

**ANSWER KEY – 21 MAY 2026**

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

RC PASSAGES

**Q1 A**

The author's central claim is established across the opening two paragraphs: of 7,000 languages, fewer than 5% have meaningful digital presence; this absence is not slow disuse but 'sudden invisibility of being algorithmically irrelevant'. Option (B) captures this as a new and significant threat. Option (A) is the opposite of the author's position. Option (C) overstates: the passage attributes the problem to scale economics, not deliberate suppression by design — voice assistants do not 'actively suppress' but rather omit. Option (D) reflects the corporate-balance-sheet view that the author explicitly identifies as insufficient ('the cultural arithmetic is exactly inverted'). The most accurate restatement of the author's central claim is therefore (B).

**Q2 B**

The phrase 'cultural arithmetic is exactly inverted' draws an explicit contrast with the immediately preceding sentence about corporate balance sheets. The corporate calculation says: small languages do not justify investment. The cultural calculation says: small languages, because each carries unique metaphor and oral history, justify the very investment that markets cannot supply. Option (A) captures this inversion — cultural value runs opposite to commercial value. Options (B), (C) and (D) misread the metaphor as something quantitatively literal (inverse proportion, logarithmic decay, revenue inversion); the author uses 'inverted' rhetorically to signal opposed value systems, not a numerical relationship. The correct answer is (A).

**Q3 D**

In computational linguistics and the natural-language-processing context the passage establishes, 'tokens' refers to the discrete units (words, sub-words, characters) into which text is divided for use as training data. The passage explicitly situates the word in this sense: 'a language ... cannot supply the billions of tokens that contemporary language models demand'. Option (A) is the everyday symbolic sense (gesture of respect), Option (C) is the cryptography sense, and Option (D) is the consumer-coupon sense — none fit the technical context. The correct meaning here is (B).

**Q4 C**

The author's closing paragraph treats community-led projects with measured approval: 'The output is rarely commercially competitive, but it does something more important: it tells a community of speakers that their language belongs in the digital century.' This is approval combined with realism — commercial value is small, but symbolic value is large. Option (C) captures this 'cautiously approving' tone exactly. Option (A) (sceptical) misreads the passage's affirmative final clause. Option (B) (dismissive) inverts the position. Option (D) (triumphalist) overshoots: the author certainly does not claim the problem has been solved. The correct answer is (C).

**Q5 B**

The author's framing rests on two pillars: (i) corporate economics make AI investment in small languages unviable, and (ii) the dominant solution path has been community-led. New evidence that a leading technology company has profitably launched a model for fifty African languages 'at minimal cost' would undermine both pillars — it would suggest that the economic calculation is not as forbidding as the author claims, and that corporate effort can meet the need at scale. Option (A) is therefore the strongest weakening evidence. Options (B), (C) and (D) are tangential: (B) concerns Maori outcomes, not the economic argument; (C) concerns extinction rate estimates, not digital infrastructure; (D) is too vague to challenge the structural claim. The correct answer is (A).

**Q6 C**

The author's principal claim, sustained across the passage, is that behavioural economics has revealed systematic, predictable, replicable departures from the rational-agent model. Option (B) captures this directly. Option (A) overstates ('decisively replaced'); the closing paragraph explicitly resists that framing. Option (C) reflects the critics' position, not the author's. Option (D) describes one downstream consequence of the behavioural turn (its policy use) rather than the central claim. The correct answer is (B).

**Q7 A**

The 'sobering reckoning with its own evidentiary standards' phrase sits in the paragraph cataloguing critics' objections. Immediately before it, the author writes: 'several flagship behavioural results have failed to replicate at scale, and the discipline is now in the middle of a sobering reckoning.' The phrase therefore refers to the replication crisis affecting prominent behavioural findings. Option (B). Option (A) (curriculum absorption) is the opposite of a sobering reckoning. Option (C) (political pushback) is mentioned as a separate concern. Option (D) (credit disputes) is not in the passage. The correct answer is (B).

**Q8 D**

A meta-analysis showing loss aversion replicates robustly is exactly the kind of evidence behavioural economics needs to rebut the replication-crisis critique mentioned in paragraph four. It would directly strengthen the empirical basis of the field's core finding. Option (A). Option (B) (pension take-up) is real but addresses application, not the underlying empirics. Option (C) (mathematical equivalence) would actually undermine the case for behavioural economics by suggesting the two models are equivalent. Option (D) (economist preferences) is a sociological fact about practitioners, not evidence for the field's claims. The strongest strengthening evidence is (A).

**Q9 D**

The author calls homo economicus a 'useful fiction' and immediately catalogues its virtues — tractable mathematics, clean predictions, elegant welfare theorems — before noting the persistent flaw that real humans do not behave that way. The phrase signals that the model is a simplification, useful in its results yet false in its descriptive claim. Option (C). Option (A) overreaches by calling for discarding the model entirely — the author's closing paragraph explicitly resists that. Option (B) introduces motive (deliberate falsehood, conspiracy) absent from the passage. Option (D) reads 'fiction' ironically — but the author's whole point is that the model genuinely is a simplification, not literally true. The correct answer is (C).

**Q10 A**

The closing paragraph reads: 'The deeper lesson may be epistemic ... The behavioural turn does not destroy that theory; it embeds it in the messier reality of who we actually are.' This is conciliatory: behavioural economics is positioned as a corrective, not a replacement. Option (B). Option (A) (triumphalist) overstates the author's claim. Option (C) (sceptical that it will outlast popularity) is consistent with the critics' position but not the author's. Option (D) (ironic about both) misreads the tone — the closing is reflective and measured, not ironic. The correct answer is (B).

CR PASSAGES

**Q11 B**

The conclusion of an argument is the proposition the other claims are marshalled to support. Here the pro-copyright side is described as arguing 'AI-generated works should be granted copyright on the same terms as human creations'. Option (B) restates this exactly. Option (A) is a premise (about the current law's inadequacy); Option (C) is a premise of the critics, not the pro-copyright side; Option (D) is too sweeping — a 'principle' the argument relies upon but is not the conclusion. The correct answer is (B).

**Q12 C**

The pro-copyright argument rests on the claim that copyright's purpose is to incentivise creative production for public benefit. If that purpose were not the principal function of copyright — if, say, copyright were grounded in moral rights or in personality theory — the argument would collapse. Option (B) identifies this load-bearing assumption. Options (A), (C) and (D) are not strictly necessary: the argument can succeed even if the works are slightly distinguishable, even if Indian and U.S. law diverge, and even if AI use is concentrated rather than widespread. The most necessary assumption is (B).

**Q13 B**

If AI firms invest in language models regardless of whether output is copyrighted, then withholding copyright protection does NOT diminish AI investment — which is the central empirical premise of the incentive argument. Option (A) therefore strikes at the heart of the pro-copyright case. Option (B) does not bear on the incentive question; speed of output is a different fact. Option (C) (limited copyright in AI-assisted human works) is actually consistent with the pro-copyright position, not against it. Option (D) (consumer aesthetics) supports rather than weakens the pro-copyright argument. The strongest weakener is (A).

**Q14 D**

The moral-rights argument holds that authorship carries personality and stake. Survey evidence that audiences value works more when they know a specific human created them would directly support this — it shows that the human creative act is a substantive source of value, not merely an incidental fact. Option (A). Option (B) (consumer welfare aggregate higher for AI) actually supports the pro-copyright side. Option (C) (copyright registrations growing) is a fact about take-up, not about moral grounds. Option (D) (works-for-hire) is a corporate-authorship doctrine that the pro-copyright side could invoke — it does not strengthen the moral-rights critique. The correct answer is (A).

**Q15 A**

The closing question — whether the law should evolve to track every technological capability or retain principled commitments — is rhetorically structured as an invitation to deliberate. It is not a rhetorical question with an obvious answer (Option A wrong), nor a concession to the critics (Option C wrong), nor a signal that the law has already chosen (Option D wrong — the question explicitly leaves the issue open). The author asks the reader to weigh competing principles. Option (B) captures this 'invitation' function correctly.

**Q16 C**

The central conclusion is identified in the opening sentence and tracked across paragraphs one and two: India should abolish personal income tax and replace it with an expanded consumption tax. Option (C) restates this directly. Option (A) is a premise (narrow base) used to support the conclusion. Option (B) is a separate premise (administrative simplicity). Option (D) is a critics' point, not the pro-replacement conclusion. The correct answer is (C).

**Q17 D**

The pro-replacement argument focuses on revenue capture, base width, and compliance simplicity — but it is silent on distributive consequences. For the argument to succeed without offering a distributive defence, it must implicitly assume that distributive consequences are not central to the evaluation of a tax system. Option (A) names this assumption. Option (B) (uniform rates) is not necessary; multi-rate consumption taxes also exist. Option (C) (Indian consumers spend more) is not asserted by the argument. Option (D) (income-tax filing is the most burdensome) is too narrow. The most necessary unstated assumption is (A).

**Q18 A**

If marginal-rate income tax is empirically the most effective tool for compressing post-tax inequality in middle-income economies, then abolishing it would forfeit the principal redistributive instrument — a serious objection on consequentialist grounds even before the regressivity critique kicks in. Option (D) weakens the pro-replacement argument by undermining the implicit assumption that distributive outcomes can be safely ignored. Option (A) is consistent with the pro-replacement position (income-tax growth strong) and arguably strengthens the value of keeping it. Option (B) (compliance rates) supports neither side decisively. Option (C) (hydrocarbon revenue) actually weakens the Gulf comparison, but is already noted in the passage and not the strongest blow. The strongest weakener is (D).

**Q19 B**

The critics' first objection — that consumption taxes are regressive because the poor spend a higher share of income — is a normative claim about distributive consequences. It is not an empirical attack on the base claim (Option A) nor a procedural complaint (Option D) nor an international-comparison argument (Option C — that is the SECOND objection). Option (B) correctly identifies it as a normative challenge to the proposal's distributive consequences. The correct answer is (B).

**Q20 C**

The closing observation reframes the dispute: not 'which system is administratively easier' but 'what is a tax system for'. This is a classic structural-reframing move — locating disagreement at a higher level of abstraction (purposes and aims) rather than at the technical-design level. Option (B) names this function. Option (A) (concession to pro-replacement) misreads — the author says the consumption case has weight ONLY if the goal is solely revenue. Option (C) (empirical claim) misclassifies — the statement is normative, not descriptive of economist behaviour. Option (D) (dismissal of critics) is wrong — the closing actually privileges the critics' framing. The correct answer is (B).

SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK & CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Q21 B**

The Right to Information Act was passed by Parliament in 2005 and came into force on 12 October 2005. It superseded the Freedom of Information Act, 2002, which had been passed but not effectively notified. The 2005 Act established the Central and State Information Commissions and codified a strong statutory right of access to information held by public authorities. The correct answer is (B).

**Q22 A**

'Ephemeral' is an adjective derived from the Greek 'ephemeros' meaning 'lasting only a day'. In modern English it describes anything that is short-lived, fleeting, or transitory — a mood, a fashion, a digital trend, an insect's lifespan. Its direct antonym is 'permanent' — lasting indefinitely or for a very long time. 'Transient' is a synonym, not an antonym; 'fragile' connotes weakness rather than duration; 'sudden' refers to speed of onset rather than length of duration. The single best opposite is therefore 'permanent', captured by the correct option.

**Q23 C**

The G20 Leaders' Summit was held in New Delhi on 9-10 September 2023, hosted by India during its G20 presidency. The summit produced the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration. The other listed Indian cities did not host the leaders' summit itself, though Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru hosted ministerial-level G20 meetings during the broader presidency calendar. The correct answer is (C).

**Q24 D**

'To bell the cat' refers to the fable of the mice deciding to bell the cat so they would hear it coming — but no mouse was willing to actually do the belling. The idiom therefore means to undertake a dangerous task for the common good, especially when others are reluctant to step forward. Option (B) captures this precisely. Option (A) misses the dimension of acting on others' behalf; (C) introduces deception, which is absent; (D) confuses bell-the-cat with complaint. The correct answer is (B).

**Q25 D**

Under Article 85(2)(b) of the Constitution, the President dissolves the Lok Sabha. By constitutional convention and Article 74, the President acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. Hence the power formally vests in the President, exercised on ministerial advice. Option (C) captures this. Option (A) (Speaker) is wrong — the Speaker presides but does not dissolve. Option (B) (PM directly) confuses constitutional form with substance. Option (D) (joint session) refers to Article 108, a separate provision. The correct answer is (C).

**Q26 B**

'The Argumentative Indian: Writings on Indian History, Culture and Identity' was published in 2005 by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen. It collects essays on Indian intellectual traditions, secularism, identity and pluralism. Arundhati Roy is a novelist and essayist; Ramachandra Guha is a historian; Shashi Tharoor is a politician-author — none of them wrote this particular book. The correct answer is (B).

**Q27 A**

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, is headquartered at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. The ICJ should not be confused with the International Criminal Court (also at The Hague but a distinct institution). Geneva (Option A) hosts the UN's European headquarters and the WHO; New York (Option B) hosts the UN General Assembly; Vienna (Option D) hosts IAEA and UNODC. The correct answer is (C).

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**Q28 C**

The Basic Structure Doctrine was established by the Supreme Court of India in *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala* (1973), in a 7-6 majority decision that held that Parliament's power under Article 368 to amend the Constitution does not extend to altering its basic structure. *Golak Nath* (Option A) had earlier held amendments could not abridge fundamental rights but was overruled in *Kesavananda*. *Minerva Mills* (Option C) and *S.R. Bommai* (Option D) applied and developed the doctrine but did not establish it. The correct answer is (B).

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**Q29 D**

'Prolific' is an adjective describing someone or something that produces a large amount of output — typically creative, biological, or intellectual. A prolific novelist writes many books; a prolific scorer notches many goals; a prolific bacterium reproduces rapidly. The core meaning is therefore productivity, abundance, or fruitfulness. 'Productive' captures this synonym sense most precisely. 'Sparse' is the opposite (scarce, thin), 'wasteful' carries a pejorative connotation that 'prolific' does not, and 'hidden' is entirely unrelated to either abundance or scarcity. The correct synonymous match is captured by the correct option.

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**Q30 B**

Article 18 of the Constitution of India provides: 'No title, not being a military or academic distinction, shall be conferred by the State.' It also prohibits citizens from accepting titles from foreign states. This Article is part of the right to equality (Articles 14-18). Article 14 (Option A) guarantees equality before the law; Article 17 (Option B) abolishes untouchability; Article 21 (Option D) protects life and personal liberty. The correct answer is (C).