

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 45 — Letters, Ice Ages and Rules

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	sheets	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 1.
2	franking	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
3	ounce	F2	Word limit decides which words are the answer	Paragraph 4.
4	sender	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 4.
5	347	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraph 5.
6	A	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 1.
7	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
8	B	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 6.
9	B	B1	Relation swap	Paragraph 4.
10	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
11	FALSE	A6	Direction of change reversed	Paragraph 7.
12	NOT GIVEN	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
13	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
14	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph B.
15	B	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph C.
16	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph E.
17	D	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph F.
18	A	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph C.
19	B	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph C.
20	C	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph D.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
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21	D	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph E.
22	E	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph G.
23	D	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph B.
24	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph D.
25	C	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph E.
26	B	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph G.
27	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraphs 6 and 7.
28	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
29	NOT GIVEN	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
30	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 4.
31	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
32	NOT GIVEN	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
33	named	F3	Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative	Paragraph 1.
34	head	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
35	invisible	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
36	information	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 7.
37	review	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
38	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 2.
39	B	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraph 5.
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 **sheets** · Paragraph 1.

'how far it had travelled and how many **sheets** of paper it contained'. The question hands you the first half of that pair, so the words you are scanning for stand in front of the answer.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

2 **franking** · Paragraph 2.

'the **franking** privilege, under which members of Parliament could send letters free'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

3 **ounce** · Paragraph 4.

'one penny for a letter of half an **ounce**'. The limit is two words, and *half an ounce* would be three.

Mechanism F2 — Word limit decides which words are the answer

4 **sender** · Paragraph 4.

'Payment would be made by the **sender** rather than the recipient.' *Fall on* stands for *be made by*, and *the person receiving for the recipient*.

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

5 **347** · Paragraph 5.

'By 1850 it was **347** million.' Three figures stand in that paragraph, each attached to a different year, and the question names the year.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

Questions 6–9

6 **A** · Paragraph 1.

'codes written on the outside of the cover that could be read and understood without the letter being accepted at all'. B is prepayment, which belongs to the reform three paragraphs later and did not exist yet.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

7 **B** · Paragraph 3.

'essentially the entire expense of the service lay in assessing, recording and collecting the charge'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

8 **B** · Paragraph 6.

'Revenue fell sharply and did not regain its 1839 level for something close to thirty years.' C takes the first half of that sentence and drops the half that limits it.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

9 **B** · Paragraph 4.

'an adhesive label was one of several suggestions in circulation and not originally his own'. A swaps *proposed by* for *invented by*, which is the distinction the sentence exists to make.

Mechanism B1 — Relation swap

Questions 10–13

10 **TRUE** · Paragraph 5.

'The Post Office opposed him. Its senior officials predicted that the revenue would collapse and the department be ruined.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

11 **FALSE** · Paragraph 7.

'a great deal of what made cheap national distribution possible was track rather than policy, though the credit has attached to the policy'. Both things are named; the statement puts them the wrong way round.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

12 **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraph 5.

The passage stays with Britain throughout. What happened elsewhere, and when, is never mentioned.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

13 **TRUE** · Paragraph 7.

'He was also, by most accounts, a difficult man whose later running of the department was disputed by people who had to work with him.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 14–17

14 A · Paragraph B.

'James Croll worked as a janitor at a college in Glasgow and read in the library he was employed to look after.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

15 B · Paragraph C.

'Milanković worked out how much summer sunlight reached sixty-five degrees north for each of the previous six hundred thousand years, **by hand**, over decades of work.'

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

16 C · Paragraph E.

'Cesare Emiliani ... began measuring the ratio of two oxygen isotopes in the shells of microscopic marine organisms.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

17 D · Paragraph F.

'took two long cores from the southern Indian Ocean ... They found three, at approximately a hundred thousand, forty-one thousand and twenty-three thousand years.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 18–22

18 A · Paragraph C.

'The orbit stretches from more circular to more elliptical and back over roughly a hundred thousand years.' G is the second motion in the same list, not the first.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

19 B · Paragraph C.

'ice sheets grow not when winters are colder but when northern **summers** are too cool to melt the snow'. The sentence names both seasons and rules one of them out.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

20 C · Paragraph D.

'the evidence available was scratched rock and heaps of gravel on land, which is **fragmentary** by nature'.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

21 D · Paragraph E.

'A core taken from the deep ocean is therefore a **continuous** record, laid down without interruption, where the evidence on land is a set of scattered fragments.' The two words are placed opposite each other in that sentence and in the box.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

22 E · Paragraph G.

'of the three that is by far the weakest as a **cause**'. H is the passage's last word on the orbit and describes what it is good at, not what it is weak at.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

Questions 23–26

23 D · Paragraph B.

'His predictions about when the cold periods should have fallen were wrong, and when they failed to match the evidence the whole approach fell out of favour with it.' E is built from the same paragraph, which says the opposite: the journals published him without objection.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

24 A · Paragraph D.

'fragmentary by nature because each glaciation destroys much of what the last one left'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

25 C · Paragraph E.

'The ratio in a shell depends on the temperature of the water and on how much of the world's water is held in ice at the time.'

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

26 B · Paragraph G.

'The orbit has turned out to be an excellent clock and a poor engine.' G is the same sentence with the second half reversed, and it is the position the whole final paragraph is written to deny.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

Questions 27–32

27 NO · Paragraphs 6 and 7.

'Fewer rules is a slogan, and the argument for it is very often advanced by those the rules exist to restrain.' The paragraph is written to refuse this position, and the one after it says the number is not the question.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

28 YES · Paragraph 3.

'Below the threshold more rules do mean more safety, and the people who say so are right.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

29 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 5.

The ward is offered as the clearest illustration of a general pattern, and the passage is careful to say no individual decision in it was unreasonable. It is never compared with anywhere else.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

30 NO · Paragraph 4.

'it is then described as an individual's failure to follow procedure rather than as the predictable output of a set that cannot be followed entire'. The statement is the description the writer rejects.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

31 YES · Paragraph 6.

'the argument for it is very often advanced by those the rules exist to restrain'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

32 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 3.

The mechanism is described in terms of incidents, ownership and time, and never in terms of the size of the organisation.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 33–37

33 named · Paragraph 1.

'placed by a person who will be **named** if it does'. The slot follows *will be* and takes the participle.

Mechanism F3 — Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative

34 head · Paragraph 3.

'the set can no longer be held in one **head**, or carried out in the time the work actually allows'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

35 **invisible** · Paragraph 4.

'The selection is **invisible** until something goes wrong.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

36 **information** · Paragraph 7.

'maximum urgency, maximum embarrassment, minimum **information** about what actually went wrong'. The question drops the middle term of a list of three, so the phrase you match on is not adjacent to the answer.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

37 **review** · Paragraph 8.

'give it a named owner and a date for **review**'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 38–40

38 **B** · Paragraph 2.

'Somebody who takes a requirement out owns the next incident personally, whether or not the removal had anything to do with it.' The other three supply obstacles the passage never mentions.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

39 **B** · Paragraph 5.

'No individual decision in that sequence was unreasonable, which is what makes the outcome difficult to argue anybody out of.' C turns an example into a claim about hospitals in general, which the passage does not make.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

40 **B** · Paragraph 8.

'Not an automatic expiry, which is only another way of removing rules without anybody owning the removal.' The proposal and the thing it rejects are adjacent in one sentence, and they differ by who has to speak.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject