

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 38 — Pallets, Traditions and Deadlines

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	forty / 40	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
2	container	F4	Prose re-sorted into a table; column order ≠ passage order	Paragraph 5.
3	eight hundred / 800	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
4	space	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
5	railways	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 4.
6	shape	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
7	six / 6	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraph 4.
8	full	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
9	colour / color	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
10	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
11	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 3.
12	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 7.
13	FALSE	A6	Direction of change reversed	Paragraph 8.
14	C	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section C.
15	F	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section F.
16	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section B.
17	A	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Section A.
18	G	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section G.
19	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section A.
20	B	A3	Category swap inside a pair the passage keeps apart	Section D.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
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21	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section E.
22	A	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Sections A and B.
23	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Sections A and B.
24	E	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section E.
25	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section F.
26	F	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section G.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 1.
28	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
29	NOT GIVEN	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Throughout.
30	NO	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 2.
31	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
32	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 3.
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 6.
37	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 5.
38	C	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 7.
39	B	A5	Wrong agent for the action	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** **forty / 40** · Paragraph 4.
'a platform forty-eight inches by **forty**'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 2** **container** · Paragraph 5.
'The internal width of a standard shipping **container** was fixed by an American design and suits the American pallet.' The table re-sorts the passage, so this sits a paragraph below its own row.
Mechanism F4 — Prose re-sorted into a table; column order ≠ passage order
- 3** **eight hundred / 800** · Paragraph 4.
'twelve hundred millimetres by **eight hundred**'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 4** **space** · Paragraph 5.
'carries measurable empty **space**, on every voyage'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 5** **railways** · Paragraph 4.
'about eleven hundred and sixty-five millimetres on a side, inherited from its **railways**'.
Mechanism E1 — Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy

Questions 6–9

- 6** **shape** · Paragraph 2.
'convert a hundred separate objects into one object with a defined **shape**'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 7** **six / 6** · Paragraph 4.
'The international standards body recognises **six** sizes.' The three regional figures quoted just before are dimensions, not a count.
Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun
- 8** **full** · Paragraph 7.
'handing over as many empty platforms as arrive **full**'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap
- 9** **colour / color** · Paragraph 7.
'paints them a distinctive **colour** so that one can be recognised anywhere in the world'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 10–13

10 TRUE · Paragraph 2.

'neither the truck nor the platform is much use without the other, so the two spread together, each one making the other worth buying'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

11 FALSE · Paragraph 3.

'The difficulty was never the wooden platform.' It was getting the forks, the racking, the lorry bed and the container to agree on one number.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

12 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 7.

The passage says pool companies hire platforms out by the movement rather than selling them. No price is given for either arrangement and no comparison is made.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

13 FALSE · Paragraph 8.

'There is an entire trade in collecting damaged ones, replacing boards and returning them to circulation', and most are repaired several times before being broken up.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

Questions 14–18

14 C · Section C.

The addition made in the 1970s, which 'was invented, traced back, and found to rest on nothing'.
Matching information does not run in text order.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

15 F · Section F.

'That is a conclusion arrived at by elimination, and elimination is only as good as the list of things eliminated.'

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

16 B · Section B.

'A rediscovered trick spreads at random. A copied one spreads along the lines of who spends time with whom.' Section A raises the pattern of spread as the valuable part; the contrast itself is drawn here.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

17 A · Section A.

Separating wheat from sand by throwing a handful into the water.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

18 G · Section G.

'removed one animal from each, taught it a different method ... returned it to its own group'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 19–22

19 A · Section A.

'observing the troop since 1948 and knew every animal in it by sight', which is what allowed the spread to be traced animal by animal.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

20 B · Section D.

Stripping the leaves from a twig to fish for termites — 'That is not tool use, which had been reported before; it is tool making.'

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

21 C · Section E.

'pooled the long-term records from seven field sites'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

22 A · Sections A and B.

The spread from the young female to her playmates and mother, then the juveniles, then incompletely to the adult males. Whiten's group counted whether a behaviour was present or absent at a site, which is a different kind of record.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

Questions 23–26

23 A · Sections A and B.

'It did not spread at **random**', and a rediscovered trick would.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

24 E · Section E.

'the animals had the same physical **capacities** and the same materials available to them'. *Materials* is the second half of that pair and belongs to the environment rather than the animal.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

25 C · Section F.

'It defines a cultural variant by **exclusion**: not genetic, not ecological, and therefore social.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

26 F · Section G.

'What closed the gap was doing it **deliberately**.' *Captive* describes the groups used and not what was done to close the gap.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

Questions 27–32

27 NO · Paragraph 1.

'Both treat the deadline as a device for making somebody hurry, and both are describing a side effect rather than the thing itself. What a deadline principally does is end a task.'

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 YES · Paragraph 7.

'Work that never ends is not a neutral state. It occupies the person indefinitely, prevents anything else from starting.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NOT GIVEN · Throughout.

The passage divides work by whether it has a natural end or a minimum length. No comparison between professions is made anywhere.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

30 NO · Paragraph 2.

'usually delivered as a remark about laziness when it is a remark about the absence of a stopping rule'.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

31 YES · Paragraph 6.

'what a deadline does to the shape of the work rather than to its quality ... it is executed rather than explored'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

32 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 3.

The passage reports the three conditions and how each group performed. What the students were afterwards told is never mentioned.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

Questions 33–36

33 A · Paragraph 2.

'there is nothing inside the work that announces the point at which further effort stops being worth it'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

34 B · Paragraph 3.

'which suggests that knowing what you need and being held to it are separate problems'. Ending E attributes the gap to character, which is the reading paragraph 2 rules out.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

35 C · Paragraph 4.

'pushing on these does not compress them, it only converts the schedule into a decision to do less of the thing'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

36 D · Paragraph 6.

'the first workable idea is taken because there is no room for a second'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 37–40

37 B · Paragraph 5.

'Almost all the damage attributed to deadlines comes from applying one instrument to both kinds of work.' C describes a pattern the passage reports without blaming it for the damage.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

38 C · Paragraph 7.

'The choice presented in these arguments, between a deadline and unhurried excellence, is rarely the choice anybody actually has.' A, B and D are all claims the passage makes.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

39 B · Paragraph 4.

'the version done in three days is shorter and rougher but exists'. A is denied in the same clause.

Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

40 A · Paragraph 8.

'the useful reform is a distinction rather than a policy'. C performed worse than imposed dates in the study, and D is refused in paragraph 7.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused