

ANSWER KEY – 13 MAY 2026

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

RC PASSAGES

Q1 B

The author signals that 'optional' carries weight not because of what it literally says but because of what is being smuggled past the reader. The subsequent sentences describe how F2P design 'manufactures frustration' and 'sells relief', borrowing 'openly from casino mechanics'. Together these point unambiguously to scepticism that the purchases are genuinely voluntary in the everyday sense. Option (A) inverts the author's stance. Option (C) introduces a legal frame the author does not use. Option (D) is unsupported by the text — the author neither praises premium pricing nor F2P as fairer.

Q2 B

Across the four paragraphs the author concedes the industry's commercial logic ('the most democratic pricing model ever devised'), engages seriously with regulatory and academic concerns, and closes with a design-ethic question rather than a polemic. This is the texture of MEASURED CONCERN, not admiration (A), hostility (C), or indifference (D). Option (B) captures the author's stance — recognising the economics while flagging the ethics.

Q3 B

The reference to casino mechanics — 'variable rewards, near-miss visuals, loss aversion framing' — sits in a paragraph about deliberately engineered frustration and engineered nudges toward the in-app store. The purpose is to ARGUE that the design vocabulary of F2P is the design vocabulary of compulsive spending. Option (B) captures this exactly. Option (A) is too strong — the author does not claim illegality of all mobile games. Option (C) inverts the tone. Option (D) — taxation — is not raised.

Q4 B

The industry's defence rests on the claim that items inside loot boxes have no real-world cash value, putting them outside the standard definition of gambling. Establishing that those items DO have real-world cash value through resale on secondary markets would directly undercut that defence — making the loot box more clearly gambling-like in the regulator's sense. Option (A) does not address the cash-value question. Option (C) is irrelevant to definitional scope. Option (D) — unpopularity in some jurisdictions — is sociology, not law.

Q5 A

In the gambling and gaming industries 'whales' is a term of art for a small number of players whose individually large spending accounts for the bulk of revenue. The passage states explicitly: 'the so-called whales who individually spend thousands of dollars a year, while the silent majority pay nothing.' Option (A) is correct. The other options are distractors with no contextual support.

Q6 C

The author opens paragraph 1 with falling staff numbers and immediately states: 'The reasons are economic before they are anything else.' Classified and display advertising migrated to digital platforms, and audiences moved to free aggregators that paid nothing to the original reporter. That is the primary cause. Option (A) — falling reader interest — is not the author's claim. Option (B) — censorship — is not mentioned. Option (D) is fanciful and unsupported.

Q7 C

The third paragraph praises the verification networks ('some of this is remarkable work') but immediately qualifies the praise: open-source intelligence 'does not file Right to Information applications', 'does not subpoena documents', and 'does not give a named subject a fair right of reply.' The tone is QUALIFIED, recognising contributions but naming structural limits — option (C). The other options misread the tone.

Q8 A

The author's claim is that philanthropy is geographically concentrated, donor-driven, and dependent on the enthusiasm of a few foundations. A finding that philanthropic newsrooms have diversified geographically, are governed by independent boards, AND have built endowments would neutralise all three concerns simultaneously, weakening the author's claim most directly. Option (B) — growth — does not address dependence. Option (C) — quality of some outlets — is something the author already concedes. Option (D) is irrelevant to the structural critique.

Q9 B

The 'displacement effect' the author describes is qualitative: in the place of slow, document-grounded investigation there now exists 'a louder ecosystem of partisan commentary, viral video explainers and crowd-sourced open-source intelligence'. That is option (B): replacement of investigative form by louder but methodologically weaker forms. Option (A) — print to digital — is a different shift. Option (C) is geographic, not methodological. Option (D) — advertising shift — is the cause described earlier, not the displacement effect.

Q10 B

The sentence specifies that under quarterly budget pressure, the RATIONAL choice for an editor is to keep cheap routine reporting and cut expensive investigations. 'Rational' here is economic — what makes sense given the budget — not moral. The point is precisely the gap between what is economically rational and what is socially desirable. Option (B) captures this. Option (A) misreads 'rational' as 'right'. Option (C) — legal compulsion — is not present. Option (D) is irrelevant.

CR PASSAGES

Q11 C

The author argues, across three substantive objections, that the proposal to mandate AI proctoring should NOT be adopted — concluding with the constructive alternative of question-bank design and statistical anomaly detection. The main conclusion of the argument is option (C). Option (A) is the proposal the author REJECTS. Option (B) misstates the tone — the author calls the technology error-prone, not perfect. Option (D) — abolishing online exams — goes far beyond the author's claim.

Q12 A

The author argues that the cited scandals occurred on AI-proctored systems, suggesting the technology fails its purpose. This argument depends on the unstated assumption that those cited scandals are representative of the integrity problem (and not isolated freak exceptions). If the scandals were anomalous outliers, the author's claim that 'the alleged scale advantage is illusory' would not generalise. Option (A) makes the dependence explicit. Options (B) through (D) are not assumptions the author's third objection requires.

Q13 A

The author's preferred alternative is statistical anomaly detection on response patterns. A peer-reviewed finding that this technique OUTPERFORMS face-recognition on both detection and false-positive rates directly strengthens that alternative and the broader argument that mandatory AI proctoring is the wrong policy choice. Option (B) — vendor pricing — is unrelated to integrity. Option (C) — student preference — is sociology, not the technical case. Option (D) — board preference — is anecdotal.

Q14 A

The author's case has three pillars: (i) the technology is biased, (ii) the surveillance footprint is dangerous because India lacks a data-protection regime, and (iii) the scale advantage is illusory. Option (A) attacks all three simultaneously — bias eliminated, data-protection law in force, AND demonstrably lower fraud rates. That is the maximally weakening intervention. The other options touch only tangential considerations.

Q15 B

Paragraph 1 sets out the opposing case clearly, listing the integrity argument and the manual-versus-AI scale claim. Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 then raise three substantive objections in turn — first the technical accuracy of the AI tools (bias against women and darker-skinned candidates, false positives for disabled and neurodivergent test-takers); second the surveillance footprint (biometric data sitting on vendor servers in the absence of a fully enforced data-protection regime); and third the illusory nature of the scale advantage — culminating in the constructive alternative of question-bank design and statistical anomaly detection. Option (B) accurately describes that structure. The other options misdescribe a careful policy argument as emotional appeal, history, or a law-only opinion.

Q16 B

The author proposes a TAX-CODED SOFT CAP: compensation above 50× the company's median wage remains legal but ceases to be tax-deductible. The opening paragraph sets out the design; the rest of the passage defends it against objections. Option (B) is the main conclusion. Option (A) misstates the multiple (50× not 20×) and the design (soft cap, not direct prohibition). Options (C) and (D) are unsupported.

Q17 B

The 'self-adjusting' claim — that the cap forces CEOs who want to raise their own deductible pay to raise everyone else's first — depends on the premise that CEOs are sensitive to the deductibility of their pay and will accept the linkage. If CEOs were indifferent to deductibility, the mechanism would not bite. Option (B) makes this unstated premise explicit. The others are not premises the argument requires.

Q18 A

The author's three operative claims are: morale and trust improve under the cap, CEOs do not flee to uncapped jurisdictions because pay and performance correlate weakly, and median wages rise inside capped firms because of the self-adjusting mechanism. Option (A) attacks all three simultaneously with empirical evidence drawn from comparable regimes that already operate such caps. That is the maximally weakening rebuttal — it leaves no operative claim intact. Option (B) is consistent with the author's view (it merely confirms rising pay ratios). Option (C) — long tenures — is a side fact. Option (D) — shareholder voting practice — is governance trivia and does not engage the author's empirical core.

Q19 B

Paragraph 3 explicitly responds to the 'global thin market' objection with empirical evidence: 'studies of large CEO transitions find that performance-on-the-job correlates weakly with compensation level, and that internal successors regularly outperform expensively-hired outsiders.' Option (B) names this evidence precisely. Option (A) — emotional appeal — misreads the tone, which is empirical, not rhetorical. Option (C) — constitutional argument — is not in play; the passage makes a policy argument, not a constitutional one. Option (D) — anecdotal stories — is the opposite of what the author offers; the passage emphasises systematic data over anecdotes.

Q20 A

The author identifies the FLAW that the opposing case rests on intuition and consultancy reports rather than on causal evidence: 'The premise that high pay is necessary to attract talent is supported by intuition and consultancy reports, not by causal evidence.' Option (A) captures this flaw. Option (B) — legal precedent — is not in play. Option (C) is inaccurate (the opposition does cite figures). Option (D) misstates the morale-correlation argument.

SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK & CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q21 C

The capital of Australia is Canberra, a planned city built specifically to serve as the federal capital following the Federation of the Australian colonies in 1901. Sydney is the country's largest city and the capital of New South Wales, but has never been the federal capital. Melbourne served as a temporary federal capital between 1901 and 1927 while Canberra was being constructed under the Griffin master plan. Perth is the capital of Western Australia. Answer: (C) Canberra.

Q22 B

The 2025 Booker Prize was awarded to David Szalay for 'Flesh', announced in November 2025 at the ceremony held in London. The novel follows a Hungarian protagonist across decades of European life. Samantha Harvey's 'Orbital' won the previous year's Booker (2024). Paul Lynch's 'Prophet Song' won the 2023 prize. Eleanor Catton won the Booker in 2013 for 'The Luminaries'. Answer: (B) David Szalay for Flesh.

Q23 B

PM-JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) was launched on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, 15 November 2023, and operationalised through 2024 with a primary focus on the socio-economic development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The scheme delivers housing, safe drinking water, education, health services, electrification and road connectivity across nine line ministries. The other options refer to different welfare schemes — PM-VIKAS targets traditional artisans, NPS Vatsalya is a savings scheme, and dairy support schemes operate under separate programmes. Answer: (B) PVTGs.

Q24 B

State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh (2024) was a seven-judge Constitution Bench decision of the Supreme Court holding by 6:1 that SUB-CLASSIFICATION within the Scheduled Castes for the purpose of reservation IS constitutionally permissible — expressly overruling E.V. Chinnaiah v. State of Andhra Pradesh (2004). The majority held that States may identify the more backward sub-groups within SCs and allocate a preferential quota within the overall SC reservation, subject to empirical justification and the cap principle. The Chief Justice and four other judges concurred via separate opinions; Justice Bela Trivedi dissented. Answer: (B).

Q25 B

'Perfunctory' is an adjective meaning done as a routine duty, with little care, interest, attention or thought — going through the motions. 'Cursory' is the closest synonym, meaning hasty and not thorough. 'Thorough' is the direct antonym. 'Persuasive' refers to convincing power, and 'vehement' refers to forcefulness — both describe argumentative styles unrelated to the carelessness implied by perfunctory. Answer: (B) Cursory.

Q26 C

'Sanguine' is an adjective derived from the Latin sanguis (blood) — in older humoral theory the sanguine temperament was associated with cheerfulness and optimism. The word now means optimistic, hopeful, or confident, especially in adverse circumstances. Its direct antonym is 'pessimistic'. Options (A) 'cheerful' and (B) 'optimistic' are synonyms; option (D) 'energetic' is loosely associated but not a true synonym. Answer: (C) Pessimistic.

Q27 B

The idiom 'to throw in the towel' originates from boxing, where a fighter's trainer would throw a towel into the ring to signal that his fighter could not continue the bout and was conceding the match. By extension, the idiom means to give up, surrender, or admit defeat. Option (A) inverts the meaning. Option (C) describes a ceremonial gesture before a contest, the opposite sense. Option (D) takes the phrase too literally. Answer: (B) To give up or surrender.

Q28 A

'Arrived at' (a decision) is the standard phrasal verb in English for reaching a conclusion after deliberation — committees, panels and courts 'arrive at' decisions. 'Looked into' means to investigate or examine a matter, not to conclude it. 'Given up on' implies abandonment, which is the opposite of reaching a decision. 'Carried out' means to execute or implement something already decided, not to decide. Answer: (A) arrived at.

Q29 C

Article 51A, inserted by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976 on the recommendation of the Swaran Singh Committee, contains the Fundamental Duties of citizens — originally ten, now eleven after the 86th Amendment (2002) added Article 51A(k) on parental responsibility for child education. Fundamental Rights are in Part III (Articles 12–35); Directive Principles of State Policy are in Part IV (Articles 36–51); the Preamble stands before the body of the Constitution. Answer: (C) Fundamental Duties.

Q30 B

Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973) is the seminal thirteen-judge Bench decision in which the Supreme Court laid down the doctrine of the BASIC STRUCTURE of the Constitution — Parliament may amend the Constitution under Article 368 but cannot alter its basic structure or essential features (federalism, secularism, judicial review, rule of law, separation of powers, etc.). Golaknath (1967) had earlier held that fundamental rights could not be amended at all — a position partly revised in Kesavananda. Minerva Mills (1980) and Indira Sawhney (1992) reaffirmed and refined the basic structure doctrine. Maneka Gandhi (1978) expanded Article 21 but did not lay down the basic structure doctrine.

Q31 B

'Kairos' is the novel by Jenny Erpenbeck (translated from German by Michael Hofmann) that won the 2024 International Booker Prize — Erpenbeck became the first German author to win the prize. The question's reference to 'Kairos' makes Jenny Erpenbeck the correct answer. Han Kang won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature, but for her broader body of work in Korean (including 'The Vegetarian' and 'Human Acts'), not for Kairos. Annie Ernaux won the Nobel in 2022 and Olga Tokarczuk in 2018. Answer: (B) Jenny Erpenbeck.

Q32 C

Gukesh Dommaraju (Gukesh D), then aged 18, became the World Chess Champion in December 2024 by defeating defending champion Ding Liren in the FIDE World Championship match held in Singapore, making him the youngest undisputed world chess champion in history. He retained the title through 2025. Viswanathan Anand last held the title in 2013 before losing it to Magnus Carlsen. Praggnanandhaa and Arjun Erigaisi are top Indian grandmasters but have not won the world championship. Answer: (C) Gukesh Dommaraju.

Q33 B

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) was formally announced through a Memorandum of Understanding signed on the sidelines of the G20 Summit held in New Delhi on 9 September 2023, under India's G20 Presidency. The signatories included India, the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the European Union, France, Germany and Italy. The corridor envisages a rail-and-shipping route linking India to Europe via the Gulf, intended as a strategic counter to alternative connectivity initiatives. Answer: (B) G20 New Delhi Summit, 2023.
