

# Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 36 — Lamps, Neurons and Apologies

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**Mark your answer sheet before you read this**

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## 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  | engine-wright / engine wright | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                                    | Paragraph 2.           |
| 2  | Royal Institution             | D1   | Statement moved from another paragraph                          | Paragraph 3.           |
| 3  | gas / firedamp                | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                                    | Paragraph 2.           |
| 4  | tubes                         | A3   | Category swap inside a pair the passage keeps apart             | Paragraph 2.           |
| 5  | gauze                         | F4   | Prose re-sorted into a table; column order $\neq$ passage order | Paragraph 3.           |
| 6  | ninety-two / 92 / ninety two  | A1   | Quantity re-attached to another noun                            | Paragraph 1.           |
| 7  | cap                           | E1   | Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy         | Paragraph 3.           |
| 8  | two thousand / 2,000 / 2000   | E2   | Answer sits after its own distractor                            | Paragraph 4.           |
| 9  | air                           | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                                    | Paragraph 7.           |
| 10 | TRUE                          | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                                    | Paragraph 2.           |
| 11 | FALSE                         | C1   | Overstatement — hedge removed                                   | Paragraph 6.           |
| 12 | NOT GIVEN                     | B3   | Superlative moved to another dimension                          | Paragraphs 2, 3 and 5. |
| 13 | FALSE                         | C2   | The extreme version the writer explicitly refused               | Paragraph 8.           |
| 14 | F                             | F1   | Answers out of order + repeats allowed                          | Section F.             |
| 15 | C                             | F1   | Answers out of order + repeats allowed                          | Section C.             |
| 16 | B                             | D1   | Statement moved from another paragraph                          | Section B.             |
| 17 | G                             | F1   | Answers out of order + repeats allowed                          | Section G.             |
| 18 | D                             | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                                    | Section D.             |
| 19 | A                             | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                                    | Section A.             |

|    |   |    |                                                |            |
|----|---|----|------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 20 | B | D2 | Intermediate actor named beside the originator | Section B. |
|----|---|----|------------------------------------------------|------------|

| Q  | Answer    | Code | Mechanism                                         | Where               |
|----|-----------|------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 21 | C         | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                      | Section D.          |
| 22 | A         | A5   | Wrong agent for the action                        | Section A.          |
| 23 | B         | E4   | Minimal-pair options                              | Section A.          |
| 24 | C         | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                      | Section D.          |
| 25 | E         | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                      | Section E.          |
| 26 | G         | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                      | Section G.          |
| 27 | NO        | C2   | The extreme version the writer explicitly refused | Paragraph 7.        |
| 28 | YES       | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                      | Paragraph 2.        |
| 29 | NOT GIVEN | A2   | Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier | Paragraph 4.        |
| 30 | NO        | C1   | Overstatement — hedge removed                     | Paragraph 8.        |
| 31 | YES       | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                      | Paragraph 5.        |
| 32 | NOT GIVEN | A2   | Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier | Paragraphs 2 and 6. |
| 33 | A         | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                      | Paragraph 3.        |
| 34 | B         | E4   | Minimal-pair options                              | Paragraph 3.        |
| 35 | C         | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                      | Paragraph 5.        |
| 36 | D         | R    | Straight retrieval — no trap                      | Paragraph 6.        |
| 37 | B         | D1   | Statement moved from another paragraph            | Paragraph 2.        |
| 38 | B         | C2   | The extreme version the writer explicitly refused | Paragraph 3.        |
| 39 | A         | A6   | Direction of change reversed                      | Paragraph 4.        |

|    |   |    |                                                   |              |
|----|---|----|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 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 **engine-wright / engine wright** · Paragraph 2.

'George Stephenson was an **engine-wright** at Killingworth colliery'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

- 2 **Royal Institution** · Paragraph 3.

'Humphry Davy, at the **Royal Institution** in London'. The Royal Society appears two paragraphs later, in the passage about his standing, and is a different body.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

- 3 **gas / firedamp** · Paragraph 2.

'carried them into workings known to contain **gas**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

- 4 **tubes** · Paragraph 2.

'admitted air through narrow **tubes**'. Davy's answer was a mesh, which belongs in the other column.

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

- 5 **gauze** · Paragraph 3.

'A cylinder of **gauze** around the flame'. The table re-sorts the paragraphs, so this sits one row below its own paragraph.

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

## Questions 6–9

- 6 **ninety-two / 92 / ninety two** · Paragraph 1.

'killed **ninety-two** people'. Eight and nine are the ages of two of them, given in the same sentence.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

- 7 **cap** · Paragraph 3.

'the height of the blue **cap** that appears above the flame'. The flame itself is what the cap sits above and is named in the same clause.

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

- 8 **two thousand / 2,000 / 2000** · Paragraph 4.

'awarded Davy **two thousand** pounds'. Stephenson's hundred, later raised to a thousand, follows in the next two sentences.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

**9**     **air** · Paragraph 7.

'in a strong current of **air** ... the flame can be driven through the mesh'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

### Questions 10–13

**10**    **TRUE** · Paragraph 2.

'He arrived at the right principle without being able to say why it worked.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**11**    **FALSE** · Paragraph 6.

'The reason is not a defect in the device.' Owners worked seams that had been left alone, so exposure rose faster than risk per man-hour fell.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

**12**    **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraphs 2, 3 and 5.

The passage says the lamp was adopted across the coalfields within a few years, and describes both designs, but never compares how much each of the two was used.

Mechanism B3 — Superlative moved to another dimension

**13**    **FALSE** · Paragraph 8.

'the lamp remained in use as a gas detector long after electric lighting replaced it as a light'.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

**Questions 14–18**

**14** F · Section F.

'neither has been withdrawn, and neither group has conceded'. Matching information does not run in text order.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

**15** C · Section C.

'the evidence does not have to be answered at all, because it can be classified as an error before anybody looks at it'.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

**16** B · Section B.

'Cells that never divide again stay unlabelled, which is what makes the method a test of when a cell was born.' Section E describes a later use of a similar compound in people, which is a different point.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

**17** G · Section G.

'it turns on technical questions that are genuinely hard rather than on anybody being careless'.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

**18** D · Section D.

The canaries: song regions growing in spring and shrinking afterwards, on a schedule.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**Questions 19–22**

**19** A · Section A.

'the pathways are fixed and finished and immutable; everything may die, nothing may be regenerated'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**20** B · Section B.

Altman, whose work 'was not refuted' and 'was not taken up either'. Kaplan met the same response a decade later but is not in this list.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

**21** C · Section D.

Male canaries learning a fresh song each breeding season.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**22** A · Section A.

'who had established more than anybody that the nervous system is made of separate cells'. The same person is responsible for the finding and for the assumption that then blocked another one.

Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

### Questions 23–26

**23** B · Section A.

'It was a reasonable **conclusion** from what could be seen, and it became something stronger than a conclusion.' *Assumption* is what it became, which is the following clause.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

**24** C · Section D.

'the anatomy and the behaviour moved together and on a **schedule**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**25** E · Section E.

'so that the growth of their **tumours** could be tracked'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**26** G · Section G.

'The disagreement is not about whether the phenomenon exists in **rodents**, where it is not seriously disputed.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**Questions 27–32**

**27** NO · Paragraph 7.

'the words are not nothing, and treating them as pure theatre is its own kind of error'. People frequently say that being addressed directly mattered to them.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

**28** YES · Paragraph 2.

'The usual explanation is cowardice, or lawyers, and both contribute.' The passage then argues that a deeper reason lies underneath.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**29** NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 4.

The passage says several jurisdictions passed laws and that hospitals began such programmes, and reports what happened in the systems that have been studied. How widespread the practice is now is never stated.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

**30** NO · Paragraph 8.

'the test is straightforward and it does not require anyone to judge sincerity, which is unknowable in any case'.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

**31** YES · Paragraph 5.

'A great many people who sue an institution are not primarily seeking money. They are seeking an account of what happened, an acknowledgement ... and an assurance.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**32** NOT GIVEN · Paragraphs 2 and 6.

The passage contrasts what an individual apology does with what an institution can do, and says the institution can deliver the parts an individual can only promise. It never ranks the two across situations.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

**Questions 33–36**

**33** A · Paragraph 3.

'an agentless passive because no agent can be named without exposing an individual'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**34** B · Paragraph 3.

'a promise about the future because the future is the only part the institution can commit'. Ending A explains a different feature of the same sentence, which is what makes it a live distractor.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

**35** C · Paragraph 5.

'litigation is the only mechanism they have been offered for extracting any of the three'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

**36** D · Paragraph 6.

'These are all things a person apologising can only promise, and they are the parts that were doing the work.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

### Questions 37–40

**37** B · Paragraph 2.

'That cost is what makes it worth anything, because a signal that is expensive to send cannot be faked cheaply.' A is what paragraph 8 says cannot be judged at all.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

**38** B · Paragraph 3.

'It is not a failed attempt at a real apology; it is a different object wearing the same clothes.' A, C and D are all claims the passage makes.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

**39** A · Paragraph 4.

'Claims did not rise. In the systems that have been studied, the number of claims and the total paid out both fell.' B keeps half the result and reverses the other half.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

**40** A · Paragraph 8.

The three questions of the final paragraph. B is ruled out in the same paragraph, which says sincerity is unknowable.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused