

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 49 — Domesday, Hydrogen and Boots

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	Gloucester	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 1.
2	jury	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
3	thirteen thousand / 13,000 / 13000	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraph 3.
4	two	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
5	Essex	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 3.
6	appealed	F3	Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative	Paragraph 4.
7	missing / absent	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 5.
8	people	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
9	title	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 7.
10	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
11	FALSE	A6	Direction of change reversed	Paragraph 3.
12	NOT GIVEN	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
13	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
14	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 2.
15	C	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
16	B	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
17	D	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
18	A	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph 1.
19	B	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph 2.
20	C	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph 3.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
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21	D	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph 4.
22	E	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph 5.
23	B	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 2.
24	B	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 6.
25	B	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 6.
26	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 7.
27	v	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph A.
28	x	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph B.
29	i	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph C.
30	vi	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph D.
31	iii	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph E.
32	vii	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph F.
33	viii	E4	Minimal-pair options	Paragraph G.
34	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph E.
35	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph G.
36	NOT GIVEN	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph B.
37	NO	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph D.
38	C	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph A.
39	A	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraph F.
40	E	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph G.

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 Gloucester** · Paragraph 1.

'At his Christmas court in **Gloucester** in 1085, William the Conqueror ordered a survey.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

2 jury · Paragraph 2.

'in every hundred a **jury** was sworn, made up partly of English and partly of Norman men'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

3 thirteen thousand / 13,000 / 13000 · Paragraph 3.

'Something in the region of **thirteen thousand** places are named, and the two volumes run to roughly two million words.' Both figures sit in one sentence and the question names which thing is being counted.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

4 two · Paragraph 3.

'the two volumes run to roughly **two** million words'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

5 Essex · Paragraph 3.

'Little Domesday is the unedited return for Norfolk, Suffolk and **Essex**.' The question supplies the first two counties, so the words you are scanning for arrive before the answer does.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

Questions 6–9**6 appealed** · Paragraph 4.

'its decisions could no more be **appealed** against than those of the last judgement'. The slot follows *could not be* and takes the participle rather than the noun.

Mechanism F3 — Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative

7 missing / absent · Paragraph 5.

'London is missing and so is Winchester, the two largest and richest towns in the kingdom.' The question turns the sentence round and keeps the one word that carries it.

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

8 people · Paragraph 6.

'It records holdings, and it records heads of household and classes of tenant. It does not count **people**.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

9 **title** · Paragraph 7.

'The second answer is that it settled **title**. Twenty years of confiscation and redistribution had left a landholding class whose claims rested on nothing written down.'

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

Questions 10–13

10 **TRUE** · Paragraph 2.

'made up partly of English and partly of Norman men so that neither side could quietly agree on a false answer'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

11 **FALSE** · Paragraph 3.

'Great Domesday is a condensed fair copy ... Little Domesday is the unedited return ... Where the clerk had time to summarise, information was lost; where he did not, it survives.' Both books are described in the passage and the statement puts them the wrong way round.

Mechanism A6 — Direction of change reversed

12 **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraph 2.

The passage says who was sent, where they went and what they asked. Whether they were paid, and by whom, is never mentioned.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

13 **TRUE** · Paragraph 8.

'were still being cited in the nineteenth century, and it has been produced as evidence within living memory'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 14–17

14 A · Paragraph 2.

'Between 1920 and 1921 Meghnad Saha, working in Calcutta, published an equation describing how atoms in a hot gas are distributed among their possible states.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

15 C · Paragraph 4.

'Henry Norris Russell ... read the thesis before publication and told her the hydrogen figure was clearly impossible.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

16 B · Paragraph 3.

'For her doctoral thesis she applied Saha's equation systematically to a large collection of stellar spectra.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

17 D · Paragraph 5.

'Otto Struve later described Payne's thesis as the most brilliant ever written in astronomy.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 18–22

18 A · Paragraph 1.

'the strongest of those lines belong to iron, calcium, magnesium and other **metals**'. F is the wider category the Sun is actually made of, which is the answer to a different question.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

19 B · Paragraph 2.

'A line appears only when an atom is in the particular state that can absorb that wavelength.' G is one of the two things that determine how many atoms are in that state, and is named in the very next clause.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

20 C · Paragraph 3.

'hydrogen and helium are not simply present in stars but overwhelmingly **dominant**'.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

21 D · Paragraph 4.

'The thesis was published in 1925 containing the correct result and, a few lines later, a **disclaimer** withdrawing it.'

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

22 E · Paragraph 5.

'The result went into the textbooks as his, and remained attached to his name for decades.' H is what happened to the result in 1925 and not what happened to it after 1929.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

Questions 23–26

23 B · Paragraph 2.

'A weak line, therefore, can mean either that there are few atoms or that there are a great many of them in the wrong state.' C sits one step from the passage's actual statement, which is that most hydrogen is in a condition producing little absorption in visible light — a fact about the atoms, not about the wavelengths.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

24 B · Paragraph 6.

'Nor was his caution unreasonable on its face: a single new method overturning a well-supported consensus is precisely the situation in which a senior figure ought to ask for more evidence.' A is the version of the story the paragraph is written to refuse.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

25 B · Paragraph 6.

'The same result was impossible when a graduate student produced it and correct when a professor did, and what changed in between was who was saying it.' A is denied two sentences earlier: Russell cited her work.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

26 B · Paragraph 7.

'The composition result is the foundation on which the physics of stars was subsequently built.' C and D are each assembled from details the passage supplies elsewhere and offers no argument about.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

Questions 27–33

27 v · Paragraph A.

'the cheaper option ... was never available to him at the moment his old boots failed'.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

28 x · Paragraph B.

'None of these is a scandal and each has a commercial explanation that will survive examination.'
ix is close but concerns how prices are arrived at, which this paragraph does not describe.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

29 i · Paragraph C.

'A second cost is paid in time, and it is invisible in any account that counts only money.' Option ii is the same phrase with the two halves exchanged.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

30 vi · Paragraph D.

'here the evidence needs handling with more care than it usually receives ... Several of the headline experiments have replicated poorly.'

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

31 iii · Paragraph E.

'Both of the familiar positions fail, and they fail for opposite reasons.' iv is the reading in which one of the two survives, and the paragraph rules that out in its first sentence.

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

32 vii · Paragraph F.

'What separates the two is not virtue but capital and slack.'

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

33 viii · Paragraph G.

'The conclusion is narrow and is worth stating as such, because the argument is often stretched into something it cannot support.'

Mechanism E4 — Minimal-pair options

Questions 34–37

34 NO · Paragraph E.

'This mistakes the absence of an option for its rejection; nobody buys the ten-year boots with money they do not have.' The position is stated in order to be refused.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

35 YES · Paragraph G.

'Somebody who does not know that a cheaper tariff exists is genuinely helped by being told about it.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

36 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph B.

The meter appears once, as an example of a higher unit price with a commercial explanation behind it. What should be done about it is never raised.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

37 NO · Paragraph D.

'the strong form of the claim, in which poverty costs a specific number of points of measured intelligence, is not well supported'. The passage keeps the weak form and drops the strong one, and the statement collects the wrong half.

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

Questions 38–40

38 C · Paragraph A.

'the cheaper option, measured over any sensible period, was never available to him at the moment his old boots failed'. B is the reading the same sentence exists to rule out.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

39 A · Paragraph F.

'Almost every cheaper option requires either money in advance or the ability to absorb a delay.' D names two of the particular things listed as examples immediately afterwards, and so covers only part of the claim.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

40 E · Paragraph G.

'a programme that reverses the two will produce recipients who know precisely which cheaper thing they still cannot afford'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap