Reading Year 9 — Practice Paper 2 — Answers & Explanations

Answers to the 28 questions in the free preview.

The tapes — page 2 of the magazine

1. A. It only frightened him.
The story says it only frightened him when she did.

2. B. he treated Leila as if he did not know her
Strangers on trains are polite but keep their distance: he no longer recognises her.

3. D. He had been a radio presenter for twenty years.
“He was on the radio for twenty years,” her mother says. Leila had only known him fixing bikes.

4. A. how lively and energetic he once was
It contrasts sharply with the quiet man turning a teaspoon by the window.

5. B. to show the first sign that the tape is reaching him
His restless habit stops as he listens: the first hint that something is getting through.

6. C. to give him a moment of happiness and connection
Telling the truth would break the moment; her kind answer lets him feel his work mattered.

7. D. She is overcome with emotion when he recognises himself.
After months of him not knowing anyone, he says “That’s me”: a deeply moving moment.

8. A. They give him brief moments of knowing himself again.
“For the length of a song, he knew exactly who he was”: the effect is real but short-lived.

Stage fright: your body’s false alarm — page 4 of the magazine

9. B. by putting the reader into a familiar, stressful moment
Written as “your name is called… your heart is pounding”, it makes readers recognise the feeling.

10. C. adrenaline released by the adrenal glands
The brain signals the adrenal glands to release adrenaline, and within seconds the heart beats faster.

11. D. Digestion slows down.
Digestion slows down, “which is why your mouth goes dry”.

12. A. For most of history, being rejected by your group was dangerous.
The writer suggests rejection by the group was once genuinely dangerous.

13. B. how we interpret the same physical feelings
The feelings are almost identical; the difference lies largely in how we interpret them.

14. C. People who said “I am excited” gave better speeches.
Those who called their feelings excitement were rated more persuasive and confident.

15. D. a useful survival response set off when there is no real danger
The alarm works as designed, but it goes off for a speech rather than a predator.

Sixteen is old enough — page 5 of the magazine

16. A. lowering the voting age to sixteen
She says sixteen-year-olds cannot vote and argues this should change.

17. B. to show they are already trusted with adult responsibilities
Leaving school, working, paying tax and learning to drive are adult responsibilities, which makes the missing vote look unfair.

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18. C. Young people will live longest with the results of today’s decisions.
“If we are old enough to live with the consequences, we are old enough to have a say.”

19. D. as evidence that voting early can build a lifelong habit
Research from Austria suggests people who vote in their first election keep voting.

20. A. Sixteen-year-olds are usually still at home and school, where they can be taught how to vote.
At sixteen they can be taught at school; at eighteen life changes and the first election can slip past.

21. B. Adults take no maturity test, and studies show little difference.
She points out adults are not tested and cites studies finding little evidence of less informed choices.

22. C. voting is about having a voice, not a prize for reaching an age
The next sentence explains: “It is a voice in the decisions that shape our lives.”

What the river knows — page 6 of the magazine

23. D. The river is ancient and patient, and outlasts human things.
It is older than the town and bridge, carves valleys slowly, and will outlast the bridge.

24. A. left lasting marks on the river and its banks
A scar is a permanent mark from an old wound; floods left their mark in the same way.

25. B. the river has seen many different eras of people
Bark canoes and later paddle-steamers mark very different periods in the river’s long history.

26. C. the riverbed and rocks exposed when the water was low
In drought the water drops and the river’s “skeleton” — rocks and bed — shows.

27. D. how slowly and patiently the river works
Carving a valley grain by grain shows immense patience over immense time.

28. A. the endless flow of the river, and a message to keep going
The repeated words echo flowing water and express the river’s one truth: it continues.

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PREVIEW

That’s the end of the preview answers

These are the answers to the 28 preview questions. The full answer key covers all 51 questions in Reading Year 9 — Practice Paper 2, with the working behind every mark.

STILL TO COME	QUESTIONS	MARKS
Marie Tharp: mapping the ocean floor — page 7 of the magazine	6	6
Caught in a rip — page 8 of the magazine	6	6
The new Harbourside Library — page 9 of the magazine	5	5
Riverton Dam over ten summers — page 10 of the magazine	6	6

The full paper comes with

- Every question, printed exactly like the ones in this preview
- The complete answer key, with the working behind every mark
- A topic report after marking, showing what to practice next

Get the full paper at

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