

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 34 — Needlework, Exoplanets and Rules

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	linen	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 1.
2	intervals	F4	Prose re-sorted into a table; column order $\neq$ passage order	Paragraph 1.
3	third	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
4	weld	A3	Category swap inside a pair the passage keeps apart	Paragraph 2.
5	eight / 8	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 2.
6	mules	A3	Category swap inside a pair the passage keeps apart	Paragraph 3.
7	bands	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
8	quicksand	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
9	wagons	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
10	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
11	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 4.
12	NOT GIVEN	B4	Cause supplied by the reader	Paragraph 7.
13	FALSE	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 7.
14	G	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section G.
15	E	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section E.
16	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section B.
17	F	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section F.
18	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section A.
19	A	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Section B.
20	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section C.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
21	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section E.
22	B	A5	Wrong agent for the action	Section C.
23	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section A.
24	D	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section A.
25	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.
26	E	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section F.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 4.
28	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
29	NOT GIVEN	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraph 7.
30	NO	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 5.
31	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
32	NOT GIVEN	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraph 2.
33	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
34	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 4.
35	D	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
36	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
37	C	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 2.
38	B	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 6.
39	B	A6	Direction of change reversed	Paragraph 7.
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 linen** · Paragraph 1.

'a strip of bleached **linen** about sixty-eight metres long'. Wool is what is stitched onto it, and appears later in the same paragraph.

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

2 intervals · Paragraph 1.

'tacks the whole arrangement down with small stitches at **intervals**'. The table takes its rows in a different order from the paragraph, so the answer has to be found rather than followed.

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

3 third · Paragraph 1.

'uses perhaps a **third** of the wool that a solid stitch would need'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

4 weld · Paragraph 2.

'woad gives blue, madder gives red and terracotta, **weld** gives yellow'. Two of the three are handed to you in the stem and the third is the answer.

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

5 eight / 8 · Paragraph 2.

'the workshop produced **eight** shades in all'. Three is the number of plants, given at the start of the same sentence.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

Questions 6–9**6 mules** · Paragraph 3.

'two hundred and two horses and **mules**'. The two figures in the passage are written out in words, so neither can be given inside the word limit — which is why both are handed to you in the stem.

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

7 bands · Paragraph 3.

'in the narrow decorative **bands** above and below the main action'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

8 quicksand · Paragraph 6.

'rescuing two men from **quicksand** during the Breton campaign'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

- 9** **wagons** · Paragraph 8.
'requisitioned it as canvas for covering **wagons**'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 10–13

- 10** **TRUE** · Paragraph 2.
'Horses are worked in whatever colour suits the composition rather than the colour a horse would be.'
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 11** **FALSE** · Paragraph 4.
'No independent account gives him that role.'
Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed
- 12** **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraph 7.
'Whether this reflects quiet resistance or simple politeness is not decidable from the cloth, and confident readings in either direction go beyond what the evidence can carry.' The passage names the possibility and declines to settle it.
Mechanism B4 — Cause supplied by the reader
- 13** **FALSE** · Paragraph 7.
'the seams show, which makes it a better historical source than a piece of straightforward propaganda would have been'.
Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

Questions 14–18

14 G · Section G.

'The catalogue is therefore not a sample of what is out there; it is a sample of what these techniques can reach.' Matching information does not run in text order.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

15 E · Section E.

'Doubting an anomalous measurement is correct behaviour in almost every case, which is what makes this one uncomfortable.'

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

16 B · Section B.

'it did not feel like an answer to the question people were actually asking'. Section E also describes a result being set aside, but that one was set aside by the people who found it.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

17 F · Section F.

'by about one part in ten thousand for an Earth-sized planet'.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

18 A · Section A.

A planet shines by reflected light beside an object billions of times brighter, at a hair's breadth from it at our distance.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 19–22

19 A · Section B.

The pulsar, 1992. Theirs was the first confirmed detection, which is the fact the section says usually gets left out.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

20 B · Section C.

A Jupiter-mass planet in a four-day orbit around 51 Pegasi.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

21 C · Section E.

'They did not claim them ... They published cautiously, doubted themselves.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

22 B · Section C.

The wobble method: the star moves in a small circle and its light shifts. Campbell and Walker used the same technique, which is what makes C tempting, but the sentence describes the measurement that produced a claimed planet.

Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

Questions 23–26

23 A · Section A.

'a planet shines only by **reflected** light'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

24 D · Section A.

'the earliest catalogue was a catalogue of **extremes**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

25 B · Section D.

'planets can form where the theory allowed and then **migrate** inwards through the disc of gas they were born in'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

26 E · Section F.

'Its real contribution was **statistical** rather than a matter of individual discoveries.' *Sample* is the word the last section uses about the catalogue, and it belongs to the caution rather than to Kepler's contribution.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

Questions 27–32

27 NO · Paragraph 4.

'nobody thinks the pilots are incapable of judging when to stop chatting'. The rule exists because the judgement would be made under conditions that degrade it.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 YES · Paragraph 3.

'A rule is not only a constraint on the decider; it is a protection for them.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 7.

The passage argues that overrides should be recorded and explains what recording achieves. How many institutions actually do it is never stated.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

30 NO · Paragraph 5.

'The person applying it is often blamed for the absurdity, which is unfair, since following it was the whole of their job.'

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

31 YES · Paragraph 6.

'A system where anybody can override anything has a rule in name only, and reintroduces every pressure the rule was there to absorb.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

32 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 2.

The three conditions the passage gives are repetition, the cost of error and pressure on the decider. The size of the organisation is never among them and is not discussed.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

Questions 33–36

33 A · Paragraph 2.

'a rule is a fixed cost that is paid once and recovered over every instance'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

34 B · Paragraph 4.

'the judgement is being made under exactly the conditions that degrade it'. Ending F attributes the resistance to attitude, which paragraph 4 explicitly sets aside.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

- 35** D · Paragraph 5.
'everybody involved can see that the rule is producing an absurd result, and the rule does not care'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 36** C · Paragraph 7.
'which filters out the ones made from fatigue or pressure while allowing the ones made from a genuine feature of the case'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 37–40

- 37** C · Paragraph 2.
'The third is the position of the person deciding, and this is the one that is usually left out.' A and B are the two the passage lists before it.
Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph
- 38** B · Paragraph 6.
'the interesting question about any rule system is not the quality of the rules. It is the override.' A, C and D are all claims the passage makes.
Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused
- 39** B · Paragraph 7.
'cannot learn, and will drift further from the world every year while appearing to work perfectly'.
Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed
- 40** A · Paragraph 8.
'What it replaces is the general argument, which cannot be won, with four specific questions.' B and C are the two positions the passage places itself between.
Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused