

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 42 — Canals, Bees and Defaults

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	ten metres / 10 metres	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
2	locks	F3	Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative	Paragraph 2.
3	quantity	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 4.
4	concession	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
5	dredgers	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
6	TRUE	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 2.
7	FALSE	A6	Direction of change reversed	Paragraph 5.
8	NOT GIVEN	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
9	FALSE	B1	Relation swap	Paragraph 6.
10	twice	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 6.
11	shares	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
12	Bitter Lakes	F2	Word limit decides which words are the answer	Paragraph 7.
13	pressure	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
14	A	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Paragraph A.
15	D	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Paragraph D.
16	E	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Paragraph E.
17	F	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Paragraph F.
18	G	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Paragraph G.
19	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph B.
20	B	B1	Relation swap	Paragraph C.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
21	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph E.

22	B	D2	Intermediate actor named beside the originator	Paragraphs C and D.
23	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph D.
24	B	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph E.
25	B	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraph F.
26	B	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph G.
27	NO	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
28	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
29	NOT GIVEN	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
30	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 5.
31	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
32	NOT GIVEN	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
33	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
34	B	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph 6.
35	C	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph 6.
36	D	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph 8.
37	C	A6	Direction of change reversed	Paragraph 2.
38	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
39	E	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 4.
40	B	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	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 **ten metres / 10 metres** · Paragraph 2.

'His conclusion was that the Red Sea stood about **ten metres** higher than the Mediterranean.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

- 2 **locks** · Paragraph 2.

'unless it were fitted with **locks** along its whole length'. The plural is fixed by the sentence.

Mechanism F3 — Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative

- 3 **quantity** · Paragraph 4.

'the difficulty was **quantity** rather than obstacle'. The word is not in the paragraph about the 1847 survey; it is two paragraphs further on, where the route is described.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

- 4 **concession** · Paragraph 4.

'who obtained a **concession** from Said Pasha in 1854'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

- 5 **dredgers** · Paragraph 5.

'was forced to buy **dredgers** and mechanical excavators instead'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 6–9

- 6 **TRUE** · Paragraph 2.

'who worked across desert with the instruments of 1799'. The statement replaces the year with *his own day*, which is what the year means here.

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

- 7 **FALSE** · Paragraph 5.

'The machines then removed roughly three-quarters of the total volume.' The proportion is in the passage; the statement turns it round.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

- 8 **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraph 5.

The passage says how the labourers were conscripted, how long each rotation lasted and roughly how many passed through the works. Deaths are not mentioned at all.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

9 FALSE · Paragraph 6.

'Britain had opposed the canal for fifteen years ... and became its largest shareholder without having dug any of it.' Britain and the canal's finances are connected in the passage, but by a purchase after the fact rather than by funding at the start.

Mechanism B1 — Relation swap

Questions 10–13

10 twice · Paragraph 6.

'having cost about **twice** what had been estimated'. The sentence opens with a date, which is what a reader scanning for a figure takes first.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

11 shares · Paragraph 6.

'that government sold its **shares** to Britain in order to meet its creditors'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

12 Bitter Lakes · Paragraph 7.

'the **Bitter Lakes** lay across the route and were so much saltier than either sea that almost nothing could cross them alive'. The name is two words and the limit tells you not to carry *the* in with it.

Mechanism F2 — Word limit decides which words are the answer

13 pressure · Paragraph 8.

'usually attributed to the difference in water **pressure** and to the far larger pool of species available on the Red Sea side'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 14–18

14 A · Paragraph A.

'the returning forager is describing a place that the bees around her cannot see, in a code, and that is a considerable claim to make about an insect'.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

15 D · Paragraph D.

'In every experiment of von Frisch's design, a dance and an odour travelled together, so no result could separate them.'

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

16 E · Paragraph E.

'Gould painted the dancers' simple eyes and left the recruits' alone.'

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

17 F · Paragraph F.

'the cost to be small in some environments and large in others, with the difference apparently lying in how patchy and how distant the food is'.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

18 G · Paragraph G.

'The habit of calling this a language did real damage to the argument.'

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

Questions 19–22

19 A · Paragraph B.

'From the 1920s onwards he marked individual bees with paint so that they could be followed.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

20 B · Paragraph C.

'They did not deny that bees dance, or that the dance correlates with the location of the food. They denied that other bees use it.' The distinction is between the behaviour existing and the behaviour being read, and the item is built on it.

Mechanism B1 — Relation swap

21 C · Paragraph E.

'a bee whose simple eyes are painted over needs a much brighter light before she will switch'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

22 B · Paragraphs C and D.

'The objection was serious rather than perverse, and the reason is methodological.' The passage names Wenner 'and his colleagues', and the colleagues are not on the list — the person is.

Mechanism D2 — Intermediate actor named beside the originator

Questions 23–26

23 B · Paragraph D.

'a dance and an odour travelled together, so no result could separate them'. C reverses a fact stated in the paragraph before; D reverses one stated in the same paragraph, where recruits are described as often slow.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

24 B · Paragraph E.

'arriving at the spot the mismatch predicted. No odour was available at an empty patch of field.' D is the absolute version of the result and is the opposite of what happened: the recruits followed the dance exactly.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

25 B · Paragraph F.

'How much difference it makes to a colony is a separate matter and remains open.' A is the question the passage says is settled, and it is placed first because the two are easy to run together.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

26 B · Paragraph G.

'the word carries commitments the evidence does not support ... opponents attacking the word and defenders hearing an attack on the observations, which were never the same target.'

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

Questions 27–32

27 NO · Paragraph 1.

'Keepers know the numbers. They dive anyway.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

28 YES · Paragraph 3.

'the reviews are conducted by people subject to the same asymmetry, the pressure runs one way and it never stops running'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 1.

The passage gives the proportion of kicks that go to the middle, but only as a fact about what keepers face. What the taker ought to do is never discussed.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

30 NO · Paragraph 5.

'It would be easy to stop there, and it would be wrong. The opposite failure is at least as common and at least as expensive.' The paragraph exists to refuse this reading of the first half.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

31 YES · Paragraph 7.

'Anybody who has said the words let us gather more data has sometimes meant them and has sometimes not.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

32 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 8.

The suggestion is made and its effects are described. Whether anyone currently does it is not stated.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 33–36

33 A · Paragraph 6.

'It is that one of the two options is being taken by default, and a default is never examined.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

34 B · Paragraph 6.

'Acting is almost always a **decision**: somebody proposes it, somebody approves it, it has a date.' E is the neighbouring option and belongs to a different sentence in the argument.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

35 C · Paragraph 6.

'It has no author and therefore no **critic**.' H means something close but is not the word the sentence uses, and the box holds both on purpose.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

36 D · Paragraph 8.

'it leaves no record of anybody having decided anything' — so writing it down supplies one. F is the word for what a decision produces, not for what it leaves behind.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

Questions 37–40

37 C · Paragraph 2.

'A goal conceded while standing still reads as a failure to try.' G says the opposite of the study's finding and is there for anybody who read the first paragraph quickly.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

38 A · Paragraph 3.

'institutions review decisions mostly when something has gone wrong'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

39 E · Paragraph 4.

'precisely because an omission has to be written down before it can be defended'. F is drawn from the same paragraph, where the difficulty of ending a consultation is mentioned, but it is not the reason given.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

40 B · Paragraph 8.

'it is not that it is safer but that it leaves no record of anybody having decided anything'. The sentence names the wrong reason first and then corrects it, so the half you keep matters.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject