

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 25 — Cod, Compasses and Anecdotes

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	effort	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
2	spawn	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 5.
3	smaller	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
4	form	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
5	hold	F2	Word limit decides which words are the answer	Paragraph 5.
6	above	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
7	1968	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 3.
8	two hundred / 200	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraph 3.
9	per cent	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
10	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
11	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 3.
12	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 8.
13	FALSE	A7	Time relation reversed	Paragraph 7.
14	i	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section A.
15	iii	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section B.
16	v	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	ix	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section F.
20	x	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section G.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
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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	Section E.
25	B	A6	Direction of change reversed	Section D.
26	B	C3	A conditional fact stated as universal	Section G.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraphs 5 and 6.
28	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
29	NOT GIVEN	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraph 3.
30	NO	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
31	YES	B4	Cause supplied by the reader	Paragraph 6.
32	NOT GIVEN	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraph 8.
33	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
34	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 6.
35	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
36	E	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 7.
37	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 2.
38	B	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 6.
39	C	B1	Relation swap	Paragraph 4.
40	A	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraphs 5 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 1–6

- 1 effort** · Paragraph 4.
'a quantity called catch per unit of **effort**: how much a boat brings in for each day it fishes'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 2 spawn** · Paragraph 5.
'They gather to **spawn** in dense concentrations.' The gathering is what continues; the concentrations are where it happens.
Mechanism E1 — Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy
- 3 smaller** · Paragraph 5.
'in a **smaller** number of places'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 4 form** · Paragraph 5.
'the accumulated knowledge of where the concentrations **form**'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 5 hold** · Paragraph 5.
'a day's fishing continued to produce a full **hold**'. The two-word limit will not take the whole phrase.
Mechanism F2 — Word limit decides which words are the answer
- 6 above** · Paragraph 6.
'put the stock repeatedly **above** what it was'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 7–9

- 7 1968** · Paragraph 3.
'reached about eight hundred and ten thousand tonnes in **1968**'. 1954, 1977 and 1992 are all dates in this passage and none of them is the peak.
Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor
- 8 two hundred / 200** · Paragraph 3.
'an exclusive zone extending **two hundred** miles from its coast'. The figure belongs to the distance, not to any of the tonnages the passage has been quoting.
Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun
- 9 per cent** · Paragraph 7.
'somewhere near one **per cent** of what it had been'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 10–13

10 TRUE · Paragraph 6.

'Inshore fishermen, who were catching almost nothing, said for years that the stock was going.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

11 FALSE · Paragraph 3.

'Canada invested in trawlers of its own with public money, and the total pressure on the stock did not fall.' The zone changed who was fishing, not how much.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

12 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 8.

The new fishery is described as profitable and as having its own dependents. It is never compared with the cod fishery for profitability — a comparison sitting one step beyond what the passage says.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

13 FALSE · Paragraph 7.

'The moratorium was announced as a two-year measure, which is what everybody involved expected the recovery to take.'

Mechanism A7 — Time relation reversed

Questions 14–20

14 i · Section A.

The field 'carries far less energy than the random jostling of molecules at body temperature, which ought to drown it entirely'. Heading ii asserts the opposite of the section's whole difficulty.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

15 iii · Section B.

Reversing the horizontal component did nothing and reversing the vertical one turned the birds round: the bird reads inclination. Heading iv swaps the field for the sky, which belongs to the stars the section rules out.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

16 v · Section C.

'Schulten was proposing this some years before anybody had a candidate molecule to put in the role.' Heading vi reverses the order in which the two arrived.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

17 vii · Section D.

'The prediction that follows is unusual and testable: a compass of this kind must be driven by light.' Both parts of the prediction hold.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

18 viii · Section E.

The birds would not orient in huts on a campus, and screening the huts restored the behaviour — 'it came out of a nuisance'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

19 ix · Section F.

The iron-rich beak cells turned out to be macrophages rather than neurons.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

20 x · Section G.

'the honest summary is narrower than the story usually told' — one sense well supported, another still open.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 21–24

21 B · Section C.

The linked electron pair, 1978. Mouritsen's work depends on that mechanism and is described immediately after it, which is what makes C tempting; he tested it rather than proposing it.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

22 **A** · Section B.

The 1972 cage experiments, altering one component at a time.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

23 **D** · Section F.

Macrophages, not nerve cells, and varying in number and position between individuals.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

24 **C** · Section E.

The radio-frequency fields, 'far below any intensity considered biologically active'. The finding is only interpretable through Schulten's mechanism, but the experiment is not his.

Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

Questions 25–26

25 **B** · Section D.

'The compass works under blue and green light and fails under red, which is difficult to explain if the receptor is a lump of magnetic material and straightforward if it is a molecule in the eye.' A reverses the two colours.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

26 **B** · Section G.

'Magnetic material is still a plausible basis for a separate ability, the sense of position rather than direction.' A is the ability the section assigns to the light-dependent compass instead.

Mechanism C3 — A conditional fact stated as universal

Questions 27–32

27 NO · Paragraphs 5 and 6.

'The point is not that the stories are false.' The apple probably happened and Fleming did observe something real; the objection is to their shape.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 YES · Paragraph 2.

'he told the story himself in old age to a visitor who wrote it down, so the anecdote has a better provenance than most'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 3.

The passage says he failed to obtain the substance in quantity and largely moved on. What he thought about that afterwards is never mentioned.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

30 NO · Paragraph 5.

'debunking is its own vanity ... it leaves the reader with nothing except a slightly smaller store of stories, and it frequently overshoots'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

31 YES · Paragraph 6.

'the reason that part is missing from the story is not conspiracy but form. The middle does not compress.'

Mechanism B4 — Cause supplied by the reader

32 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 8.

The passage argues that the fuller account is imitable and that the anecdote withholds something. Whether the students who receive it do better is never claimed.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

Questions 33–36

33 A · Paragraph 6.

'a model of discovery in which a prepared individual has a **moment**, and everything after the moment is administration'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

34 B · Paragraph 6.

'a long, unglamorous **middle** in which somebody who is not the person in the anecdote does work that is difficult'. *Administration* is the word the model uses to dismiss that part, and it is in the previous sentence.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

35 C · Paragraph 6.

'It has no **scene** in it, no single day on which anything happened.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

36 E · Paragraph 7.

'reads the absence of that feeling as evidence of **unsuitability**'. The passage is describing what the student concludes about themselves, not about the work.

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

Questions 37–40

37 B · Paragraph 2.

'What the fall prompted was a question about whether the force holding an apple to the ground might extend as far as the moon.' D inverts the passage, which says the mathematics did not yet exist.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

38 B · Paragraph 6.

That is the model the passage says 'almost nothing works like'. A, C and D are all things the passage asserts.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

39 C · Paragraph 4.

'Darwin did not label his specimens by island ... The identification of the birds as related species was done by John Gould in London after the voyage.' D adds an error the passage does not report.

Mechanism B1 — Relation swap

40 A · Paragraphs 5 and 8.

'It is to tell the second half, which is more interesting than the first and has the additional merit of being imitable.' B is refused in the same sentence, and C is the debunking the passage calls a vanity.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused