# Reading Year 9 — Practice Paper 3 — Answers & Explanations

Answers to the 28 questions in the free preview.

## Firebreak — page 2 of the magazine

**1.** A. reads the weather from long experience
He judges the conditions by the feel and smell of the wind, as others would consult an app.

**2.** B. a strip of bare earth around the house block
It is a ten-metre strip of bare earth between the garden and the dry grass, cleared of anything that could burn.

**3.** C. Last summer a fire came frighteningly close.
He remembers the bruised sky, the falling ash and the fire that missed them by eleven kilometres.

**4.** D. It shows Josh now understands how close the danger was.
Standing alone after the figure, it turns a fact into a realisation: they were nearly caught.

**5.** A. The conditions are hot, dry and windy — dangerous for fire.
Shimmering heat, a hot northerly and whirlwinds of dust describe classic fire weather.

**6.** B. It reminds him of the years when the fire won.
He says, “And some years you didn’t” while touching the scar: a painful memory of losing to fire.

**7.** C. Fires are hotter and faster now, and a life cannot be rebuilt.
He says the fires are different now and repeats the brigade’s advice: a house can be rebuilt, you can’t.

**8.** D. He has accepted the plan and added what matters to him.
Reading it twice and adding a line shows he has made the plan his own, and the old dog matters to him.

## How bats see with sound — page 3 of the magazine

**9.** A. finding things by listening to echoes
The first paragraph defines it as finding things by listening to echoes.

**10.** B. The calls are too high-pitched.
Most calls are far too high for human ears to hear.

**11.** C. by how long the echo takes to return
The longer the delay before the echo returns, the further away the object.

**12.** D. from small differences between the echoes reaching each ear
Tiny differences between the echoes reaching its left and right ears tell it the direction.

**13.** A. to get constant updates on exactly where the prey is
The faster calls give constant updates on its prey’s position, right up to capture.

**14.** B. Each side keeps developing new ways to beat the other.
As bats hunt by sound, some moths have evolved to hear them or even jam their calls — a contest of adaptations.

**15.** C. large fruit bats such as flying-foxes
The text says many large fruit bats, including flying-foxes, rely mainly on eyesight and smell.

## Is social media good for teenagers? — page 4 of the magazine

**16.** D. Social media connects teenagers and brings real benefits.
Her heading is It connects us; she describes friendship, community and learning.

**17.** A. A group chat with old friends kept her from feeling alone.
She says the group chat with her old friends kept her from feeling completely alone.

**18.** B. teaching young people to use it wisely
She says the answer is to teach wise use, not to pretend we can switch it off.

**19.** C. He sleeps better.
He says he sleeps better, gets more homework done and no longer compares his life with others'.

**20.** D. to show that comparing yourself with them is unfair
Edited photos show an improved version of life, so comparing your real life with them is unfair.

**21.** A. Their makers earn money from advertising.
He says that is how their makers earn money from advertising.

**22.** B. Neither thinks everyone should stop using social media.
Priya says we cannot switch it off; Tom says he is not saying no one should use it.

## Heirloom — page 5 of the magazine

**23.** C. in the winter the grandfather died
"It stopped the winter he did" — the same winter the grandfather died.

**24.** D. Letting it stay stopped keeps a link to his death and his memory.
Winding it would feel like moving on; the stopped hands mark the moment he was lost.

**25.** A. It holds things kept for memory, not for use.
Keys to doors they no longer own are useless; like the watch, they are kept because of what they recall.

**26.** B. he handled the watch constantly for many years
Fifty years of his thumb rubbing the gold has worn it smooth.

**27.** C. the speaker's memory of the grandfather brings the sound back
Expecting nothing, the speaker still "hears" it: memory supplies what the watch cannot.

**28.** D. He was reliable, and the speaker remembers him with affection.
It is a fond tribute: steady and dependable, like the ticking the speaker still hears.

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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 3, with the working behind every mark.

| STILL TO COME | QUESTIONS | MARKS |
|---|---|---|
| The 1967 referendum — page 6 of the magazine | 7 | 7 |
| Farewell, class of 2026 — page 7 of the magazine | 6 | 6 |
| Lao Ma’s Kitchen — page 8 of the magazine | 5 | 5 |
| How Westbrook students get to school — page 9 of the magazine | 5 | 5 |

**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
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