B.
'the number of plants was small, the chambers rather than the plants were the true unit of the experiment, and no mechanism was proposed'. A and D are contradicted by the next section, in which the effect is demonstrated properly.
Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph
- 26** **C** · Section D.
'The blend differs according to which insect is doing the damage.' The passage is explicit that the plant is not defending itself directly, which rules out B, and A states the general case where the passage states a conditional one.
Mechanism C3 — A conditional fact stated as universal

Questions 27–31

27 NO · Paragraph 3.

That is the second of the two positions the passage rejects: 'it abandons the learner', who has examinations to pass and particular people to be understood by.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 YES · Paragraphs 3 and 8.

'institutions that do enforce a standard whether or not the enforcement is philosophically defensible', and the last paragraph says to keep teaching what an examination will require.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 2.

Both are named as established varieties and the institutions of Indian English are described. The passage never compares the size of one variety with another.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

30 NO · Paragraph 7.

'Intelligibility is a property of a pair of speakers, not of a variety.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

31 YES · Paragraph 7.

'The listener has a job to do here, and in the usual telling of this argument the listener has no obligations at all.'

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

Questions 32–36

32 **broke down** · Paragraph 4.

'looked at the points where communication **broke down**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

33 **trouble** · Paragraph 4.

'deleting one causes real **trouble**'. The same word returns later in the sentence about reduced vowels, where it is the presence rather than the absence that causes it.

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

34 **quality** · Paragraph 4.

'The length of a vowel matters; its exact **quality** usually does not.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

35 **foreign** · Paragraph 5.

'Effort is being spent in proportion to how **foreign** a feature sounds to a native ear rather than in proportion to what it does.' The gap sits before *a feature sounds*, so it wants the adjective, not the ear.

Mechanism F3 — Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative

36 **audience** · Paragraph 8.

'Say which **audience** a course is for.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 37–40

37 **A** · Paragraph 2.

'Indian English has its own dictionaries, its own newspapers, a literature ... and it is not an approximation of anything.' B takes the same evidence and attaches it to a claim about print, which the passage never makes.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

38 **B** · Paragraph 2.

Paragraph 2 sets that out as the first answer and dismantles it. A, C and D are all positions the passage holds — A explicitly, in paragraph 7, as an objection it accepts.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

39 **C** · Paragraphs 4 and 5.

'the ones in thin and this almost never do', and they are 'almost entirely irrelevant to being understood'. B and D reverse what the passage says: the sounds are rare among languages and difficult for most learners.

Mechanism B1 — Relation swap

40 **A** · Paragraph 8.

The three sentences of the final paragraph, which also insists the last of them is not in conflict with the others. C and D are the extremes the passage spends its length refusing.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused