

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 30 — Type, Prions and Plain Words

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	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
2	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 1.
3	NOT GIVEN	B4	Cause supplied by the reader	Paragraph 1.
4	FALSE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
5	punch	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
6	matrix	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 3.
7	hand mould / mould	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
8	antimony	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraph 4.
9	expand	A6	Direction of change reversed	Paragraph 4.
10	beads	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
11	forty-two / 42 / forty two	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 6.
12	pieces	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
13	towns	A3	Category swap inside a pair the passage keeps apart	Paragraph 8.
14	D	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section D.
15	C	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section C.
16	E	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section E.
17	B	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section B.
18	G	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section G.
19	B	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Section B.
20	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section A.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
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21	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section C.
22	D	A5	Wrong agent for the action	Section F.
23	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section C.
24	C	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section E.
25	E	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section G.
26	H	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section G.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 6.
28	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
29	NO	B1	Relation swap	Paragraph 2.
30	NO	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 3.
31	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraphs 5 and 8.
32	NOT GIVEN	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraph 7.
33	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
34	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 3.
35	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
36	D	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
37	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 2.
38	B	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraphs 4 and 8.
39	B	E4	Minimal-pair options	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 TRUE · Paragraph 1.

'cast in metal in Korea before 1234, more than two hundred years before anybody in Mainz attempted it', and a Korean book printed from metal type in 1377 survives.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

2 FALSE · Paragraph 1.

'adapting one to push a sheet against an inked surface required no insight of any consequence'. The press is called the least original component.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

3 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 1.

The passage records that metal type had been cast in Korea and that Gutenberg worked in Mainz two centuries later. It never says whether he knew of it, and putting the two facts in one sentence does not connect them.

Mechanism B4 — Cause supplied by the reader

4 FALSE · Paragraph 7.

'Gutenberg did not profit from it.' Fust took the workshop, the type and the completed sheets, and Gutenberg ended with a small pension.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 5–9

5 punch · Paragraph 3.

'stamped by a hardened steel **punch** cut with the shape of the letter'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

6 matrix · Paragraph 3.

'closes around a copper **matrix**, which has itself been stamped by a hardened steel punch'. The mould is the box that closes around it, not the piece that carries the letter.

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

7 hand mould / mould · Paragraph 3.

'an adjustable **hand mould**: a two-part metal box'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

8 antimony · Paragraph 4.

'lead with tin and **antimony**'. The antimony is the ingredient that does the unusual work, described in the next sentence.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

9 expand · Paragraph 4.

'it makes the alloy **expand** very slightly as it solidifies'. Lead on its own shrinks, which the passage gives two sentences earlier as the fault being corrected, and reversing the direction is the easiest mark to lose here.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

Questions 10–13

10 beads · Paragraph 5.

'it gathers into **beads** and slides off'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

11 forty-two / 42 / forty two · Paragraph 6.

'a Bible set in **forty-two** lines to the column'. A hundred and eighty is the size of the edition and twelve hundred and eighty the number of pages, both in the same paragraph.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

12 pieces · Paragraph 6.

'something in the region of a hundred thousand individual **pieces**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

13 towns · Paragraph 8.

'presses were operating in around two hundred and fifty European **towns**'. Twenty-eight thousand counts editions, which is the other quantity in that sentence.

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

Questions 14–18

14 D · Section D.

'a purified fraction can always be argued to contain a virus that nobody has detected yet, which is an objection that cannot be answered by further purification.' Matching information does not run in text order.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

15 C · Section C.

Griffith's 1967 suggestion 'attracted almost no attention for fifteen years'.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

16 E · Section E.

'the body has no reason to attack a protein it makes itself'. Section A notes the absence of an immune response as part of the puzzle; the explanation of it comes here.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

17 B · Section B.

'That is a strong constraint arrived at without knowing anything about what the agent actually was.'

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

18 G · Section G.

Strains that breed true, in the absence of a genome.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 19–22

19 B · Section B.

The irradiation experiments of the mid-1960s. Prusiner is the name most associated with this subject and did the purification, but the radiation constraint is not his and he is not in the list.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

20 A · Section A.

Transmission to chimpanzees, which settled that kuru was infectious.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

21 C · Section C.

1967: a misfolded protein inducing the same misfolding in a normal copy.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

22 D · Section F.

The 1993 knockout mice, which could not be infected and did not fall ill.

Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

Questions 23–26

23 A · Section C.

'The information would be carried by a **shape**, and it would spread by contact rather than by replication.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

24 C · Section E.

'It was in the **host**'s own genome, in every healthy animal examined.' *Pathogen* is the word in the same sentence, and it is what the gene was *not* in.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

25 E · Section G.

'Prions come in **strains**, which breed true.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

26 H · Section G.

'the information sits in the details of the **folding** rather than in a sequence'. *Sequence* is offered because it closes the same sentence, as the thing the information is not in.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

Questions 27–32

27 NO · Paragraph 6.

'the confident demand that everything be written for everybody produces its own kind of damage'.
A paper for two hundred specialists 'can use their vocabulary without apology'.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 YES · Paragraph 1.

'The rules are not wrong and following them will improve most bad prose slightly.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NO · Paragraph 2.

'That is a reasonable way to grade a text after the fact ... and it is a disastrous way to guide the writing of one.' The passage assigns them the opposite purpose to the one stated.

Mechanism B1 — Relation swap

30 NO · Paragraph 3.

'incomprehensible in a way the expert cannot see and an outsider spots in a sentence'. The whole point of the curse of knowledge is that the omission is invisible from the inside.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

31 YES · Paragraphs 5 and 8.

'treat a sentence you cannot state plainly as a signal about your thinking rather than about your style'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

32 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 7.

The passage reports that rewriting has been tested and produced large, repeatable gains in comprehension. What any of it costs is never mentioned.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

Questions 33–36

33 A · Paragraph 2.

'The reader is now assembling the same unclear thought out of three fragments instead of one.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

34 B · Paragraph 3.

'The steps you crossed years ago are no longer visible to you as steps.' Ending E blames the words, which is the diagnosis the passage spends its length replacing.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

35 C · Paragraph 4.
'a sentence produced by somebody who has not settled which of three claims they are making'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

36 D · Paragraph 7.
'the improvements are large and repeatable'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 37–40

37 B · Paragraph 2.
'A readability formula counts syllables per word and words per sentence and turns them into a grade level.' C is the thing the passage says no formula can reach.
Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

38 B · Paragraphs 4 and 8.
The recommendation 'is not a list of words to avoid', and the larger source of difficulty is named as unresolved thinking. A, C and D are all positions the passage holds.
Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

39 B · Paragraph 5.
'The revision that follows is a decision, not a rewording.' A is named in the same sentence as what it is not.
Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

40 A · Paragraph 8.
The three clauses of the final paragraph. C is refused in paragraph 6, and B and D are the approaches the passage argues are beside the point.
Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused