

Answer Key & Explanations

Academic Reading Paper 50 — Locks, Migrations and Costs

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	TRUE	A7	Time relation reversed	Paragraphs 1 and 8.
2	FALSE	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 2.
3	NOT GIVEN	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 3.
4	TRUE	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 4.
5	slipway / ramp	F2	Word limit decides which words are the answer	Paragraph 4.
6	gates	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
7	basin	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
8	supply	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph 6.
9	four	A1	Quantity re-attached to another noun	Paragraph 6.
10	silting	F3	Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative	Paragraph 7.
11	grain	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
12	northern	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 7.
13	age	E2	Answer sits after its own distractor	Paragraph 8.
14	D	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Paragraph D.
15	F	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Paragraph F.
16	E	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Paragraph E.
17	A	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Paragraph A.
18	G	F1	Answers out of order + repeats allowed	Paragraph G.
19	C	B4	Cause supplied by the reader	Paragraph B.
20	A	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph D.

Q	Answer	Code	Mechanism	Where
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21	E	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph E.
22	B	A2	Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier	Paragraphs F and G.
23	species	E1	Synonym substitution, passage keyword parked on a decoy	Paragraph A.
24	spear	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph B.
25	rings	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph C.
26	angels	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph E.
27	B	B1	Relation swap	Paragraph 1.
28	B	B2	Adjacent proposition on the same subject	Paragraph 2.
29	B	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 4.
30	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 5.
31	B	D1	Statement moved from another paragraph	Paragraph 7.
32	NO	C2	The extreme version the writer explicitly refused	Paragraph 6.
33	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 5.
34	NOT GIVEN	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraphs 4 and 8.
35	NO	C1	Overstatement — hedge removed	Paragraph 4.
36	YES	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 6.
37	NOT GIVEN	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
38	document	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	Paragraph 8.
39	unusable	F3	Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative	Paragraph 8.
40	visible	R	Straight retrieval — no trap	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 1–4

1 **TRUE** · Paragraphs 1 and 8.

'The oldest sections were dug in the fifth century before the common era' and the final paragraph says the parts 'were built two millennia apart'. One item in most papers turns on the interval between two dates rather than on either date.

Mechanism A7 — Time relation reversed

2 **FALSE** · Paragraph 2.

'Historians differ about how far those figures can be trusted, but they do not differ about the effect.' The sentence says what they agree about, and it is the consequence rather than the number.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

3 **NOT GIVEN** · Paragraph 3.

The passage gives the numbers drafted, says the figures run into millions, and reports that historians argue about how far they can be trusted. Deaths are never mentioned at all.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

4 **TRUE** · Paragraph 4.

'it obliged a loaded vessel to sit exposed on a ramp for long enough that the theft of cargo became a recognised trade'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 5–9

5 **slipway / ramp** · Paragraph 4.

'The earliest answer was the double **slipway**: a pair of ramps up which a boat was hauled.' One word only, so the two-word name in the passage has to be cut down.

Mechanism F2 — Word limit decides which words are the answer

6 **gates** · Paragraph 5.

'He built two **gates** a short distance apart, enclosing a stretch of the channel.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

7 **basin** · Paragraph 5.

'the water level inside the enclosed **basin** was raised or lowered'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

8 **supply** · Paragraph 6.

'a canal that crosses high ground must therefore have a **supply** at the top or it will simply drain'.

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

9 **four** · Paragraph 6.

'with roughly six parts of the flow sent north and **four** sent south'. The question gives you the northern share, which is the figure that stands first in the sentence.

Mechanism A1 — Quantity re-attached to another noun

Questions 10–13

10 **silting** · Paragraph 7.

'cutting the canal in two and **silting** long stretches of it'. The slot needs the same form as *cutting* beside it; *silt* and *silted* both fail the sentence.

Mechanism F3 — Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative

11 **grain** · Paragraph 7.

'Sea transport had already begun taking the **grain** traffic.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

12 **northern** · Paragraph 7.

'Sections of the **northern** canal ceased to be navigable.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

13 **age** · Paragraph 8.

'the celebration is usually conducted in terms of length and **age**'. The question hands you the first of the pair, so the phrase you match on arrives before the answer.

Mechanism E2 — Answer sits after its own distractor

Questions 14–18

14 D · Paragraph D.

'Early route maps therefore showed the distribution of literate and armed human beings as much as the distribution of birds.'

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

15 F · Paragraph F.

'A different approach reads the chemistry of a feather ... which gives a rough latitude for the moulting site without any device at all.'

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

16 E · Paragraph E.

'An entirely different source of information turned up during the Second World War, and it was not being looked for. Radar operators watching for aircraft saw echoes.'

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

17 A · Paragraph A.

'What all these accounts shared was that no method existed for following a bird beyond the horizon.'

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

18 G · Paragraph G.

'it is still assembled from methods that each see a different part of the thing'.

Mechanism F1 — Answers out of order + repeats allowed

Questions 19–22

19 C · Paragraph B.

'The spear was of a type used in central Africa. The bird had been wounded there, had survived, and had flown some three thousand kilometres north.' The passage gives the two facts and leaves the reader to join them, which is what the item asks you to do.

Mechanism B4 — Cause supplied by the reader

20 A · Paragraph D.

'The proportion of ringed birds ever recovered is very small, frequently well under one in a hundred.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

21 E · Paragraph E.

'a radar set counts what passes over it whether or not anybody is interested'. D is also true and is stated in the same paragraph, but it is what radar revealed rather than why the bias disappeared.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

22 **B** · Paragraphs F and G.

'the record exists only for individuals that survived the journey and returned to the same place to breed'. F contradicts the paragraph before, where the device is described as transmitting nothing.

Mechanism A2 — Scope widened or narrowed by dropping a qualifier

Questions 23–26

23 **species** · Paragraph A.

'Aristotle suggested that some **species** changed into others as the season turned.' The question turns the sentence round, so the word you are given is the answer's partner rather than the answer.

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

24 **spear** · Paragraph B.

'a white stork was shot near Rostock ... with a wooden **spear** more than seventy centimetres long driven through its neck. The spear was of a type used in central Africa.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

25 **rings** · Paragraph C.

'Mortensen fitted starlings with light aluminium **rings**, each stamped with a number and an address'.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

26 **angels** · Paragraph E.

'could not be identified, and called them **angels**. They were birds.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 27–31

27 B · Paragraph 1.

'the cost of any one of them is not discovered but decided, by choosing a rule for dividing up everything that is held in common'. A is the thing the first paragraph says a cost figure is presented as and is not.

Mechanism B1 — Relation swap

28 B · Paragraph 2.

'Both numbers are correct, and each of them is the only sensible answer to the question it happens to be answering.' A sits one step away: the passage says what would happen to an airline that used either figure for everything, not that airlines price badly.

Mechanism B2 — Adjacent proposition on the same subject

29 B · Paragraph 4.

'The people producing these numbers are following a stated method, and the method is generally written down somewhere and available.' A belongs to the reading of the situation as fraud, which the same paragraph calls the first wrong turning.

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

30 B · Paragraph 5.

'A great many organisations tried it and quietly went back to simpler rules.' A reverses the paragraph's own verdict, which is that where it was done carefully it produced better information.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

31 B · Paragraph 7.

'most of them do it without stating a rule at all, which is the condition under which a number is least useful and most persuasive'. The other three name faults the passage never attributes to these comparisons.

Mechanism D1 — Statement moved from another paragraph

Questions 32–37

32 NO · Paragraph 6.

'The tempting conclusion is that costing is arbitrary and can safely be ignored in favour of judgement. This is wrong and it is dangerous.'

Mechanism C2 — The extreme version the writer explicitly refused

33 YES · Paragraph 5.

'Where it has been implemented carefully it does produce better information.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

34 NOT GIVEN · Paragraphs 4 and 8.

The passage is about what should be published alongside a number and how it should be compared. How the people producing it are trained is never raised.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

35 NO · Paragraph 4.

'None of this is fraud, and treating it as fraud is the first wrong turning ... Nothing improper has occurred at any single step.'

Mechanism C1 — Overstatement — hedge removed

36 YES · Paragraph 6.

'refusing to put numbers on those choices does not make them judgement-free. It transfers the decision to whoever is most confident in the meeting.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

37 NOT GIVEN · Paragraph 8.

The proposal is that a rule be published with its number and that compared figures share a convention. Who should decide the conventions is not discussed.

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

Questions 38–40

38 document · Paragraph 8.

'Publish the allocation rule with the number, every time, in the same **document**.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap

39 unusable · Paragraph 8.

'Treat a cost figure that arrives without its rule as **unusable** rather than as approximate.' The slot takes an adjective in the same shape as the word it is contrasted with.

Mechanism F3 — Grammatical fit — tense, number, comparative

40 visible · Paragraph 8.

'It makes the inexactness **visible**, which is the most that can honestly be offered.'

Mechanism R — Straight retrieval — no trap