

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 39 — Tulips, Distances and Novelty

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	dormant	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
2	winter	A3	Category swap inside a pair the passage keeps apart	Paragraph 4.
3	virus	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
4	sickest	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 5.
5	bids	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
6	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
7	FALSE	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 7.
8	NOT GIVEN	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 2.
9	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 6.
10	1841	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 2.
11	hundred	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
12	percentage	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
13	fifty / 50	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraph 7.
14	i	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section A.
15	iii	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section B.
16	v	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section C.
17	vi	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section D.
18	vii	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section E.
19	viii	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section F.
20	ix	E4	Minimal-pair options	Section G.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
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21	C	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Sections D and E.
22	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section B.
23	D	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Section F.
24	B	A5	Wrong agent for the action	Section D.
25	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Section B.
26	B	C3	A conditional fact stated as universal	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 3.
30	NO	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 4.
31	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
32	unconnected	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
33	original	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
34	joint	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 5.
35	uninformed	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
36	believe	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
37	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 2.
38	B	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 4.
39	A	A6	Direction of change reversed	Paragraph 5.
40	A	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraphs 7 and 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 **dormant** · Paragraph 4.

'A tulip bulb can only be lifted and moved in summer, when the plant is **dormant**.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

2 **winter** · Paragraph 4.

'Trading, however, went on through the **winter**.' Summer is when the bulb can move, which is the step above.

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

3 **virus** · Paragraph 5.

'They were produced by a **virus**, carried between plants by aphids.' The aphids are the carrier and are named in the same clause.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

4 **sickest** · Paragraph 5.

'the most valuable plants were the **sickest** and the slowest to multiply'.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

5 **bids** · Paragraph 6.

'at an auction in Haarlem at which no **bids** were made'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 6–9

6 **TRUE** · Paragraph 2.

'a set of pamphlets printed in 1637 by people who disapproved of the trade. Those pamphlets were satires.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

7 **FALSE** · Paragraph 7.

'None of this means the episode was invented. Prices did rise to absurd levels, they did collapse.' What is corrected is the scale and the consequences.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

8 **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraph 2.

The passage records what he drew on and what those documents were. Whether he understood their character is never stated.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

9 FALSE · Paragraph 6.

'The courts declined to enforce the contracts, treating them as gambling debts rather than sales.'

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

Questions 10–13

10 1841 · Paragraph 2.

'a book published in **1841** by a Scottish journalist'. 1637 is the year of the pamphlets and of the collapse, and appears three times in the passage.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

11 hundred · Paragraph 3.

'the trade involved a few **hundred** people rather than a nation'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

12 percentage · Paragraph 6.

'settled, city by city, at a small **percentage** of the agreed price'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

13 fifty / 50 · Paragraph 7.

'went on being the most successful in Europe for another **fifty** years'. Two centuries measures how long the pamphlets were read as reports, in a different paragraph.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

Questions 14–20

14 i · Section A.

'nothing about the point itself distinguishes the two', and angles tell you nothing about depth. Heading ii states the opposite of the section's problem.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

15 iii · Section B.

Leavitt was 'hired to measure and catalogue photographic plates ... on tasks assigned to her'. Heading iv describes the role the passage says she was not given.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

16 v · Section C.

How the relation converts a period into a distance, and 'Leavitt did not use it herself'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

17 vi · Section D.

'A velocity without a distance is a number without a picture.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

18 vii · Section E.

'The spirals were not clouds within the Milky Way; they were other galaxies.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

19 viii · Section F.

Lemaître's 1927 paper, in French, in a journal with a small readership.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

20 ix · Section G.

He removed the passage himself because Hubble's measurements were by then better. Heading x is the reading the section exists to correct.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

Questions 21–24

21 C · Sections D and E.

By finding one of Leavitt's stars in Andromeda and applying her relation. Slipher measured those same objects for years without being able to say what they were, which is what makes B tempting.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

22 A · Section B.

Published 1912, from over a thousand stars in the Magellanic Clouds.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

23 **D** · Section F.
1927, from general relativity, with an estimate of the rate.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

24 **B** · Section D.
Over twenty of them by 1917, at the limit of what his instrument could do.
Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

Questions 25–26

25 **B** · Section B.
'Because all the stars in that cloud are at roughly the same distance from us, their apparent brightnesses could be compared directly.' D is what the relation shows varies between them.
Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

26 **B** · Section G.
'he had removed the passage himself, on the ground that Hubble's measurements were by then better than his own'. A and D are the readings the correspondence rules out.
Mechanism C3 — A conditional fact stated as universal

Questions 27–31

27 NO · Paragraph 7.

'genuine novelty exists, that it is the most valuable thing there is, and that no reform should pretend otherwise'. The objection is to novelty as a gate rather than as an outcome.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 YES · Paragraph 2.

'Any question that nobody has asked can be asked', and a researcher judged on novelty has a reliable route available.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 3.

The passage says the consequence has been visible across several disciplines. It never compares them or says any needs it more.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

30 NO · Paragraph 4.

'This is unhelpful in a different direction. It is true in a trivial sense and false in the sense that matters.'

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

31 YES · Paragraph 6.

'The reason to know a literature thoroughly is that this is the only way to see where it is thin. Novelty is what you notice at the end of that process.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 32–36

32 **unconnected** · Paragraph 2.

'it is **unconnected** to anything, so that it will be cited by nobody'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

33 **original** · Paragraph 3.

'a replication is by definition not **original**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

34 **joint** · Paragraph 5.

'the productive unit is not a new idea but a new **joint**'. The examples that follow are all pairings rather than inventions.

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

35 **uninformed** · Paragraph 6.
'produces work that is unprecedented because it is **uninformed**'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

36 **believe** · Paragraph 8.
'ask whether it changes what the reader should now **believe**'.
Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 37–40

37 **B** · Paragraph 2.
'the reason most of them have not been asked is that the answer would not be worth having'. C names a body the passage says rewards novelty rather than forbidding it.
Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

38 **B** · Paragraph 4.
Paragraph 4 calls it 'true in a trivial sense and false in the sense that matters'. A, C and D are all positions the passage holds.
Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

39 **A** · Paragraph 5.
'frequently described as unoriginal by those who assume that novelty must be visible in the components rather than in the arrangement'. B reverses the passage, which says the work requires knowing both sides well.
Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

40 **A** · Paragraphs 7 and 8.
The three clauses of the final paragraph. B goes further than the passage, which keeps novelty as an outcome and objects only to it as a gate.
Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused