

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 41 — Grids, Resistance and Practice

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	parade ground	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
2	rivers	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 4.
3	Broadway	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
4	pipes	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 6.
5	convenient	F3	Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative	Paragraph 5.
6	TRUE	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 1.
7	FALSE	A5	Wrong agent for the action	Paragraph 2.
8	NOT GIVEN	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
9	FALSE	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 6.
10	four years	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
11	1857	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 4.
12	triangular	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
13	coordinates	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
14	viii	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph A.
15	vii	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph B.
16	iii	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph C.
17	i	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph D.
18	iv	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph E.
19	v	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph F.
20	vi	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph G.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
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21	A	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph B.
22	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph D.
23	D	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Paragraph F.
24	C	A5	Wrong agent for the action	Paragraph E.
25	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph D.
26	B	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph G.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 2.
28	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
29	NOT GIVEN	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraphs 5 and 8.
30	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
31	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 7.
32	NOT GIVEN	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraphs 5 and 6.
33	deliberately	F3	Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative	Paragraph 3.
34	attention	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
35	adjusted	F3	Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative	Paragraph 4.
36	reliability	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 5.
37	B	A6	Direction of change reversed	Paragraph 1.
38	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 6.
39	B	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 5.
40	B	B1	Relation swap	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 **parade ground** · Paragraph 4.

'The plan set aside a **parade ground** and a few small squares and nothing else.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

2 **rivers** · Paragraph 4.

'the **rivers** on either side would supply the air and the openness that parks provide elsewhere'.

Provide here stands for the passage's *supply*.

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

3 **Broadway** · Paragraph 7.

'Broadway ran diagonally across the island before the plan existed ... and it was left in place.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

4 **pipes** · Paragraph 6.

'hills were cut down, valleys filled and watercourses buried in **pipes**'. The answer is the last item in a list of three, and the two operations named before it are what a quick scan lands on.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

5 **convenient** · Paragraph 5.

'straight-sided and right-angled houses are the cheapest to build and the most **convenient** to live in'. The slot needs an adjective; *convenience* would not fit after *the most*.

Mechanism F3 — Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative

Questions 6–9

6 **TRUE** · Paragraph 1.

'The commissioners were given four years and no obligation to consult anybody.' *Requirement for obligation, seek anybody's opinion for consult anybody*.

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

7 **FALSE** · Paragraph 2.

'The survey was the work of John Randel ... He had to fix the position of every future intersection.' The action is in the passage; the person carrying it out is not the one named here.

Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

8 **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraph 2.

The passage says how long the survey took, how many markers he placed and how landowners treated him. What he was paid is never mentioned.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

9 **FALSE** · Paragraph 6.

'A few features were too large to remove and survive as anomalies.' Remove the word *every* and the statement would be roughly true, which is what makes it worth putting there.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

Questions 10–13

10 **four years** · Paragraph 1.

'The commissioners were given **four years** and no obligation to consult anybody.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

11 **1857** · Paragraph 4.

'Central Park was laid out four decades later, between 1853 and **1857**.' The sentence hands you 1853 first, and the question has already used it.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

12 **triangular** · Paragraph 7.

'Where it crosses the avenues it produces the **triangular** open spaces that the plan itself did not provide.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

13 **coordinates** · Paragraph 8.

'an address in Manhattan is a pair of **coordinates**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 14–20

14 **viii** · Paragraph A.

'Every part of that account is true except the last clause of the first sentence.' One clause is wrong, not the account — which is the whole difference between viii and ix.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

15 **vii** · Paragraph B.

Abraham and Chain reported the enzyme in 1940: 'Penicillin had at that point been given to no patient at all.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

16 **iii** · Paragraph C.

'antibiotics are not human inventions. They are weapons made by microbes.' x is about manufacture, which this paragraph never discusses.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

17 **i** · Paragraph D.

'some resisted drugs that no soil organism could have met, because they were synthetic compounds made in a laboratory'. ii says the opposite of the paragraph's point and is placed directly beside i for that reason.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

18 **iv** · Paragraph E.

'in chambers that water takes millions of years to reach and that no human had entered before the 1980s'. This paragraph gives isolation; v, the neighbouring option, gives a date, and that is the next paragraph.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

19 **v** · Paragraph F.

'sediments dated to about thirty thousand years ago'. The date is what this paragraph adds and what E could not supply.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

20 **vi** · Paragraph G.

'None of this makes the way we use antibiotics harmless, and the finding has been quoted to suggest that it does.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 21–24

21 A · Paragraph B.

'In 1940 Edward Abraham and Ernst Chain ... reported an enzyme ... that destroyed penicillin. Penicillin had at that point been given to no patient at all.'

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

22 B · Paragraph D.

'some resisted drugs that no soil organism could have met, because they were synthetic compounds made in a laboratory'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

23 D · Paragraph F

'A team working with Hendrik Poinar recovered genetic material from Yukon permafrost sediments.' The passage names him alongside a team, and the team is the tempting answer only if you are looking for a person who is not on the list.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

24 C · Paragraph E.

'Hazel Barton, a microbiologist who works underground, **collected** them.' Wright appears in the same paragraph, but what his laboratory did was test them afterwards.

Mechanism A5 — Wrong agent for the action

Questions 25–26

25 B · Paragraph D.

'A pump that removes a broad class of foreign compounds from a cell does not need to have been shaped by any particular one of them.' D is a true statement lifted from the paragraph before, where it is made about natural antibiotics rather than synthetic ones.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

26 B · Paragraph G.

'It tells you that resistance can be slowed and cannot be eliminated.' A is the misreading the paragraph was written to block: 'the finding has been quoted to suggest that it does'.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

Questions 27–32

27 NO · Paragraph 2.

That is the second of the two explanations paragraph 2 rejects: it 'cannot explain the people who break out of it, often late, and often after changing how they work rather than how hard'.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 YES · Paragraph 7.

'Automaticity is not a defect to be trained away. Nobody could drive, operate or teach while deliberating over every component.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraphs 5 and 8.

The passage says the practice is exhausting and cannot be sustained all day, and that it must be arranged separately. Who arranges or funds it is never raised.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

30 YES · Paragraph 6.

'the person is working hard, is experienced and is not improving, and the reason is not effort or ability but a missing signal'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

31 NO · Paragraph 7.

'treating every task as an occasion for self-improvement is a good way to do the task badly. Most of what anybody does should run on rails.' The concession paragraph exists to refuse exactly this.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

32 NOT GIVEN · Paragraphs 5 and 6.

Both groups appear, one as an example of where the pattern was documented and the other as an example of missing feedback. They are never compared as subjects of study.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 33–36

33 **deliberately** · Paragraph 3.

'a skill is assembled **deliberately**'. The slot needs the adverb; *deliberate* would not fit after *put together*.

Mechanism F3 — Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative

34 **attention** · Paragraph 3.

'the attention it used to consume is released for something else'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

35 **adjusted** · Paragraph 4.

'A process that runs without attention cannot be **adjusted**, because adjusting it requires noticing it.' The slot follows *cannot be* and needs the participle, not *adjust* or *adjusting*.

Mechanism F3 — Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative

36 **reliability** · Paragraph 5.

'working slightly beyond current **reliability**, where errors are frequent enough to be informative'. *Just beyond present* is the question's wording for *slightly beyond current*.

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

Questions 37–40

37 **B** · Paragraph 1.

'the number of years a practitioner has been working predicts performance weakly, and in some measures predicts it in the wrong direction'. A keeps the subject and turns the direction round.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

38 **B** · Paragraph 6.

'Surgeons ... may never learn whether a patient did well six months later ... Teachers see their results years after they can act on them.' C and D are the explanations the same paragraph rules out: 'the reason is not effort or ability but a missing signal'.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

39 **B** · Paragraph 5.

'it looks nothing like doing the job. His subjects were not repeating performances; they were isolating the parts of a performance they could not yet do.' D is the absolute version of a claim the passage never makes.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

40 **B** · Paragraph 8.

'experience is what the years produce whether or not anything improves'. A and C both change the relation the sentence sets up, making experience a measure of skill rather than a measure of time.

Mechanism B1 — Relation swap