

**ANSWER KEY — 27 JUNE 2026**

<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q5</b>	<b>Q6</b>	<b>Q7</b>	<b>Q8</b>	<b>Q9</b>	<b>Q10</b>
A	B	C	D	B	A	D	C	B	A
<b>Q11</b>	<b>Q12</b>	<b>Q13</b>	<b>Q14</b>	<b>Q15</b>	<b>Q16</b>	<b>Q17</b>	<b>Q18</b>	<b>Q19</b>	<b>Q20</b>
C	D	D	B	A	C	D	A	B	C
<b>Q21</b>	<b>Q22</b>	<b>Q23</b>	<b>Q24</b>	<b>Q25</b>	<b>Q26</b>	<b>Q27</b>	<b>Q28</b>	<b>Q29</b>	<b>Q30</b>
A	D	B	C	A	D	A	C	B	D
<b>Q31</b>	<b>Q32</b>	<b>Q33</b>	<b>Q34</b>	<b>Q35</b>	<b>Q36</b>	<b>Q37</b>	<b>Q38</b>	<b>Q39</b>	<b>Q40</b>
C	B	A	D	B	C	D	A	B	C

SECTION A — LEGAL REASONING

**Q1 A**  
All five ingredients must be made out, and the burden lies on the plaintiff to prove the absence of reasonable and probable cause and the presence of malice. Vikram gave truthful information on genuine grounds, so reasonable and probable cause plainly existed and there was no improper motive. A bare acquittal satisfies only the 'termination in plaintiff's favour' element; it does not establish want of reasonable cause or malice. The informant who honestly and reasonably reports a suspected offence is protected, even though the accused is later cleared. The remaining options each isolate a single ingredient and treat it as decisive, which the law does not allow. Hence, option (A) is correct.

**Q2 B**  
Malice is necessary but never sufficient. Even a spiteful prosecutor escapes liability if he had reasonable and probable cause, because the plaintiff must independently prove BOTH the absence of reasonable cause AND malice, along with prosecution, favourable termination and damage. The statement that malice alone fixes liability therefore misstates the law and is the incorrect proposition sought. The other three statements correctly restate settled ingredients: favourable termination, the plaintiff's burden on want of reasonable cause, and honest reasonable belief as a defence. Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q3 C**  
Malice in this tort means a wrongful or improper motive; it need not take the form of personal hatred, spite or ill-will towards the plaintiff. An improper collateral purpose suffices, so the plaintiff is not required to prove personal animosity. By contrast, improper motive, favourable termination and actual damage are all essential ingredients the plaintiff must establish. The option singling out personal hatred as a required proof therefore describes something the plaintiff need NOT show. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q4 D**  
An essential ingredient is that the defendant 'prosecuted' the plaintiff — proceedings must actually have been initiated before a judicial authority. Where the police merely investigate a complaint and close it without any charge-sheet, no prosecution was ever set in motion before a court. The action therefore fails for want of this ingredient, notwithstanding Anil's malice and absence of reasonable cause. Malice, investigation and reputational damage cannot supply the missing element of an actual prosecution. Hence, option (D) is correct.

**Q5 B**  
Reasonable and probable cause is an honest belief in the accused's guilt, founded on reasonable grounds. That, standing alone, defeats the claim, because the plaintiff can no longer prove want of reasonable cause. Mere dislike or a wish to harm goes to malice, not to reasonable cause, and is not by itself a defence. A later acquittal addresses only favourable termination, and repeating an accusation may bear on malice or defamation but does not establish reasonable cause. Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q6 A**  
The plaintiff must prove BOTH want of reasonable and probable cause AND malice. Where, as here, the prosecutor had an honest belief on reasonable grounds, reasonable and probable cause existed, and that is a complete defence regardless of any collateral satisfaction she privately felt. A secret feeling of pleasure may suggest an improper motive, but malice without absence of reasonable cause is not actionable. Acquittal alone is insufficient, and private individuals can indeed be sued as prosecutors. Hence, option (A) is correct.

**Q7 D**  
Meena lawfully entrusted the necklace to Naresh for a specific purpose, so possession passed to him with consent. By selling it and keeping the proceeds he dishonestly converted entrusted property to his own use, which is the very definition of criminal breach of trust under Section 316 BNS. It is not theft, because possession was not taken without consent; not extortion, since no fear was induced; and the willing handing over does not make the later dishonest conversion innocent. Hence, option (D) is correct.

**Q8 C**

Both offences require dishonesty and may concern movable property, so those features do not distinguish them. The true point of distinction lies in how possession is obtained: in criminal breach of trust it is obtained lawfully and with consent and is only afterwards dishonestly misused, whereas in theft possession is wrongfully taken from the outset without the owner's consent. The statements about immovable property, absence of dishonesty, and the victim being a stranger are all inaccurate. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q9 B**

Dishonesty is indispensable to the offence. Mere negligence or carelessness in handling property, or a purely civil default, does not amount to criminal breach of trust; the statement asserting that negligence without dishonesty constitutes the offence is therefore false and is the proposition sought. The other statements correctly restate the law: entrustment is essential, dishonest misappropriation or conversion must be shown, and the property may be entrusted under a legal contract touching the trust. Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q10 A**

The money was entrusted to Ravi with a specific direction — to deposit it in the company account. Using it for his own debts is a dishonest user in violation of that direction, squarely within Section 316 BNS. An intention to repay later does not cleanse the dishonest misappropriation. It is not theft, since the money was entrusted, not taken without consent, and not cheating, as no deception induced the entrustment. Hence, option (A) is correct.

**Q11 C**

The luggage was voluntarily entrusted to the porter for the limited purpose of carrying it to the taxi, so he received lawful possession. Absconding with it is a dishonest conversion of entrusted property, which is criminal breach of trust. It is not theft, because possession was given with consent; not robbery, as no force or fear was used; and not cheating, since there was no deception inducing the passenger to part with the luggage. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q12 D**

Liability for criminal breach of trust turns on entrustment of property and its dishonest misappropriation or conversion, often in violation of a direction of law or contract. Whether the accused and the owner were previously acquainted is immaterial; strangers and intimates alike may be entrusted with property. The prior relationship is therefore the least relevant of the listed considerations, while the others go directly to the ingredients of the offence. Hence, option (D) is correct.

## SECTION B — ANALYTICAL REASONING

**Q13 D**

From clue (ii) Q is on floor 4 and from clue (v) S is on floor 1. By clue (iii) U is above Q with two floors between them, so U is on floor 7 (floors 5 and 6 lie between 4 and 7). The remaining floors 2, 3, 5 and 6 are filled by P, V, T and R. Clue (i) gives the pair P-then-V and clue (iv) gives T-then-R, each an adjacent pair; the only split is {P,V} on 2,3 and {T,R} on 5,6, and clue (vi) needing V on an odd floor fixes P=2, V=3, T=5, R=6. The topmost floor 7 is occupied by U. Hence, option (D) is correct.

**Q14 B**

The fully solved arrangement, from floor 1 upward, is S, P, V, Q, T, R, U. V lives on floor 3 and T lives on floor 5, so the only floor lying between them is floor 4, occupied by Q. Therefore exactly one person lives between V and T. The answers of none, two or three do not match the single intervening floor separating V from T in the established order. Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q15 A**

In the solved order S(1), P(2), V(3), Q(4), T(5), R(6), U(7), the floor immediately above Q's fourth floor is the fifth floor. The fifth floor is occupied by T. Hence T lives directly above Q. R lives on the sixth floor, V on the third and P on the second, so none of those is immediately above Q. Hence, option (A) is correct.

**Q16 C**

In the original arrangement S occupies floor 1 and U occupies floor 7. If the two interchange their floors, U moves down to floor 1 and S moves up to floor 7. The lowest floor would then be occupied by U. The other named persons remain on their original floors and are unaffected by this single swap. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q17 D**

From clue (6) the tabla player is from Pune, and clue (3) places Janak in Pune, so Janak plays the tabla. Isha plays the sitar (2) and Manu the guitar (4). That leaves the flute and the veena for Kabir and Leela. By clue (1) the flautist is from Bhopal, but clue (5) puts Leela in Kochi, so Leela cannot be the flautist; she therefore plays the veena and Kabir plays the flute. Leela plays the veena. Hence, option (D) is correct.

**Q18 A**

Kabir, the flautist, is from Bhopal by clue (1); Janak is from Pune (3) and Leela from Kochi (5). The cities still unassigned are Indore and Jaipur, which must belong to Isha and Manu. Clue (7) states Isha is not from Indore, so Isha is from Jaipur and Manu is from Indore. The performer from Indore is therefore Manu, not Isha, Kabir or Janak. Hence, option (A) is correct.

**Q19 B**

From the full solution, Isha is the performer from Jaipur, and Isha plays the sitar by clue (2). Hence the performer from Jaipur plays the sitar. The guitar belongs to Manu of Indore, the tabla to Janak of Pune and the flute to Kabir of Bhopal, so none of those instruments is linked to Jaipur. Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q20 C**

The complete solution is Isha — sitar — Jaipur; Janak — tabla — Pune; Kabir — flute — Bhopal; Leela — veena — Kochi; Manu — guitar — Indore. Testing each option against this solution: Isha is from Jaipur, not Indore; Janak is from Pune, not Bhopal; and Manu is from Indore, not Jaipur. Only the pairing of Leela with Kochi matches the solution, since clue (5) directly places Leela in the city of Kochi. Hence, option (C) is correct.

## SECTION C — QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

**Q21 A**

Manali's arrivals rose from 480 thousand in 2024 to 540 thousand in 2025, an increase of 60 thousand. The percentage change equals the increase divided by the original value, multiplied by 100:  $(60 / 480) \times 100 = 12.5\%$ . The figure of 11.25% would require an increase of 54 thousand and 15% an increase of 72 thousand, neither of which matches the data, so 12.5% is the only correct value. Hence, option (A) is correct.

**Q22 D**

Comparing the 2024 and 2025 columns, Manali rose 480 to 540, Shimla 600 to 660, Mussoorie 350 to 420 and Darjeeling 320 to 400, each an increase. Only Nainital moved downward, from 400 thousand to 380 thousand, a fall of 20 thousand arrivals. Therefore Nainital is the single station that recorded a decline, while the other three named options all show growth over the year. Hence, option (D) is correct.

**Q23 B**

Adding the 2025 column gives  $540 + 660 + 420 + 380 + 400$ . Summing step by step:  $540 + 660 = 1,200$ ;  $1,200 + 420 = 1,620$ ;  $1,620 + 380 = 2,000$ ;  $2,000 + 400 = 2,400$ . The total number of arrivals across all five stations in 2025 is therefore 2,400 thousand. The alternatives of 2,200, 2,350 and 2,500 do not correspond to the correct sum of the five figures. Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q24 C**

Darjeeling's 2025 arrivals were 400 thousand, that is 4,00,000 tourists, each spending on average Rs. 3,500. Revenue equals arrivals multiplied by average spend:  $4,00,000 \times 3,500 = \text{Rs. } 1,40,00,00,000$ , which is Rs. 140 crore. The other figures of Rs. 120, 137.5 and 150 crore would require different arrival or spend values than those given in the table for Darjeeling. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q25 A**

Shimla's 2024 arrivals were 600 thousand and Mussoorie's were 350 thousand. The ratio is 600 : 350. Dividing both terms by their common factor of 50 gives 12 : 7. Checking the alternatives, 5 : 3 equals about 1.67, 7 : 4 equals 1.75 and 15 : 11 equals about 1.36, whereas 600/350 equals about 1.71, matching 12 : 7 exactly. Hence, option (A) is correct.

**Q26 D**

In 2021, 8.0 lakh candidates appeared, which is 8,00,000, and 120 thousand qualified, which is 1,20,000. The qualifying percentage is  $(1,20,000 / 8,00,000) \times 100$ . The fraction  $1,20,000 / 8,00,000$  equals 0.15, and multiplying by 100 gives 15%. The alternatives of 13.5%, 18% and 20% would correspond to different qualified totals against the same 8 lakh appeared, and so do not fit the figures given. Hence, option (D) is correct.

**Q27 A**

Reading down the 'finally selected' column, the values are 1,500 in 2021, 1,800 in 2022, 2,000 in 2023, 1,900 in 2024 and 2,200 in 2025. The largest of these is 2,200, which occurs in 2025. Therefore 2025 saw the highest number of candidates finally selected, exceeding even 2023's figure of 2,000. Hence, option (A) is correct.

**Q28 C**

Candidates appeared rose from 8.0 lakh in 2021 to 11.0 lakh in 2025, an increase of 3.0 lakh. The percentage increase is the increase divided by the original, times 100:  $(3.0 / 8.0) \times 100 = 37.5\%$ . The options of 30%, 36.25% and 40% would require increases of 2.4, 2.9 and 3.2 lakh respectively, none of which matches the actual rise of 3.0 lakh. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q29 B**

In 2023, 2,000 candidates were finally selected out of 150 thousand, that is 1,50,000, who qualified. The ratio of selected to qualified is  $2,000 / 1,50,000$ , which simplifies to  $1 / 75$ . So roughly one in every seventy-five qualified candidates was finally selected. The ratios of 1 in 60, 1 in 80 and 1 in 100 do not match this exact simplification of the 2023 figures. Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q30 D**

The numbers finally selected across the five years are 1,500, 1,800, 2,000, 1,900 and 2,200. Their sum is  $1,500 + 1,800 + 2,000 + 1,900 + 2,200 = 9,400$ . Dividing by the five years gives an average of  $9,400 / 5 = 1,880$  candidates per year. The alternative averages of 1,850, 1,900 and 1,950 do not equal this exact quotient. Hence, option (D) is correct.

## SECTION D — RAPID-FIRE MIXED REASONING &amp; GK

**Q31 C**

Rohan's grandfather's only son must be Rohan's own father, because the grandfather has exactly one son. The girl is described as the daughter of that son, that is, the daughter of Rohan's father. A daughter of one's father is one's sister. She is therefore Rohan's sister, not his daughter, niece or cousin. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q32 B**

Take north as positive vertical and east as positive horizontal. Walking 4 km north reaches (0, 4). A right turn faces east; 3 km east reaches (3, 4). A second right turn faces south; 4 km south reaches (3, 0). The displacement from the origin is purely 3 km east, since the northward 4 km is exactly cancelled. The straight-line distance from the start is therefore 3 km. Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q33 A**

All pens are books, and some books are red. From 'some books are red' nothing certain follows about pens, because the red books may lie entirely outside the pen set, so conclusion I is not guaranteed. However, since all pens are books, those pens are certainly books that are pens, so 'some books are pens' must be true. Thus only conclusion II follows. Hence, option (A) is correct.

**Q34 D**

In the code FACE to GBDF each letter advances by one position in the alphabet: F to G, A to B, C to D and E to F. Applying the same rule to HAND, H becomes I, A becomes B, N becomes O and D becomes E. The coded form is therefore IBOE. The other options arise from advancing only some of the letters or shifting the wrong way. Hence, option (D) is correct.

**Q35 B**

The differences between consecutive terms are  $6 - 2 = 4$ ,  $12 - 6 = 6$ ,  $20 - 12 = 8$  and  $30 - 20 = 10$ , increasing by 2 each time. The next difference is therefore 12, so the term after 30 is  $30 + 12 = 42$ . Equivalently, each term equals  $n$  times  $(n + 1)$  for  $n = 1, 2, 3$ , and the sixth term is  $6 \times 7 = 42$ . Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q36 C**

The increase in price is  $300 - 250 = \text{Rs. } 50$ . The percentage increase is taken on the original price, so it equals  $(50 / 250) \times 100$ . The fraction  $50 / 250$  is 0.2, and multiplying by 100 gives 20%. A figure of 16.67% would come from dividing by 300, and 25% from dividing by 200, both of which use the wrong base. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q37 D**

Profit is the selling price minus the cost price:  $460 - 400 = \text{Rs. } 60$ . Profit percentage is profit divided by cost price, times 100:  $(60 / 400) \times 100$ . The fraction  $60 / 400$  equals 0.15, which is 15%. The alternatives of 12.5%, 18% and 20% correspond to profits of Rs. 50, 72 and 80 respectively, none of which matches the actual profit of Rs. 60. Hence, option (D) is correct.

**Q38 A**

Average speed equals total distance divided by total time. Here the train covers 180 km in 3 hours, so the speed is  $180 / 3 = 60 \text{ km/h}$ . The other options do not satisfy this relationship: 45 km/h would cover only 135 km in three hours, 62.5 km/h would cover 187.5 km, and 90 km/h would cover 270 km, so 60 km/h is the only consistent value. Hence, option (A) is correct.

**Q39 B**

Article 17 of the Constitution of India abolishes 'untouchability' and forbids its practice in any form, making its enforcement an offence punishable by law. Article 14 guarantees equality before the law, Article 19 protects the freedoms of speech and movement, and Article 21 protects life and personal liberty. Only Article 17 deals specifically with the abolition of untouchability. Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q40 C**

The Rajya Sabha is the upper house of the Indian Parliament and is constitutionally described as the Council of States, since its members largely represent the states and union territories. The 'House of the People' is the Lok Sabha, the lower house; 'Legislative Assembly' refers to a state legislature. Hence the Rajya Sabha is correctly called the Council of States. Hence, option (C) is correct.