

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 29 — Forecasts, Counting and Questions

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	forty / 40	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
2	arrives	F4	Prose re-sorted into a table; column order $\neq$ passage order	Paragraph 2.
3	electricity	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
4	outrun	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
5	drums	A3	Category swap inside a pair the passage keeps apart	Paragraph 5.
6	Anglesey	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 4.
7	prophecy	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 5.
8	1879	A7	Time relation reversed	Paragraph 7.
9	barometer	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
10	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
11	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 8.
12	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 7.
13	FALSE	A6	Direction of change reversed	Paragraph 6.
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	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.
23	A	A5	Wrong agent for the action	Section B.
24	C	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section E.
25	B	C3	A conditional fact stated as universal	Section F.
26	B	B3	Superlative moved to another dimension	Section G.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 6.
28	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
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 3.
31	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
32	procedure	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
33	answer surveys	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 4.
34	moment	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
35	facts	F3	Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative	Paragraph 8.
36	observe	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
37	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 2.
38	B	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 1.
39	A	B1	Relation swap	Paragraph 4.
40	A	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraphs 6 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 1–5

1 **forty / 40** · Paragraph 2.

'travel at something between twenty and **forty** miles an hour'. The first figure is given in the stem.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

2 **arrives** · Paragraph 2.

'several hours before the weather itself **arrives** there'. The table takes its rows in a different order from the paragraph, so this has to be found rather than followed.

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

3 **electricity** · Paragraph 2.

'A telegram travels at the speed of **electricity**.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

4 **outrun** · Paragraph 2.

'Prediction became possible because information could be made to **outrun** the thing it described.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

5 **drums** · Paragraph 5.

'displayed as cones and **drums** hoisted on a mast'. Cones are handed to you in the stem, and the answer is the second item of the pair.

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

Questions 6–9

6 **Anglesey** · Paragraph 4.

'wrecked the steam clipper Royal Charter against the coast of **Anglesey**'. The Irish Sea is where the storm crossed, which is a larger area than the place of the wreck.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

7 **prophecy** · Paragraph 5.

'choosing the term deliberately over **prophecy**'. *Prediction* is the word the passage uses for the practice in general and is not the one he rejected.

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

8 **1879** · Paragraph 7.

'the daily forecasts came back in **1879**'. The storm warnings came back in 1867, which is the earlier of the two restorations and sits in the same sentence.

Mechanism A7 — Time relation reversed

9 **barometer** · Paragraph 6.

'designed a cheap **barometer** to be distributed to fishing ports'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 10–13

10 **TRUE** · Paragraph 3.

'He was not appointed to forecast anything. The department existed to compile statistics that would help a captain choose a route.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

11 **FALSE** · Paragraph 8.

'The fair assessment is not that his critics were fools. They were right that he had no theory and could not have had one.' The disagreement identified is about the standard demanded, not about the objection being unreasonable.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

12 **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraph 7.

The passage records that storm warnings returned in 1867 and daily forecasts in 1879. How many ports received them at any point is never given.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

13 **FALSE** · Paragraph 6.

They objected 'when a warning kept a vessel in harbour and the storm went elsewhere, because a day in port is a cost'. Their complaint was about warnings that proved unnecessary, which is the opposite direction.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

Questions 14–20

14 i · Section A.

The approximate sense 'does not depend on words' and is present in infants and in animals.

Heading ii reverses the relation the whole passage turns on.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

15 iii · Section B.

'the only measure available with a five-month-old, which is how long the baby looks'. Heading iv proposes a method that cannot be used at that age.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

16 v · Section C.

'It is a separate device, with its own signature limits, that arithmetic will later be attached to.'

Heading vi states the account Spelke's argument is set against.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

17 vii · Section D.

The distance and size effects, which 'persist in people who have been doing exact arithmetic for forty years'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

18 viii · Section E.

The Mundurukú: approximate comparison intact without the vocabulary, exact arithmetic unavailable without it.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

19 ix · Section F.

'It also explains a familiar difficulty in classrooms.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

20 x · Section G.

Weak replications, a thin measure carrying heavy interpretation, and inconsistent correlations.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 21–23

21 B · Section C.

Objects, agents, places and quantity, 'present before instruction and shared with other species'.

Wynn's experiment is the one being placed, and she is named in the section immediately before, which is what makes A tempting.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

22 C · Section D.

The distance and size effects.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

23 A · Section B.

The doll behind the screen, 1992. The Mundurukú study in Section E is the other experiment described in detail, and it is nobody's work in this list.

Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

Questions 24–26

24 C · Section E.

'when the answer required distinguishing six from seven they were at chance'. A, B and D are the things they did as well as the controls, stated in the sentence before.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

25 B · Section F.

'it indicates that a particular tool has not yet been fitted'. C is exactly what the same sentence denies, and A is contradicted by the section's own description of a child with a perfectly good sense of quantity.

Mechanism C3 — A conditional fact stated as universal

26 B · Section G.

'rests on correlations that are modest and inconsistent between studies'. A is named in the next sentence as what is solid.

Mechanism B3 — Superlative moved to another dimension

Questions 27–31

27 NO · Paragraph 6.

'Surveys are not worthless; they are worth different amounts for different questions', and the factual ones are 'the basis of most public statistics'.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 YES · Paragraph 5.

'This is not lying, and treating it as lying is how the finding gets misused.' The intention is 'sincerely held'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 4.

The fall in telephone response rates is given, and nothing at all is said about any other method of contacting people.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

30 NO · Paragraph 3.

'That is not a defect that better wording removes, because there is no neutral wording.'

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

31 YES · Paragraph 8.

'treat two surveys with different wordings as two instruments rather than as one result and one error'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 32–36

32 procedure · Paragraph 3.

'It runs a small **procedure** on them, and the result depends on the procedure.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

33 answer surveys · Paragraph 4.

'they are a sample of the population who **answer surveys**'. The gap is not asking who was contacted, which is the larger group named just before it.

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

34 moment · Paragraph 5.

'formed in a quiet moment under conditions that will not be present when the **moment** itself arrives'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

35 facts · Paragraph 8.

'Ask about **facts** wherever the fact will do.' The plural is what the sentence uses and what the grammar of the summary requires.

Mechanism F3 — Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative

36 observe · Paragraph 8.

'find a way to **observe** them doing something'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 37–40

37 B · Paragraph 2.

'The two questions are logically identical and the gap between the answers is more than twenty points.' A and D explain the gap away as an error, which is what the paragraph rules out by saying nothing about the respondents changed.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

38 B · Paragraph 1.

That is the defenders' assumption, named in the first paragraph and dismantled through the passage. A, C and D are all claims the writer makes.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

39 A · Paragraph 4.

'Weighting corrects for the characteristics the pollster can measure ... It cannot correct for the ones nobody has thought of.' B is precisely the dimension the passage says nobody can weight for.

Mechanism B1 — Relation swap

40 A · Paragraphs 6 and 8.

'they are worth different amounts for different questions, and the distinction is not subtle'. B and C go further than the passage, which keeps attitude questions provided the wording is reported with them, and D contradicts paragraph 6.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused