

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 28 — Dust, Ulcers and Buildings

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	mat	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 1.
2	dormant	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
3	five million	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
4	tilth	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 3.
5	roots	F2	Word limit decides which words are the answer	Paragraph 3.
6	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
7	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 3.
8	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraphs 6 and 7.
9	FALSE	B3	Superlative moved to another dimension	Paragraph 7.
10	thirty-eight / 38 / thirty eight	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 4.
11	Atlantic	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 4.
12	minutes	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraph 5.
13	pneumonia	A3	Category swap inside a pair the passage keeps apart	Paragraph 5.
14	B	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section B.
15	F	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section F.
16	A	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section A.
17	E	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section E.
18	G	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section G.
19	A	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Section C.
20	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section F.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
21	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.
22	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section C.
23	A	E4	Minimal-pair options	Sections B and D.
24	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.
25	C	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section E.
26	G	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section G.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 6.
28	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
29	NOT GIVEN	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraph 4.
30	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 5.
31	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
32	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
33	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 4.
34	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
35	D	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
36	B	F4	Prose re-sorted into a table; column order $\neq$ passage order	Paragraph 2.
37	C	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 6.
38	B	B4	Cause supplied by the reader	Paragraph 4.
39	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
40	A	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 7.

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 **mat** · Paragraph 1.

'hold together as a dense **mat**'. *Sod* is the word used later for what the plough cut, and the passage keeps the two terms for two different jobs.

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

2 **dormant** · Paragraph 1.

'survive years in which almost nothing falls by going **dormant** and waiting'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

3 **five million** · Paragraph 2.

'something like **five million** acres of grassland in the southern Plains were broken for the first time'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

4 **tilth** · Paragraph 3.

'work the surface of a bare field into a fine **tilth**'. *Powder* is what the passage says this produces, one sentence later, and is the result rather than the instruction.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

5 **roots** · Paragraph 3.

'a field covered in powder, with no **roots** in it'. The two-word limit will not take the whole description.

Mechanism F2 — Word limit decides which words are the answer

Questions 6–9

6 **TRUE** · Paragraph 1.

'Long dry runs are a feature of that climate rather than an interruption of it.' That is the point the title of the passage turns on.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

7 **FALSE** · Paragraph 3.

'This is true, and in a wet year it is good advice.' What made it destructive was the combination with bare ground, no roots and a drought — not the principle.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

8 **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraphs 6 and 7.

The passage says the Service was established within weeks and then describes the measures that followed. What powers it was given, and whether any of them were compulsory, is never mentioned.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

9 FALSE · Paragraph 7.

'though the trees mattered less than the ploughing did'. It was the most visible programme, which is a different claim.

Mechanism B3 — Superlative moved to another dimension

Questions 10–13

10 thirty-eight / 38 / thirty eight · Paragraph 4.

'fourteen dust storms in 1932 and **thirty-eight** in 1933'. The first figure is handed to you in the stem; a hundred and thirty belongs to 1937.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

11 Atlantic · Paragraph 4.

'as far as Chicago, Washington and ships several hundred miles out in the **Atlantic**'. Two cities are named before the answer arrives, and neither of them is at sea.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

12 minutes · Paragraph 5.

'turned afternoon into darkness in a matter of **minutes**'. The date is given first in the sentence and the height in the middle; the question wants how quickly.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

13 pneumonia · Paragraph 5.

'producing a form of **pneumonia**'. Suffocating cattle appear in the same paragraph and are a different consequence of the same storm.

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

Questions 14–18

14 B · Section B.

'The observation could not count as evidence, because the theory had already classified it as an error.' Matching information does not run in text order.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

15 F · Section F.

'It did not prove what it is usually said to have proved.'

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

16 A · Section A.

'A condition that returns whenever treatment stops is behaving like something that was suppressed rather than removed, and that reading was available to anybody who wanted it.' Section B also describes a missed opportunity, but that one concerns an untested assumption rather than a clue in the treatment.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

17 E · Section E.

'it is worth noticing how close the whole thing came to being abandoned as unculturable'.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

18 G · Section G.

'most people carrying the organism never develop an ulcer, so it is necessary rather than sufficient'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 19–22

19 A · Section C.

Warren, from 1979: 'wherever they appeared the tissue underneath was inflamed while tissue without them was not'. Marshall joined two years later and is the better-known of the two, which is what makes B tempting.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

20 B · Section F.

1984, documented by biopsy.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

21 B · Section D.

'Barry Marshall, then a young physician looking for a research project, took the question up in 1981.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

22 A · Section C.

'Told repeatedly that he was looking at contamination, he went on photographing and recording for two years.' The objection was made to the pathologist who first saw the organism, not to the physician who joined him later.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 23–26

23 A · Sections B and D.

'a bacterium seen in a specimen of stomach lining was by definition a **contaminant**'. *Passenger* is the passage's word for the later and quite different objection, that the organism might be present without causing anything.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

24 B · Section D.

'which would make the bacterium a **passenger** rather than a cause'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

25 C · Section E.

'the breakthrough was an accident of the **calendar**'. *Holiday* names the particular occasion; the gap follows *accident of the*, which is the passage's own phrase.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

26 G · Section G.

'it is **necessary** rather than sufficient'. The gap takes the first of the pair, and the sentence in the summary supplies the second immediately afterwards.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 27–31

27 NO · Paragraph 6.

'None of which means everything should be a shed', and a genuinely fixed purpose should be built for properly. A concert hall 'cannot also be a swimming pool'.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 YES · Paragraph 8.

'Optimising for the known use is cheaper now, looks more competent now, and produces a better building on the day it opens.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 4.

Both appear in the same list of buildings that adapt well, and the passage gives no comparison of cost between any two of them.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

30 NO · Paragraph 5.

'the ones designed most carefully for a stated purpose, and this is not a coincidence but a consequence'. The care is the cause, not its absence.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

31 YES · Paragraph 6.

'to expect the building to be worth demolishing when the purpose goes, rather than to compromise it in the hope of a second life that will not arrive'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 32–35

32 A · Paragraph 3.

'the building cannot be re-serviced without major works'. This is the general form of the fault: a fast layer bound to a slow one.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

33 B · Paragraph 4.

'They adapt because nothing in them was optimised.' Ending E credits the architects, which is the reading the paragraph is written to block.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

34 C · Paragraph 5.

'each was an excellent solution to a problem that stopped existing'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

35 D · Paragraph 8.

'The cost arrives twenty years later, will be paid by somebody else, and will be described at the time as the building being old.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 36–40

36 B · Paragraph 2.

'The services ... wear out or become obsolete in seven to fifteen years.' Every other figure in the list belongs to a different layer, and they are given in one sentence each.

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

37 C · Paragraph 6.

'pretending otherwise produces the other failure, which is the flexible space that serves nothing well'. A, B and D are all positions the passage holds.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

38 B · Paragraph 4.

'Generous floor-to-ceiling heights left room for services nobody had imagined.' A turns an accident into a plan, which is precisely what the paragraph denies.

Mechanism B4 — Cause supplied by the reader

39 B · Paragraph 7.

'a decision to bind the layout to the frame should be recorded as what it is, which is a decision that this building will be adapted with a demolition contractor'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

40 A · Paragraph 7.

'It is a question that has to be asked layer by layer, and asked out loud: how long do we expect this use to last, and which layers are we prepared to fix to it?' B and C are the two positions the passage places itself between.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused