

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 35 — Canals, Tolerance and Intervals

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	stumps	A3	Category swap inside a pair the passage keeps apart	Paragraph 3.
2	lever	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
3	mortar	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 4.
4	principle	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
5	clay	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
6	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
7	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 5.
8	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraphs 3 and 5.
9	FALSE	A6	Direction of change reversed	Paragraph 8.
10	eighty-three / 83 / eighty three	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraph 1.
11	seven / 7	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
12	weeks	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 7.
13	decade	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
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 B.
22	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.
23	D	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section E.
24	A	A5	Wrong agent for the action	Section C.
25	B	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Section E.
26	B	C3	A conditional fact stated as universal	Section G.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 4.
28	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
29	NOT GIVEN	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraph 5.
30	NO	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 3.
31	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
32	small	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
33	gap	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 3.
34	input	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
35	undirected attention	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
36	conditions	F3	Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative	Paragraph 5.
37	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 2.
38	C	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 3.
39	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	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 **stumps** · Paragraph 3.

'far worse, the **stumps**, which do not pull out'. Trees are the easier half of the problem and are named first in the same sentence.

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

2 **lever** · Paragraph 3.

'a large wheel on an axle with a cable and a **lever**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

3 **mortar** · Paragraph 4.

'**mortar** made in the ordinary way dissolves in it'. Cement is the material that had to be found; mortar is what fails.

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

4 **principle** · Paragraph 4.

'came home with the **principle** rather than the material'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

5 **clay** · Paragraph 5.

'a limestone containing enough **clay** that when burned and ground it produced a cement which hardened under water'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 6–9

6 **TRUE** · Paragraph 2.

'The scheme was widely regarded as absurd, and the objection was reasonable.' The longest existing canal in the country was about twenty-seven miles.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

7 **FALSE** · Paragraph 5.

'The commissioners used it in every lock on the canal and afterwards contested his royalties', and he died before the matter was resolved.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

8 **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraphs 3 and 5.

The passage says only that 'somebody in the contracting parties designed a machine', giving neither a name nor a patent. White's cement was patented two paragraphs later, which is the fact sitting beside this one and is not about the same invention.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

9 **FALSE** · Paragraph 8.

Cheap Great Lakes wheat 'undercut farms in New England, many of which were abandoned and are now woodland'.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

Questions 10–13

10 **eighty-three / 83 / eighty three** · Paragraph 1.

'five hundred and sixty-eight feet handled by **eighty-three** locks'. Three figures appear in that sentence and only one of them counts locks.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

11 **seven / 7** · Paragraph 2.

'some **seven** million dollars'. The federal government is named just before as the body that declined to fund it, which is what makes the sentence easy to read past.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

12 **weeks** · Paragraph 7.

'took about three **weeks**'. Eight or nine days is what it took afterwards, in the next sentence, and the passage gives the two periods in different units on purpose.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

13 **decade** · Paragraph 8.

'The tolls repaid the construction debt within about a **decade**.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 14–20

14 i · Section A.

'The answer turned out to require dismantling the question.' Heading ii states the outcome the section says did not happen.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

15 iii · Section B.

Medawar's embryos: 'The system had been taught what counted as itself.' Heading iv is the position Burnet's proposal replaced.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

16 v · Section C.

'One proposal accounted for the variety of the response and for the tolerance at the same time.' Heading vi inverts the counts.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

17 vii · Section D.

Tonegawa: variety generated by cutting and rejoining segments rather than by storing genes.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

18 viii · Section E.

The adjuvant: 'The adjuvant had been supplying that signal all along, which is why nobody could get a response without one.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

19 ix · Section F.

'It also changed the shape of the question.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

20 x · Section G.

The gut bacteria, the foetus, the tolerated parasite — 'The awkward cases had been visible all along.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 21–24

21 B · Section B.

The mouse experiment. Burnet made the prediction and is named in the sentence before, which is what makes A tempting; he did not run this experiment.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

22 C · Section D.

Cutting and rejoining the DNA of each developing cell, 1976.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

23 D · Section E.

The immunologist's dirty little secret, 1989.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

24 A · Section C.

Burnet's mechanism, which also accounted for tolerance. Tonegawa explained how the variety is generated, which is a different question from how it is distributed among cells.

Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

Questions 25–26

25 B · Section E.

'It waits for a signal from an older system, which recognises molecular patterns common to whole classes of microbe.' A is precisely what the section says is not sufficient.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

26 B · Section G.

'the original distinction was a good approximation, that it has been replaced by a set of overlapping mechanisms'. A overstates it into a rejection the passage declines to make.

Mechanism C3 — A conditional fact stated as universal

Questions 27–31

27 NO · Paragraph 4.

'Boredom is one route into that state and a poor one', and walking, repetitive work and a long journey produce the same effect without it.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 YES · Paragraph 7.

'most of what is said in defence of boredom is nostalgia dressed as psychology, and ... the intervals in question were never as productive as they are now remembered'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 5.

Children appear once, in a remark about the advice given to parents. No comparison between children and adults is made anywhere.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

30 NO · Paragraph 3.

'The telephone did not abolish boredom; boredom is a feeling and it is available at any moment. What the device abolished is the gap.'

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

31 YES · Paragraph 6.

'they occur in the intervals rather than in the sessions set aside for thinking'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 32–36

32 small · Paragraph 2.

'the effect was real and **small**'. The passage grants the finding and refuses the weight usually put on it.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

33 gap · Paragraph 3.

'What the device abolished is the **gap**'.

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

34 input · Paragraph 3.

'they were unstructured and had no **input** arriving'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

35 undirected attention · Paragraph 4.

'What appears to matter is **undirected attention**, a state in which nothing external is setting the agenda.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

36 conditions · Paragraph 5.

'The instruction is aimed at the feeling rather than at the **conditions**, and the conditions are the part that can actually be arranged.'

Mechanism F3 — Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative

Questions 37–40

37 B · Paragraph 2.

'anybody who has been bored in a waiting room can supply the counter-example themselves'. C names the research described in the sentence before, which is not what the waiting room is doing there.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

38 C · Paragraph 3.

'Those intervals were not valuable because they were unpleasant. They were valuable because they were unstructured.' A, B and D are all claims the passage makes.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

39 B · Paragraph 5.

'very often said by an adult who has a phone in their pocket and no intention of putting it down'. A is contradicted by the paragraph, which calls the advice ineffective.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

40 A · Paragraph 8.

'Protect intervals in which no input is arriving, by whatever means suits the person, and do not require them to be uncomfortable.' B is the advice paragraph 5 calls ineffective, and D is ruled out in paragraph 6.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused