

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 32 — Rivers, Ozone and Translation

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	outflow	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
2	cotton	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 2.
3	unlined	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
4	1987	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 4.
5	litre	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraph 5.
6	fourth / 4th	F2	Word limit decides which words are the answer	Paragraph 1.
7	fish species / species	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
8	pesticide	A3	Category swap inside a pair the passage keeps apart	Paragraph 6.
9	thirteen / 13	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 7.
10	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
11	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 2.
12	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 7.
13	FALSE	A6	Direction of change reversed	Paragraph 7.
14	B	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section B.
15	C	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section C.
16	D	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section D.
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	Sections A and F.
20	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section C.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
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21	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section F.
22	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section C.
23	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section A.
24	A	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section A.
25	F	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section B.
26	D	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section E.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 7.
28	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
29	NOT GIVEN	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraphs 5 and 8.
30	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 6.
31	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
32	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraphs 1 and 5.
33	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
34	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 2.
35	D	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
36	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
37	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 3.
38	C	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 4.
39	B	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 1–5**1 outflow** · Paragraph 1.

'It had no **outflow**.' A closed lake is a balance rather than a store, which is the point the paragraph is making.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

2 cotton · Paragraph 2.

'diverted both rivers to irrigate **cotton**'. Rice is not mentioned; the crop named throughout the passage is this one.

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

3 unlined · Paragraph 2.

'cut into sand and left **unlined**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

4 1987 · Paragraph 4.

'By **1987** the water had fallen far enough to split the sea in two.' 2014 is when the eastern half of the southern basin dried out completely, and 2005 is the dyke.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

5 litre · Paragraph 5.

'more than a hundred in places', following 'around ten grams a **litre**'. The unit is given once, early in the sentence, and the question asks for it after the second figure.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

Questions 6–9**6 fourth / 4th** · Paragraph 1.

'the **fourth**-largest lake on the planet'. Sixty-eight thousand square kilometres follows in the same sentence and is the area, not the rank.

Mechanism F2 — Word limit decides which words are the answer

7 fish species / species · Paragraph 5.

'All twenty-four native **fish species** disappeared from the southern basin.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

8 pesticide · Paragraph 6.

'mixed with decades of fertiliser and **pesticide** residue'. The passage names the pair in that order and the question asks for the second.

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

9 **thirteen** / 13 · Paragraph 7.

'a dyke about **thirteen** kilometres long'. Thirteen hundred and seventy-five belongs to the Karakum Canal, four paragraphs earlier.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

Questions 10–13

10 **TRUE** · Paragraph 3.

'the disappearance of the sea was set against the value of the cotton and judged to be worth it. Nobody was surprised.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

11 **FALSE** · Paragraph 2.

'The cotton succeeded ... The Soviet Union became one of the world's principal exporters of it.' The passage insists on this because an account in which the scheme simply failed leaves out why it was defended.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

12 **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraph 7.

The passage says fish returned and a fishing industry restarted. Where the catch goes is never mentioned — a fact sitting one step beyond the one you are given.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

13 **FALSE** · Paragraph 7.

'The level rose several metres within two years, faster than the engineers had projected.' The direction is reversed.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

Questions 14–18

14 B · Section B.

'This was not entirely unreasonable, and it is worth granting the point rather than treating everybody on that side as dishonest.' Matching information does not run in text order.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

15 C · Section C.

'it consisted of somebody declining to believe his own most comfortable explanation'.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

16 D · Section D.

'no model had produced anything like it, including the models built by the people who had predicted that CFCs would damage the ozone layer at all.' Section A sets out that prediction, but the point about its inadequacy is made here.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

17 E · Section E.

'Nobody had done anything improper', of the satellite processing that set low readings aside.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

18 G · Section G.

'most of the people who argued about it will not see the end of it'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 19–22

19 A · Sections A and E.

The 1974 argument, described as 'entirely theoretical'. Solomon also proposed a mechanism, which is what makes C tempting, but hers came after the hole had been measured and she went and measured it herself.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

20 B · Section C.

After twenty-five years in Antarctic conditions, 'which was the sensible conclusion'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

21 C · Section F.

Polar stratospheric clouds, on whose surfaces inactive chlorine is converted.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

22 B · Section C.

A Dobson spectrophotometer at Halley Bay from 1957. The long record is what made the change visible at all.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 23–26

23 C · Section A.

'are extremely **stable**, which is why they were adopted'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

24 A · Section A.

'The chlorine released is a **catalyst**, and a catalyst is not consumed.'

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

25 F · Section B.

'the calculation predicted a slow global **thinning** of a few per cent'. *Hole* is what was actually found, and the passage draws the distinction between the two in Section D.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

26 D · Section E.

'written with a **range** of plausible values built into it, and readings below that range were flagged as instrument error'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 27–32

27 NO · Paragraph 7.

'A new version made only because the previous one is old ... has nothing to offer beyond currency, and currency expires.'

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 YES · Paragraph 3.

The second standard position is called 'true in a way that makes no difference' — true, but not decisive for the practical question of which version to publish.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraphs 5 and 8.

The passage says a serious reader benefits from more than one and describes a shelf holding six versions. What most readers actually own is never stated.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

30 NO · Paragraph 6.

'Those that survive are frequently not the most accurate.' They are the ones that were slightly out of fashion on arrival, or that shaped the receiving language.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

31 YES · Paragraph 4.

'A joke that works by rhyme can be rendered accurately as a sentence that is no longer funny, which is faithful to the words and unfaithful to the text.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

32 NOT GIVEN · Paragraphs 1 and 5.

Poems and rhyming jokes are used as examples, and a version that reads 'as a document rather than a poem' is criticised. The passage never compares the difficulty of the two kinds of writing.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

Questions 33–36

33 A · Paragraph 1.

'the distance between it and its reader was already vast and has grown by a rounding error'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

34 B · Paragraph 2.

'A translation is written in the translator's present, and it addresses a reader assumed to be standing in the same place.' Ending G explains retranslation by scholarship, which the passage says is structural rather than a matter of skill.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

35 D · Paragraph 5.

'a version that reproduces the effect on the original audience may have to change the surface entirely'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

36 C · Paragraph 6.

'whose language was slightly out of fashion when they were made, so that they were never anchored to a present that could recede'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 37–40

37 B · Paragraph 3.

'The first is an unreachable ideal that produces bland prose when pursued.' A states the position the paragraph is dismantling.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

38 C · Paragraph 4.

'Anybody who says a translation is inaccurate without saying to what is not making a criticism.' A, B and D are all claims the passage makes.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

39 B · Paragraph 5.

'a reference every ancient reader recognised is a footnote to a modern one'. A is not stated; the passage says the surface may have to change, not that the reference is dropped.

Mechanism B1 — Relation swap

40 A · Paragraph 8.

Set out in the final paragraph. B is refused in the same paragraph, which says the newest is not automatically the one to buy.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused