

ANSWER KEY – 9 MAY 2026

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
B	B	B	C	A	A	B	C	B	B
Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
B	B	A	A	B	B	A	A	B	A
Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30
B	B	C	C	D	B	B	B	B	C
Q31	Q32	Q33							
C	B	B							

RC PASSAGES

Q1 B

In the passage, 'compounding' modifies the description of how high-rise canyons trap heat in addition to the ground-level effect of concrete and asphalt. The word means 'adding to' or 'intensifying' — making something already present more severe. Option A reverses the meaning. Option C describes a financial/mathematical sense not applicable here. Option D contradicts the context. Hence option B captures the intended sense: compounding the existing effect by adding the canyon-trapping mechanism on top of the ground-level absorption.

Q2 B

The passage's central claim is that urban heat islands have become a public-health emergency, particularly affecting lower-income workers, but that mitigation is technically feasible (cool roofs, trees, water bodies) and the missing element is governance, not knowledge. Option B captures both the problem framing and the solution direction. Option A is too narrow and policy-specific; the passage does not advocate banning high-rises. Option C contradicts the passage. Option D is rejected by the passage, which presents AC as part of the problem rather than the solution. Hence option B is the most accurate central-argument summary.

Q3 B

The passage states explicitly that informal workers, street vendors, construction labourers and slum residents bear the heaviest cost; and that the Ahmedabad mortality increase 'concentrated in the city's lower-income wards.' The supporting line: 'mortality rose more than seventy per cent during peak heat days, with the largest increases concentrated in the city's lower-income wards.' Option B is therefore the correct inference. Option A reverses the actual claim. Option C contradicts the passage's mention of Telangana and Gujarat deploying cool-roof programmes. Option D directly contradicts the cited Ahmedabad mortality figure of seventy per cent.

Q4 C

The final paragraph states that 'what is missing in most Indian cities is not knowledge but governance' and contrasts existing tools with their underutilisation. The author is critical of governance gaps but constructive in pointing to the technical feasibility of solutions and the demonstrated success of Ahmedabad's programmes. The tone is neither triumphant (A) nor despairing (D), and clearly not detached or indifferent (B). Critical-yet-constructive (C) captures the dual posture: identifying failure while advocating tractable solutions. Hence option C is the most accurate description of the author's tone in the final paragraph.

Q5 A

The author argues that adaptation 'is neither expensive nor exotic,' citing white roofs, trees, shaded bus stops, and water bodies. The argument is weakened most directly by evidence that one of the central low-cost interventions — white roofs — does not in fact stay low-cost over time, since maintenance is costly. Option A undercuts the affordability claim with empirical evidence about degradation and recurring costs. Option B strengthens the argument. Option C is irrelevant to cost. Option D is unrelated to adaptation cost. Hence option A is the strongest weakener of the low-cost adaptation thesis.

Q6 A

In the opening paragraph, 'unattended' modifies 'learn unattended,' contrasting a learner with one who is supervised, taught, or assisted. The intended sense is 'on one's own, without needing supervision or instruction.' Option A captures this. Option B applies 'unattended' to physical maintenance of objects, which is not relevant here. Option C means 'without permission,' also not the sense intended. Option D ('forgotten') is unrelated. The line 'learn unattended' refers to autonomous, self-directed learning in a public space, with the library providing the conditions for independent study without the need for a tutor.

Q7 B

The passage's central argument is that public libraries have not been displaced by the internet but have, in fact, reinvented themselves as essential civic infrastructure — for digital access, job-search support, language exchange, after-school study, and digital literacy. Option B captures both the rebuttal of the obsolescence narrative and the affirmative case for the library's reinvented role. Option A misstates the argument (the passage acknowledges the library has moved beyond books). Option C is not advocated. Option D is the position the passage refutes. Hence option B is correct.

Q8 C

The passage explicitly notes that households without reliable broadband — disproportionately rural, low-income and elderly — depend on libraries. It also describes pandemic-era library Wi-Fi serving children without home access. These together support the inference of a redistributive function: the library provides facilities that some households cannot replicate at home. Option C captures this. Option A is contradicted by the line that closures 'tend to be invisible until the moment they are missed.' Option B contradicts the redistributive argument. Option D contradicts the description of pandemic Wi-Fi access from car parks.

Q9 B

The author makes an empirical, almost data-led case (visit numbers, pandemic Wi-Fi anecdotes, austerity politics) without dramatic flourish. The tone is reflective — drawing a sustained argument from observed patterns — and quietly persuasive, mounting an unhurried case for the library's continuing role. Option A wrongly suggests sentimentality that the passage actively avoids ('not on the romance of the bookshelf'). Option C contradicts the careful advocacy. Option D misreads the gentle irony as biting sarcasm. Hence option B captures the reflective and quietly persuasive tone of the passage.

Q10 B

To strengthen the argument that libraries play an irreplaceable civic role, fresh empirical evidence linking library presence to measurable civic-good outcomes (such as reduced unemployment from job-clinics) directly supports the author's claim about redistributive infrastructure. Option B provides exactly such evidence — a measurable causal contribution that private substitutes cannot easily match. Option A weakens the argument. Option C weakens the argument by suggesting libraries are replaceable. Option D weakens the redistributive premise by removing the broadband gap. Hence option B is the strongest strengthener of the author's central case.

CR PASSAGES

Q11 B

The proponents conclude that platforms should bear legal liability for harms caused by misinformation amplified through their algorithms, premised on the claim that platforms function as algorithmic editors rather than passive carriers. Option B captures this conclusion verbatim in substance. Option A reverses the analogy. Option C overstates the proponents' position (they do not seek to ban algorithms; they seek liability rules around them). Option D introduces a punitive measure against users not advocated in the passage. Hence option B is the correct articulation of the proponents' conclusion.

Q12 B

The proponents argue that platforms should be liable for falsehoods their algorithms amplify. This presupposes — without explicit statement — that one can identify which posts have been algorithmically amplified, and that such identification is feasible at the speed and scale required for liability rules to operate. Option B states this unstated premise. Option A is a comparative claim not assumed by the proponents (they actually argue platforms function like newspapers in substance). Option C is an overstatement no one would assume. Option D contradicts the proponents' premise that voluntary moderation has failed.

Q13 A

The proponents' argument depends on the operational feasibility of identifying algorithmically amplified misinformation. Peer-reviewed evidence that this is technically infeasible at the required speed and scale directly undermines the practical foundation of the liability regime. Option A is the strongest weakener. Option B is irrelevant to the harm question. Option C does not address algorithmic amplification at all. Option D is irrelevant to the question of whether platforms should bear liability. Hence option A weakens the proponents' position by undercutting an essential operational premise of their case.

Q14 A

The proponents' argument is strengthened by direct evidence that the operational task they assume is in fact feasible — that platforms can accurately identify and demote algorithmically amplified false content without harming legitimate speech. Option A provides exactly this. Option B undercuts the proponents (no harm equals no need for liability). Option C is irrelevant to the proponents' position. Option D is irrelevant to the substantive case for liability. Hence option A is the strongest strengthener, since it removes the most plausible operational objection raised by critics.

Q15 B

The critics' reasoning runs: if liability X is imposed, then platforms will respond by over-removing content to avoid legal risk, and over-removal harms legitimate speech (satire, dissent, minorities); therefore X is undesirable as a policy choice. This is a consequentialist 'if X then bad Y, therefore reject X' structure. Option B captures this. Option A inverts the conclusion. Option C is a free-speech assertion the critics do not make so flatly. Option D is empirically inverted by the critics' own evidence, since they accept that misinformation can cause harm but argue that the proposed remedy is worse.

Q16 B

The proponents conclude that legislatures should mandate or incentivise a four-day standard across the economy, on the basis that pilot results show productivity unchanged or improved and well-being measurably higher. Option B captures this conclusion. Option A is the opposite of what proponents argue. Option C contradicts the proponents' argument that productivity depends on quality of attention. Option D is an empirical claim the proponents do not make and would actively dispute. Hence option B is the correct articulation of the proponents' policy recommendation.

Q17 A

The sceptics argue that pilot results from knowledge-economy firms — where output is loosely tied to time — do not transfer to manufacturing, retail, healthcare, and field service, where output is more directly tied to staff hours. The unstated premise is that output in those sectors is in fact meaningfully constrained by hours, in a way that knowledge-economy output is not. Option A captures this. Option B is not a sceptics' assumption. Option C reverses their actual caution about extrapolation. Option D contradicts the sceptics' acknowledgement of well-being benefits in pilot results.

Q18 A

The sceptics' argument rests on the claim that the four-day pattern does not transfer beyond knowledge-economy firms. A multi-year, multi-sector study showing the pattern transfers — including to manufacturing, retail, and healthcare — directly undermines this premise. Option A is the strongest weakener. Option B is irrelevant to whether four-day arrangements transfer. Option C is opinion data, not productivity evidence. Option D is a single-firm anecdote that does not address the sceptics' generalisation about sectoral transferability. Hence option A is the strongest weakener of the sceptics' case.

Q19 B

The third paragraph proposes a middle path: rather than mandating the four-day week (proponents' position) or rejecting it (sceptics' default), it advocates removing regulatory obstacles, encouraging transparent reporting, and subsidising sector pilots — facilitating voluntary adoption by those who want it without forcing those who cannot sustain it. Option B captures this reconciliation. Option A misstates the position. Option C overshoots; the paragraph does endorse some State role (removing obstacles, subsidising pilots). Option D is the inverse of the paragraph's posture and is not consistent with its language.

Q20 A

The proponents cite UK trial results from selected firms — disproportionately in the knowledge economy — and generalise to the entire economy without offering separate evidence for sectors where output is more directly tied to staff hours. This is a hasty generalisation: the sample on which the conclusion rests is not representative of the population to which the policy is to apply. Option A names this flaw. Option B is wrong (the proponents do cite empirical data). Option C is a misreading. Option D reverses the analytic gap. Hence option A is the correct identification of the flaw in the proponents' reasoning.

SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK & CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q21 B

Article 20(3) provides: 'No person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself.' This is the constitutional protection against self-incrimination, applicable to a person formally accused of an offence. Article 19(1)(a) protects free speech; Article 21 protects life and personal liberty; Article 22(1) deals with rights of arrested persons (right to be informed of grounds and to consult counsel). Option B is therefore the correct article. Notable case law on Article 20(3) includes *Selvi v. State of Karnataka* (2010) on narcoanalysis and brain-mapping.

Q22 B

The Sansad Ratna Award is conferred annually since 2010 to outstanding members of the Indian Parliament — both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha — based on their performance metrics: attendance in the House, participation in debates, questions raised, and private members' bills introduced. The award is instituted in collaboration with parliamentary research organisations. It does not relate to journalists, Cabinet Secretaries or Supreme Court judges. Hence option B is correct. The award seeks to incentivise parliamentary diligence and was inspired by the late former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's call to recognise parliamentary contribution.

Q23 C

The word 'tenuous' in the sentence describes a claim 'lacking any documentary support' — clearly suggesting weak, slender, flimsy or insubstantial. The closest synonym among the options is 'weak.' Option A (conclusive) is the antonym. Option B (convincing) is also opposite. Option D (lengthy) is unrelated to strength. Hence option C — 'tenuous' equals weak, slender, having little substance. The Latin etymology 'tenuis' (thin, fine) reinforces this sense; English usage typically applies the word to arguments, claims, or connections that are weakly supported.

Q24 C

The idiom 'to throw in the towel' originates from boxing, where the trainer would throw a towel into the ring to signal that the fighter was conceding defeat and unwilling to continue. By extension, the phrase means to admit defeat, give up, or surrender after acknowledging that further effort is futile. Option C captures this exact sense. Option A reverses the meaning. Options B and D do not match the idiomatic usage. Hence option C is correct as the idiomatic equivalent of admitting defeat or abandoning a struggle.

Q25 D

Gyanesh Kumar took office as Chief Election Commissioner of India in February 2025, succeeding Rajiv Kumar (who served until February 2025). As of 2026, Gyanesh Kumar holds the post. Sushil Chandra served as CEC earlier (until May 2022); Anup Chandra Pandey was an Election Commissioner who has since retired. Hence option D (Gyanesh Kumar) is the correct current officeholder. The CEC is appointed under the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.

Q26 B

The official currency of South Korea is the Won, denoted KRW and represented by the symbol ₩. The Yen is the currency of Japan; the Yuan (also called Renminbi, RMB) is the currency of mainland China; the Ringgit is the currency of Malaysia. Hence option B is the correct match for South Korea. The South Korean Won has been the country's currency since 1962 and is divided into 100 jeon, though jeon are no longer used in everyday transactions due to inflation having reduced their practical value.

Q27 B

'The Argumentative Indian: Writings on Indian History, Culture and Identity' was published in 2005 by Amartya Sen, the Nobel-laureate economist and philosopher who won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1998 for his work on welfare economics and social choice. The book examines India's long tradition of public reasoning, debate and pluralism. Ramachandra Guha, Shashi Tharoor, and Pratap Bhanu Mehta are also distinguished writers on India, but the cited work is by Amartya Sen. Hence option B is correct.

Q28 B

Carlos Alcaraz won the 2024 Wimbledon men's singles championship, defeating Novak Djokovic in the final — his second consecutive Wimbledon title after his 2023 victory over the same opponent. Djokovic had won the previous several editions before being beaten by Alcaraz in 2023 and again in 2024. Jannik Sinner won the 2024 Australian Open and US Open but not Wimbledon that year. Hence option B is the correct champion. Alcaraz's win consolidated his place among the top players of his generation alongside Sinner and Djokovic.

Q29 B

In *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India* (2015), the Supreme Court of India struck down Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 — which criminalised online speech causing 'annoyance' or 'inconvenience' — as unconstitutionally vague and overbroad, violating Article 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech and expression). Maneka Gandhi (1978) expanded Article 21; Anuradha Bhasin (2020) addressed the Kashmir internet shutdown; K.S. Puttaswamy (2017) recognised privacy as a fundamental right. Hence option B is correct as the case that invalidated Section 66A.

Q30 C

Leh is the capital of the Union Territory of Ladakh, established as a separate UT in October 2019 following the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split the former state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories. Srinagar is the summer capital of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir; Jammu is its winter capital; Kargil is a major town in Ladakh but not the capital. Hence option C is the correct answer. Ladakh is divided into two districts: Leh and Kargil, with Leh serving as the administrative headquarters.

Q31 C

The verb 'deliberate' means to think about something carefully, or to discuss carefully and at length, before reaching a decision. The committee 'deliberating' on a proposal is engaged in careful, considered discussion of its merits before deciding. Option C captures this sense exactly. Option A (reject) is a possible outcome but not the meaning of the verb. Option B (approve) is also a possible outcome but not the verb's meaning. Option D (postpone) is unrelated. Hence option C — 'deliberate' equals 'discuss carefully' is correct here.

Q32 B

The 2025 Khelo India Youth Games (the seventh edition) were hosted by Bihar — the first time the state hosted this national multi-sport event for under-21 athletes. The games were spread across multiple cities including Patna, Rajgir, Gaya, Bhagalpur, and Begusarai, showcasing Bihar's emerging sporting infrastructure. Tamil Nadu hosted the 2024 edition; Madhya Pradesh hosted the 2022 edition; Kerala hosted earlier editions. Hence option B (Bihar) is correct. The Khelo India initiative was launched by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to promote grassroots sports talent in India.

Q33 B

A 'Pyrrhic victory' is named after King Pyrrhus of Epirus, who defeated the Romans at the Battle of Asculum in 279 BCE but at such heavy cost in his own forces that he reportedly remarked that another such victory would ruin him. The phrase therefore refers to a victory won at too great a cost to be genuinely worthwhile — a triumph that is, in practical terms, indistinguishable from defeat. Option B captures this exactly. Other options misstate the meaning. Hence option B is correct as the standard idiomatic and historical usage.