

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 26 — Cables, Rubber Hands and Species

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	silk fibre / fibre	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
2	lamp / a lamp	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph 5.
3	mirror / a mirror	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph 5.
4	scale / a scale	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
5	ten / 10	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
6	sixteen / 16	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 3.
7	brake	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
8	two thousand / 2,000 / 2000	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
9	minute	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraph 8.
10	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
11	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 6.
12	NOT GIVEN	B4	Cause supplied by the reader	Paragraph 7.
13	FALSE	A7	Time relation reversed	Paragraph 7.
14	G	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section G.
15	A	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section A.
16	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section B.
17	F	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section F.
18	D	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.
19	C	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Section E.
20	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section B.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
21	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.

22	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section E.
23	together	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section C.
24	arm	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Section E.
25	model	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section F.
26	yes	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section G.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 4.
28	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
29	NOT GIVEN	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraph 3.
30	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 6.
31	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
32	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
33	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 3.
34	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
35	D	C3	A conditional fact stated as universal	Paragraph 6.
36	E	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
37	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 3.
38	C	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 4.
39	A	B1	Relation swap	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 1–4

- 1 **silk fibre / fibre** · Paragraph 5.

'a magnet hung on a **silk fibre** inside a coil of wire'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

- 2 **lamp / a lamp** · Paragraph 5.

'a **lamp** throws a spot of light onto the mirror'. The mirror is what the light lands on, not where it comes from, and the two are named in the same sentence.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

- 3 **mirror / a mirror** · Paragraph 5.

'A tiny **mirror** is fixed to a magnet.' The magnet is what it is fixed to; the label points at the thing fixed on.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

- 4 **scale / a scale** · Paragraph 5.

'reflects it onto a **scale** some distance away'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 5–9

- 5 **ten / 10** · Paragraph 1.

'took about **ten** days'. Three weeks in the same paragraph is how old the news was by the time an answer came back, which is the round trip.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

- 6 **sixteen / 16** · Paragraph 3.

'It was ninety-eight words long and took about **sixteen** hours to send.' The word count comes first in the sentence and is handed to you in the stem.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

- 7 **brake** · Paragraph 2.

'the **brake** controlling the rate at which the cable ran off the ship was applied too firmly'. The distance is spelled out in words in the passage, so it cannot be given inside the word limit — which is why it is handed to you in the stem.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

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

'induction coils producing something in the region of **two thousand** volts'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

9 **minute** · Paragraph 8.

'the line carried about eight words a **minute**'. Two figures of twenty are given just before, and neither is what the gap wants.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

Questions 10–13

10 **TRUE** · Paragraph 4.

'William Thomson, who had worked out the mathematics of this before the cable was laid'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

11 **FALSE** · Paragraph 6.

'he was not a fool and his instinct is the one most people share: if a signal is too weak, send a stronger one'. The passage says he was wrong, not that he was ridiculous.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

12 **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraph 7.

She is described as the only ship large enough to carry the whole cable in one hull. Why she was built is never mentioned — the reader supplies a purpose from a capability.

Mechanism B4 — Cause supplied by the reader

13 **FALSE** · Paragraph 7.

The following year the same ship returned, dragged the seabed at more than three kilometres, found the end, spliced it and completed it.

Mechanism A7 — Time relation reversed

Questions 14–18

14 G · Section G.

'Roughly a quarter of people do not experience the illusion at all.' Matching information does not run in the order of the text.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

15 A · Section A.

'Nobody is deceived about the facts; the subject knows exactly what is on the table in front of them.'

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

16 B · Section B.

The measurable pointing error — 'the reason the finding entered the literature rather than the anecdote collection'. Section C also gives a reason the result is credible, but that one concerns the control condition.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

17 F · Section F.

Head-mounted displays showing a view of one's own back.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

18 D · Section D.

Rising skin conductance and activity in areas associated with anxiety when the rubber hand was threatened.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 19–22

19 C · Section E.

'a wooden block stroked in perfect synchrony produces nothing'. Botvinick and Cohen established the effect and are named first in the passage, which is what makes A tempting; the constraints were found seven years later.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

20 A · Section B.

The pointing error, recorded with a ruler.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

21 B · Section D.

Skin conductance rising when the rubber hand was threatened with a needle.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

22 C · Section E.

'It must be roughly aligned with the posture of the real arm, and it must be on the correct side of the body.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 23–26

23 **together** · Section C.

'it is doing it on the basis of whether two streams of information arrive **together**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

24 **arm** · Section E.

'roughly aligned with the posture of the real **arm**'. *Hand* is the word used everywhere else in the section, and it is not the word this sentence uses.

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

25 **model** · Section F.

'it implies a stored **model** rather than a running calculation'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

26 **yes** · Section G.

'part of what is being measured in some studies is the willingness of a subject to say **yes**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 27–31

27 NO · Paragraph 4.

That is the first of the two mistaken positions: 'disagreement is a temporary failure of research'.
The passage argues the category dissolves predictably rather than provisionally.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 YES · Paragraph 1.

'It is a good definition, it captures what most people mean by the word.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 3.

It is called 'the alternative most used by working taxonomists', which says it is used, not that most taxonomists prefer it to the other. The passage never counts opinions.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

30 NO · Paragraph 6.

'The dissolving is not a failure of biology ... A biologist who is embarrassed by an intermediate form has mistaken the tidiness of the filing system for a claim about the world.'

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

31 YES · Paragraph 7.

'Splitting one widespread species into three narrow ones can create three threatened populations ... and the animals are unchanged throughout.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 32–36

32 A · Paragraph 2.

'the test it proposes is an experiment that cannot be run on the dead'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

33 B · Paragraph 3.

Primates went from about 180 to more than 350 recognised species. Ending F is what did *not* happen — 'the animals were already known'.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

34 C · Paragraph 5.

'It works where large sexually reproducing animals live alongside each other in one region at one time.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

35 D · Paragraph 6.

'a process that produces gradual divergence must produce intermediate cases'. Ending G is the first mistaken position from paragraph 4.

Mechanism C3 — A conditional fact stated as universal

36 E · Paragraph 8.

'Protection could attach to populations, which are identifiable in the field, rather than to names, which are decided at conferences.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 37–40

37 B · Paragraph 3.

'without anybody finding a new animal in a forest. The animals were already known.' A states the reading the sentence is written to block.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

38 C · Paragraph 4.

Named in paragraph 4 as the second mistaken position. A, B and D are all claims the passage makes.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

39 A · Paragraph 5.

'It is not a coincidence that this describes the situation of the people who invented the category.' C reverses the passage, which names bacteria as the case in which the category dissolves.

Mechanism B1 — Relation swap

40 A · Paragraph 8.

Set out in the final paragraph, which also says a better definition 'has been attempted for a century and a half'. B is that attempt, and C goes further than anything the passage says.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused