Daily RC & CR Sheet — 4 June 2026

20 Qs · 30 Min
+1 / −0.25

Daily Reading Comprehension & Critical Reasoning
Two RC passages (English-as-Language) and two CR passages (Argumentation). Read each carefully and answer based on what is stated or implied.
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PASSAGE 1 (RC) — QUANTUM COMPUTING AND THE COMING CRISIS IN PUBLIC-KEY CRYPTOGRAPHY (SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY / POLICY) Q1-5

READ CAREFULLY AND ANSWER Q1–5 BASED ONLY ON THE PASSAGE.

For nearly four decades, the secure movement of money, secrets, and signatures across the internet has rested on a small handful of mathematical problems thought to be too hard for ordinary computers to solve in any reasonable time — most famously, factoring very large integers and computing discrete logarithms over finite groups. The RSA algorithm, deployed in everything from online banking to passport chips, draws its strength from the first; elliptic-curve cryptography, used in messaging apps and blockchain wallets, draws its strength from the second. The unspoken bet was that whatever clever attack a future adversary might devise, brute factoring of a 2048-bit number was a problem that would remain comfortably out of reach. That bet now looks shakier than it once did. In 1994, Peter Shor showed that a sufficiently large fault-tolerant quantum computer could, in principle, factor numbers in time polynomial in the length of the input — vastly faster than the best known classical algorithms. For most of the intervening years, this was a theoretical curiosity: building a quantum computer with thousands of logical qubits, error-corrected to the precision Shor's algorithm needs, seemed remote. The recent years have softened that complacency. Several research groups have demonstrated logical qubits with error rates below the surface-code threshold, and roadmaps from the leading hardware vendors now project cryptographically relevant machines within a window that policymakers cannot ignore. The response of standards bodies has been to bring forward the migration to so-called post-quantum cryptography — primitives whose hardness rests on problems, such as those in lattice geometry, that are not known to fall to known quantum algorithms. The American standards body, NIST, finalised its first slate of post-quantum signature and key-encapsulation schemes in 2024, and central banks and tax authorities in several countries have begun internal transition programmes. The challenge, however, is not purely cryptanalytic. The passage closes with a deliberate note of urgency directed at policymakers and standards-setters alike.

1. The author cites the 'harvest now, decrypt later' phenomenon primarily to:

◯ **A.** Demonstrate that quantum computers capable of breaking RSA at full scale are already operational in several leading national labor having regard to the precedents.

◯ **B.** Show that the threat posed by quantum computing to encryption is purely theoretical and not yet a practical concern for the world.

◯ **C.** Argue that data which must remain confidential over long horizons is exposed even before any large-scale quantum computer is const.

◯ **D.** Establish that lattice-based cryptographic schemes are already capable of resisting decryption attempts undertaken by state-level.

2. Which of the following, if true, would MOST WEAKEN the author's case for an urgent migration to post-quantum cryptography?

◯ **A.** A new mathematical proof shows that scaling fault-tolerant quantum computers beyond a few hundred logical qubits is information-th.

◯ **B.** Several private research groups have demonstrated material progress on surface-code error correction within the last two calendar.

◯ **C.** Encrypted traffic on the public internet has been observed being collected at scale by adversarial state actors and quasi-state ac on the facts of the question.

◯ **D.** Post-quantum signature schemes typically involve larger keys and more compute per operation than the older RSA and ECC schemes cur.

3. In the passage, the phrase 'unspoken bet' MOST nearly refers to:

◯ **A.** A formal multilateral wager among the world's national cryptographic agencies concerning the lifespan of public-key encryption sta under the principle stated above.

◯ **B.** An explicit clause in the original RSA patent that disclaimed any liability arising from the future cryptanalytic breakthroughs in.

◯ **C.** A statistical model used by NIST to set the recommended key sizes for RSA-2048 across federal agencies and contractors in the Unit.

◯ **D.** An implicit assumption underlying current deployments that factoring large integers would remain practically infeasible for many d.

4. The author's overall stance towards the sceptics' position can BEST be described as:

◯ **A.** Strongly endorsing — the author concludes that scepticism is correct and that migration should be deferred until quantum machines.

◯ **B.** Cautiously rejecting — the author acknowledges the engineering uncertainty but argues that the migration timeline itself counsels.

◯ **C.** Neutral — the author presents both sides without indicating any preference between immediate migration and a more delayed transiti.

◯ **D.** Dismissive — the author treats the sceptics' arguments as commercially motivated and unworthy of serious engagement on technical g.

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5. Which of the following can MOST safely be inferred from the passage?

◯ **A.** The cryptographic transition to post-quantum schemes is itself a multi-year process, and beginning it after a quantum breakthrough.

◯ **B.** Lattice-based cryptography has been mathematically proven to be permanently secure against every possible class of quantum algorit on a fair reading of the rule.

◯ **C.** Shor's algorithm has already been used to factor commercially significant RSA-2048 keys in at least one published academic demonst.

◯ **D.** The migration to post-quantum cryptography will be entirely complete within a decade across all major commercial and governmental.

PASSAGE 2 (RC) — REVIVING THE DROWNED CITY — THE POLITICS OF URBAN WETLAND RESTORATION IN INDIA (URBAN POLICY / ECOLOGY) Q6–10

READ CAREFULLY AND ANSWER Q6–10 BASED ONLY ON THE PASSAGE.

When the residents of an Indian metropolis describe a 'lake', they often mean a body of water that, fifty years ago, drained a far larger watershed than it does today. The standard urban wetland in Bengaluru, Chennai or Hyderabad sits at the bottom of a chain of inter-connected tanks, each historically fed by stormwater from the catchment above and each historically draining into the next through a regulated outlet. The chain functioned as a single hydraulic system: when one tank overflowed, the surplus moved downstream in an orderly way, attenuating flood peaks and recharging shallow aquifers along the route. A century of unplanned construction has dismembered the chain. Inflow channels have been built over or converted into sewers; bunds have been breached for road alignments; tank beds have been encroached upon for housing and, in many cases, formally regularised into revenue land. The lakes that survive are reduced fragments of what they once were, and the floods that strike the same cities every monsoon are, in part, the predictable consequence of dismantling the chain that previously absorbed the rain. Urban-wetland restoration, when it succeeds, restores not just the visible water-body but the invisible system that fed it. Successful projects in pockets of Bengaluru and Chennai have begun by tracing original drainage channels on colonial-era survey maps, then comparing them with present-day land use; the gap between the two is a map of the encroachments and obstructions that must be removed or by-passed. The wetland itself is then de-silted, the bund repaired, an outflow regulator built, and a buffer of native riparian vegetation re-established. Crucially, citizen groups are drawn in to maintain the lake bed against re-encroachment after the official project closes — a step that determines, more than any engineering choice, whether the restoration survives the next election cycle. The closing passage emphasises that engineering alone cannot answer the political question at the heart of urban land use.

6. The author's central claim about urban-wetland restoration in India is that:

◯ **A.** The principal barrier is the absence of modern engineering techniques to de-silt and regulate the outflow of degraded urban lakes having regard to the precedents.

◯ **B.** Durable restoration requires not only physical repair of the lake but also restoration of the wider drainage system and the politi.

◯ **C.** Restoration is generally easier in metropolitan areas than in smaller cities because of the deeper pool of funding available from.

◯ **D.** Citizen groups can substitute fully for statutory backing once a lake has been physically repaired and a riparian buffer zone has.

7. Which of the following is MOST nearly the meaning of the word 'dismembered' as used in the passage?

◯ **A.** Aesthetically improved in its visual character through deliberate planning and design.

◯ **B.** Officially deregulated by an executive order of the relevant state government.

◯ **C.** Catalogued in a comprehensive municipal register by a specialised survey team.

◯ **D.** Broken into disconnected fragments such that the chain no longer functions as a unit.

8. Which of the following, if true, would MOST STRENGTHEN the author's argument that statutory authorities are necessary for durable restoration?

◯ **A.** A multi-city comparative study finds that cities with statutory wetland authorities preserve 75% of restored lakes after a decade,.

◯ **B.** Citizen associations in advisory-regime cities have, in the past five years, doubled their average annual budgets devoted to monit on the facts of the question.

◯ **C.** Modern remote-sensing tools have improved by an order of magnitude in their ability to detect encroachments on restored lake buffe.

◯ **D.** A national government scheme has earmarked a substantial new annual grant for de-silting all major urban wetlands across the count.

9. Which of the following can MOST safely be INFERRED from the passage?

◯ **A.** The recurring monsoon floods in cities such as Bengaluru and Chennai are entirely independent of the historical degradation of the under the principle stated above.

◯ **B.** Colonial-era survey maps are a useless input for modern restoration projects because urban land use has shifted decisively since t.

◯ **C.** Even after lakes have been restored, encroachment can resume if statutory protection and active civic vigilance do not jointly con.

◯ **D.** Restoration of urban wetlands in India is a purely engineering exercise that does not raise distributive or political questions ab.

10. The author's tone towards advisory wetland authorities is BEST described as:

◯ **A.** Strongly supportive — the author argues that advisory authorities are sufficient for the durable protection of urban wetlands acro on a fair reading of the rule.

◯ **B.** Sceptical — the author suggests that, in the absence of statutory teeth, advisory authorities tend to leave wetland outcomes hosta.

◯ **C.** Hostile — the author dismisses the work of advisory authorities as wholly corrupt and incapable of any meaningful contribution to.

◯ **D.** Indifferent — the author treats the distinction between statutory and advisory authorities as a formality of no real consequence t.

PASSAGE 3 (CR) — SHOULD INDIA BAN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC ACROSS ALL RETAIL FORMATS? (ENVIRONMENT / POLICY) Q11–15

READ THE ARGUMENT AND ANSWER Q11–15.

India should now move to a complete and uniform prohibition of single-use plastic across every retail format — from neighbourhood kirana stores to organised e-commerce — and not merely a list of named items. The case for doing so is built on a series of interlocking premises. First, the existing regime, which proscribes a narrow set of specified items such as plastic cutlery, straws and certain forms of carry-bag below a stated thickness, has been comprehensively gamed by the market: manufacturers have shifted to formally compliant but functionally identical formats, regulators have struggled to maintain a current list of named offending items, and effective consumption of single-use plastic in retail has either plateaued or risen. Second, the harms from such plastics are now well-documented: marine litter has reached levels at which microplastics are present in human blood and breast milk; clogged drains have made urban flooding measurably worse; and the cost of waste collection has risen sharply because plastic refuses to compost and complicates segregation. Third, the alternative materials — paper, jute, cloth, compostable bioplastics — are now manufactured at sufficient scale in India that their unit cost is within striking distance of the plastic that they replace, particularly when externalities are even partially priced in. Fourth, the disorganised informal sector that today absorbs much of the cleanup burden is itself overwhelmingly worse off in a high-plastic equilibrium. A few objections, although serious, ultimately do not undercut the case. The compliance burden on the smallest traders is real but addressable by a structured transition window of eighteen months and targeted subsidies for replacement materials. The risk of cross-border smuggling of banned products is best handled at the customs interface rather than as a reason to retain a porous domestic regime. The author closes with a deliberate invitation to confront, rather than defer, the costs of inaction in this domain.

11. Which of the following is the author's MAIN CONCLUSION?

◯ **A.** Marine plastic litter has reached levels at which microplastics are now detectable in human blood and breast milk across many coun having regard to the precedents.
◯ **B.** Alternative materials such as paper, jute, cloth, and compostable bioplastics are now manufactured at sufficient scale in India fo.
◯ **C.** The disorganised informal cleanup sector is, in aggregate, worse off under a high-plastic equilibrium than it would be under an al.
◯ **D.** India should move to a complete, uniform prohibition of single-use plastic across every retail format, not merely a list of specif.

12. Which of the following is an UNSTATED ASSUMPTION on which the author's argument rests?

◯ **A.** That regulatory authorities in India can credibly enforce a uniform prohibition once it is enacted, including against attempts at.
◯ **B.** That single-use plastics have been the principal cause of every recent flood event observed in metropolitan Indian cities over the.
◯ **C.** That every consumer in India will prefer a paper or cloth bag to a plastic bag when both are offered at exactly the same price at.
◯ **D.** That the central government will reach agreement with every state government on the precise list of plastic items to be brought wi.

13. Which of the following, if true, would MOST WEAKEN the author's argument?

◯ **A.** Several Indian states have already implemented narrow bans on certain plastic items that are currently in force across most parts.
◯ **B.** A small fraction of plastic carry-bags currently in circulation are visibly thicker than the threshold prescribed by the existing.
◯ **C.** Independent audits show that complete bans in comparable jurisdictions have been followed by a documented and persistent rise in u.
◯ **D.** Compostable bioplastics, although increasingly available, are presently somewhat more expensive than equivalent quantities of conv on the facts of the question.

14. Which of the following, if true, would MOST STRENGTHEN the author's case for the eighteen-month transition window?

◯ **A.** Audited transitions of comparable scope in Indian textiles and packaging have, in the recent past, repeatedly required between fif.
◯ **B.** A few small traders' associations have publicly opposed any time-bound transition window of any duration as commercially unviable.
◯ **C.** A handful of Indian states have, in the recent past, exempted certain types of small kirana traders from broader transition obliga under the principle stated above.
◯ **D.** Many global manufacturers of paper and jute bags have indicated that they could supply India only after a transition window much l.

15. The author's treatment of the cross-border smuggling concern can BEST be characterised as:

◯ **A.** Conceding that smuggling is a serious risk and that the customs interface, rather than a porous domestic regime, is the appropriat.
◯ **B.** Denying altogether that smuggling is a risk and asserting that India's borders are completely impermeable to any informal flow of.
◯ **C.** Treating smuggling as a decisive objection that ultimately defeats the argument for a complete and uniform prohibition across ever on a fair reading of the rule.
◯ **D.** Ignoring smuggling entirely and proceeding as though no informal cross-border movement of prohibited goods would ever occur after.

PASSAGE 4 (CR) — SHOULD INDIAN UNIVERSITIES ADOPT BLIND GRADING BY AI FOR ALL WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS? (EDUCATION / TECHNOLOGY / ETHICS) Q16–20

READ THE ARGUMENT AND ANSWER Q16–20.

Indian universities should now move to a system of fully blind grading of written examinations by trained AI graders, with human examiners retained only for an audit role. The case rests on three observations. First, the current paper-evaluation regime is dogged by well-documented inconsistencies: studies of double-blind re-evaluation in Indian universities routinely find disagreement between two human graders on more than a third of long-answer papers, and the disagreement is greater for borderline scripts where the stakes for the candidate are highest. Second, candidate identity, although ostensibly hidden, leaks: handwriting, language register, and even the choice of vocabulary can correlate with caste, gender or institution of origin in ways that nudge graders, almost certainly without their conscious awareness. Third, modern language models trained on rubric-graded scripts can be evaluated against held-out human marks and have repeatedly demonstrated inter-rater agreement at the human ceiling or above for short-answer and structured long-answer formats. A few standard objections require an answer rather than mere dismissal. The first is the model-bias objection: that a language model trained on past Indian grading data will inherit the same biases that infect its training set. This is a real risk and the response is not to refuse AI but to require pre-deployment fairness audits and protected-class invariance testing that no human grader has ever been subjected to. The second is the explainability objection: that, unlike a human examiner, a model cannot account for why it gave a particular mark. This too is addressable: rubric-aligned graders can produce a per-criterion score breakdown and a short rationale anchored in the candidate's own script. The third is the contestability objection: that candidates may have no recourse against a machine. The proposed retention of human audit, with a real escalation pathway for disputed scripts, directly answers this. The author ends by reframing the comparison so that the supposed risks of change are weighed against the actual baseline, not an idealised one.

16. Which of the following BEST states the author's main conclusion?

◯ **A.** Indian universities should now move to fully blind grading of written examinations by trained AI graders, with human examiners ret.

◯ **B.** Language models trained on rubric-graded scripts have demonstrated inter-rater agreement at the human ceiling for several formats.

◯ **C.** Studies of double-blind re-evaluation in Indian universities routinely find disagreement between human graders on more than a thir having regard to the precedents.

◯ **D.** The current paper-evaluation regime in Indian higher education is dogged by well-documented inconsistencies between any two given.

17. Which of the following BEST identifies the author's response to the 'model-bias objection'?

◯ **A.** The author rejects the objection by asserting that AI models trained on Indian data are inherently free of caste-, gender- and ins on the facts of the question.

◯ **B.** The author concedes the objection and concludes that the proposal must be abandoned in favour of retaining the existing fully huma.

◯ **C.** The author concedes that the risk is real but argues that pre-deployment fairness audits — which have never been required of human.

◯ **D.** The author treats the objection as conceptually incoherent and accordingly declines to engage with it on either empirical or norma.

18. Which of the following, if true, would MOST WEAKEN the author's argument?

◯ **A.** A few Indian universities have, on a small scale, conducted preliminary pilot studies of AI-assisted grading of multiple-choice ex under the principle stated above.

◯ **B.** Modern handwriting-recognition systems are now able to convert most legible Indian handwriting into machine-readable form with ver.

◯ **C.** Many present-day language models are computationally expensive to operate at the volume of papers that an examination season would.

◯ **D.** Comprehensive fairness audits of current rubric-based language model graders consistently disclose larger disparate-impact gaps th.

19. Which of the following is the author's IMPLICIT comparator when assessing AI grading?

◯ **A.** An idealised human grading regime in which inter-rater disagreement is exactly zero across all scripts and all examiners, anywhere.

◯ **B.** A retrospective compilation of the highest performing single human grader's records in each major Indian university over the past.

◯ **C.** An external multiple-choice testing service operating fully outside any university and producing computer-graded scores for an ent.

◯ **D.** The actual present-day human grading regime in Indian universities, which the author argues is inconsistent, opaque, and uncontest.

20. Which of the following, if true, would MOST STRENGTHEN the author's case?

◯ **A.** Several Indian universities have, in the past five years, sharply increased per-script honoraria paid to human grading examiners f.

◯ **B.** Many parents of present examination candidates have indicated, in survey responses, that they would be open to AI-assisted grading.

◯ **C.** A multi-university audit reports that rubric-aligned AI graders, after fairness training, deliver agreement with expert panels on.

◯ **D.** A few universities are presently exploring digital paper-submission platforms that capture the candidate's script in fully machine.