

**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) — THE SILENT LOSS OF THE WORLD'S LANGUAGES (LINGUISTICS / CULTURE) Q1-5**

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

Of the roughly seven thousand languages spoken today, linguists estimate that nearly half may fall silent before the century is out. A language is reckoned endangered when it is no longer being learned by children; once a generation stops passing its mother tongue to the next, the language enters a slow decline that usually ends with the death of its last fluent speaker. The arithmetic is sobering: a handful of dominant languages, chief among them English, Mandarin, Spanish and Hindi, are spoken by an ever larger share of humanity, while thousands of smaller tongues are confined to shrinking communities of the old.

It is tempting to regard this as the natural, even efficient, consolidation of human communication. If fewer languages mean that more people can speak to one another, what exactly is lost? The answer, linguists insist, is a great deal. Every language is a distinct system for carving up and naming experience, and many encode knowledge found nowhere else: the names of medicinal plants, the navigational lore of seafarers, the subtle vocabularies of kinship and season. When such a language dies, that knowledge is rarely translated in time; it simply evaporates. A language is, in this sense, a library that burns without anyone smelling the smoke.

There is also a human cost that statistics conceal. For its speakers, a language is bound up with identity, memory and belonging. The pressure to abandon a mother tongue — whether through schooling that punishes its use, migration to cities, or the simple allure of a more prestigious language — is often experienced as a quiet humiliation. Children grow up unable to speak to their grandparents; songs and stories lose their audience; a community's sense of itself frays.

Yet the picture is not wholly bleak. Revival is possible, as the careful rebuilding of Hebrew and the steady recovery of Welsh and Maori both show. Digital tools now let small communities record elders, compile dictionaries and teach the young at a distance. Whether a language survives, the evidence suggests, depends less on the raw number of its speakers than on whether those speakers, and the states around them, decide that it is worth the trouble of keeping alive.

**1. As used in the passage, the phrase 'a library that burns without anyone smelling the smoke' most nearly conveys that the loss of a language is:**

- A. a deliberate act of cultural vandalism carried out by dominant groups.
- B. a danger that is loudly announced but rarely acted upon in practice.
- C. a destruction of irreplaceable knowledge that goes largely unnoticed.
- D. a gradual process that ultimately leaves human knowledge unchanged.

**2. Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?**

- A. The consolidation of the world into a few major languages is an efficient and welcome development, as a general matter.
- B. Digital technology has already solved the problem of the world's vanishing minority languages.
- C. The number of speakers a language has is the single decisive factor in whether it survives.
- D. Language loss is a serious, often invisible loss of knowledge and identity, but revival remains possible.

**3. It can be inferred from the passage that a language is generally considered endangered when:**

- A. children in the community have stopped learning it as a mother tongue.
- B. it is spoken by fewer than a fixed threshold of several thousand people.
- C. its last fully fluent speaker has already died within living memory.
- D. it lacks a written script and a standardised printed dictionary.

**4. The author's attitude towards the future of endangered languages is best described as:**

- A. entirely despairing
- B. coldly indifferent
- C. cautiously hopeful
- D. naively triumphant

**5. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's claim that the death of a language causes unique knowledge to be lost?**

- A. Several major languages are spoken by a rapidly growing share of the world's population each decade, in nearly every such instance.
- B. Many endangered languages have far fewer speakers today than they did a single generation ago.
- C. Most knowledge encoded in dying languages is routinely documented and translated before the last speakers die.
- D. Communities that lose their language often report a painful diminished sense of collective identity.

**PASSAGE 2 (RC) — THE COMING CRISIS OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE (SCIENCE / PUBLIC HEALTH) Q6-10**

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

When penicillin came into wide use in the 1940s, it seemed that humanity had finally gained the upper hand over its oldest enemies, the bacteria. Infections that had routinely killed — a cut that turned septic, a bout of pneumonia, a wound from the battlefield — could now be cured in days. The decades that followed brought a steady stream of new antibiotics, and with them a quiet confidence that bacterial disease was a problem all but solved.

That confidence was misplaced. Bacteria reproduce in hours, and every dose of an antibiotic is also an act of selection: the few microbes that happen to carry resistance survive, multiply, and pass their defences on, sometimes even to unrelated species. The more widely and carelessly a drug is used, the faster resistance spreads. Decades of overuse — antibiotics prescribed for viral colds they cannot touch, courses left unfinished, vast quantities fed to farm animals to promote growth — have accelerated the process enormously. Strains have now emerged that shrug off almost every drug we possess.

The economics make matters worse. Developing a new antibiotic is slow and expensive, yet a successful one is, ideally, used as little as possible and for only a short course. That is the opposite of a profitable product, and so many pharmaceutical companies have abandoned the field altogether. The result is a thin pipeline of new drugs at precisely the moment the old ones are failing.

Public-health experts warn that, without action, common infections and routine surgeries could once again become life-threatening, and that resistant infections may cause millions of deaths a year by mid-century. The remedies they propose are unglamorous but clear: prescribe antibiotics only when they are genuinely needed, finish every course, curb their use in agriculture, improve sanitation so that fewer infections occur in the first place, and find new ways to reward the invention of drugs that work. The threat is not a distant hypothetical; it is the predictable consequence of how a precious resource has been squandered.

**6. According to the passage, the central reason antibiotic resistance spreads is that:**

- A. bacteria deliberately mutate in direct response to the specific drug being used against them, as a rule, in ordinary practice.
- B. each use of an antibiotic selects for the rare resistant microbes, which then survive and multiply.
- C. antibiotics gradually lose their chemical potency the longer they remain in storage and use.
- D. modern antibiotics are far weaker than the penicillin first introduced in the 1940s era.

**7. The passage suggests that pharmaceutical companies have largely withdrawn from antibiotic development because:**

- A. governments strictly forbid private companies from selling any newly invented antibiotics, in nearly every such instance.
- B. the scientific knowledge needed to design new antibiotics has been entirely exhausted.
- C. a successful antibiotic is used sparingly and briefly, making it commercially unattractive.
- D. patients have come to prefer traditional remedies over newly developed antibiotic drugs.

**8. Which of the following practices is NOT among the remedies the passage's public-health experts recommend?**

- A. Finishing the full course of any antibiotic that has been prescribed.
- B. Reducing the use of antibiotics as growth promoters in farm animals.
- C. Improving sanitation so that fewer infections arise in the first place, as a broad rule of thumb.
- D. Prescribing antibiotics broadly as a precaution even for ordinary viral colds.

**9. The author's overall purpose in the passage is best described as:**

- A. to celebrate the unbroken triumph of modern medicine over all bacterial disease.
- B. to argue that antibiotics should be banned outright because they are now useless, as a general matter.
- C. to recount a neutral, value-free history of the discovery of penicillin.
- D. to warn that the misuse of antibiotics has created a serious and avoidable public-health threat.

**10. It can be inferred that the author regards the antibiotic-resistance crisis as:**

- A. an unavoidable natural disaster against which human effort is essentially powerless, in nearly every such instance.
- B. a foreseeable result of human behaviour that can still be mitigated by deliberate action.
- C. a minor and exaggerated concern that responsible scientists need not take seriously.
- D. a problem that has already been fully solved by recent pharmaceutical innovation.

**PASSAGE 3 (CR) — SHOULD INDIA LOWER THE VOTING AGE TO SIXTEEN? (POLITY / GOVERNANCE)**

**Q11-15**

**READ THE ARGUMENT AND ANSWER Q11-15.**

India should lower its voting age from eighteen to sixteen. The case rests on a simple principle of democratic fairness: those who are bound by the decisions of a government, and who will live longest with their consequences, deserve a say in choosing it. Sixteen-year-olds are taxed when they work, are subject to the criminal law, and will inherit the long-term effects of decisions on climate, public debt and education more directly than any older cohort. To exclude them is to bind them by laws they had no voice in making.

Critics object that sixteen-year-olds lack the maturity and knowledge to vote responsibly. But maturity has never been the legal test for the franchise. We do not subject adults to a competence examination before allowing them to vote, however ill-informed some of them may be; we extend the vote to all on the ground of equal citizenship, not demonstrated wisdom. If ignorance disqualified voters, the electoral roll would shrink dramatically at every age. There is, moreover, evidence that civic habits form early: a person who first votes at sixteen, while still in school and embedded in family and community, is more likely to become a lifelong voter than one who first becomes eligible at eighteen, often amid the disruption of leaving home.

Experience abroad is encouraging rather than alarming. Austria lowered its national voting age to sixteen in 2007, and studies there found that the youngest voters turned out at respectable rates and cast votes no less coherently than older citizens. Scotland enfranchised sixteen-year-olds for its 2014 independence referendum to broad approval. These cases suggest that the predicted calamities of youthful voting do not materialise.

Extending the franchise to sixteen-year-olds would not, of course, transform Indian democracy overnight. But it would align the right to vote with the many other responsibilities the law already places on the young, deepen the habit of participation, and honour the basic democratic promise that those governed should help choose their governors. The reform is modest, principled and overdue.

**11. Which of the following best states the main conclusion of the argument?**

- A. India should lower its voting age from eighteen to sixteen.
- B. Sixteen-year-olds in India are taxed and are subject to the criminal law.
- C. Austria and Scotland have allowed sixteen-year-olds to vote in elections.
- D. Maturity has never been the legal qualification for exercising the franchise.

**12. The argument's response to the objection that sixteen-year-olds lack maturity chiefly relies on the assumption that:**

- A. the franchise is granted on the basis of equal citizenship rather than demonstrated competence.
- B. sixteen-year-olds are in fact at least as well informed about politics as most adult voters, as a rule, in ordinary practice.
- C. no adult voter in India is ever genuinely ignorant about the candidates or the issues.
- D. maturity and political knowledge are qualities that cannot be measured by any examination.

**13. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument?**

- A. In countries that lowered the voting age to sixteen, those voters turned out far less than older citizens and rarely voted again.
- B. A small number of Indian political parties have publicly expressed support for lowering the voting age.
- C. Some eighteen-year-old first-time voters in India report feeling unprepared to evaluate competing candidates, in the great majority of cases.
- D. The Constitution would require a formal amendment in order to lower the voting age below eighteen.

**14. The author cites the examples of Austria and Scotland primarily in order to:**

- A. prove that every democracy in the world has now lowered its voting age to sixteen, in nearly every such instance.
- B. rebut the prediction that enfranchising sixteen-year-olds would have harmful consequences.
- C. argue that India is legally obliged to follow the practice of other democracies.
- D. show that sixteen-year-olds everywhere care more about politics than adults do.

**15. The reasoning in the argument is most vulnerable to the criticism that it:**

- A. rests its whole case upon statistical evidence drawn from a single national election held within India, ignoring every other relevant consideration entirely.
- B. treats the other legal responsibilities placed on the young as sufficient grounds for granting the vote, without showing the cases are alike.
- C. openly contradicts itself by both supporting and opposing a lower voting age at once.
- D. assumes that the voting age has already been lowered in India in the recent past.

**PASSAGE 4 (CR) — SHOULD AI-GENERATED ART QUALIFY FOR COPYRIGHT? (LAW / TECHNOLOGY)**

**Q16–20**

**READ THE ARGUMENT AND ANSWER Q16–20.**

As software that can produce striking images from a few typed words becomes commonplace, the law faces a pointed question: should a picture generated by an artificial-intelligence system be eligible for copyright protection? The answer, properly understood, should be no — at least where the machine, rather than a human being, is the true author of the work.

Copyright exists for a reason. It is not a reward for the mere existence of an attractive image; it is a bargain struck with human creators. Society grants authors a limited monopoly over their works so as to encourage the investment of skill, labour and imagination that original creation demands. The incentive is aimed at people, because only people respond to incentives by choosing to create. A generative system does not need the promise of a monopoly to keep producing images; it produces them on command, tirelessly, at near-zero cost. Extending copyright to its raw output would hand a reward to a process that requires no such inducement, while adding nothing to the store of human creativity the law was designed to nurture.

There is a further danger. If every image a system can spit out were automatically protected, a handful of operators could, in a matter of weeks, lay claim to a colossal territory of imagery, crowding out the human artists whose works were used, often without consent, to train the very systems now competing with them. A right intended to protect creators could become a weapon against them.

None of this means that human beings who use these tools deserve nothing. Where a person exercises genuine creative control — selecting, arranging, substantially editing, and shaping the final work through real artistic choices — the resulting work reflects human authorship and may well merit protection. The line should fall not between art made with software and art made with a brush, but between works that embody meaningful human creativity and those that are merely the unattended output of a machine. Copyright should follow the human, and stop where the human contribution does.

**16. Which of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the passage?**

- A. All art produced with the help of computer software should be denied copyright protection.
- B. Generative software is capable of producing images that are visually striking and original, as a rule, in ordinary practice.
- C. Purely machine-generated images, lacking real human authorship, should not be eligible for copyright.
- D. Human artists whose works are used to train AI systems are always entitled to compensation.

**17. The argument's central reason for denying copyright to purely machine-made images rests on the premise that:**

- A. machine-generated images are aesthetically inferior to works created by human artists.
- B. copyright is designed to incentivise human creators, and a machine needs no such incentive to produce.
- C. artificial-intelligence systems are technically incapable of producing genuinely original images, in the great majority of cases.
- D. the images produced by generative systems are too numerous for any court to register them all.

**18. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's argument?**

- A. Studies show that generative systems continue producing images at the same rate whether or not their output is legally protected.
- B. Some artificial-intelligence images have recently sold at major public auctions for prices broadly comparable to celebrated works by living human artists.
- C. A few countries have recently begun registering AI-generated images under their copyright laws.
- D. Generative software can imitate the visual style of many famous human painters quite convincingly.

19. The author's claim that a copyright right 'could become a weapon against' human artists depends on the assumption that:

- A. protecting all machine output would let a few operators monopolise vast quantities of imagery at human artists' expense.
- B. human artists are, under the present law, strictly prohibited from ever using generative software at any stage of their own creative work.
- C. generative systems are never trained on images created by living human artists.
- D. courts will always rule in favour of large operators in any dispute over copyright.

20. The author would most likely agree that a digitally produced work deserves copyright protection when:

- A. the work was produced using a computer rather than a traditional brush and canvas.
- B. the final image is judged by experts to be visually beautiful and technically polished.
- C. a person makes genuine artistic choices in selecting, arranging and substantially editing the work.
- D. the generative system that produced it was the most advanced model available at the time, as a broad rule of thumb.

**SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK & CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Q21-30 · 10 Marks

Standalone questions on current affairs, static GK, vocabulary in context and idiom usage. No passage required.

21. The headquarters of the International Court of Justice is located in:

- A. Geneva
- B. The Hague
- C. New York
- D. Vienna, Austria

22. The writ issued by a court to produce a detained person before it, so as to examine the legality of the detention, is the writ of:

- A. Writ of Mandamus
- B. Quo Warranto
- C. Certiorari
- D. Habeas Corpus

23. Which Part of the Constitution of India contains the Fundamental Rights?

- A. Part II
- B. Part III
- C. Part IV
- D. Part IV-A

24. Choose the word most nearly similar in meaning to 'EPHEMERAL':

- A. Eternal
- B. Short-lived
- C. Considerable
- D. Honest

25. Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to 'CANDID':

- A. Evasive
- B. Frank
- C. Cheerful
- D. Hostile

26. The idiom 'to bury the hatchet' means to:

- A. dig deeper
- B. hide evidence
- C. admit defeat
- D. make peace

27. The Bharat Ratna is India's highest:

- A. civilian award
- B. military award
- C. literary prize
- D. sporting honour

28. The doctrine of the 'basic structure' of the Constitution was propounded by the Supreme Court in:

- A. A.K. Gopalan v State of Madras
- B. Golaknath v State of Punjab
- C. Minerva Mills Ltd v Union of India (1980)
- D. Kesavananda Bharati v State of Kerala

29. The Tropic of Cancer does NOT pass through which of the following Indian states?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Kerala
- D. Tripura

30. The currency of Japan is the:

- A. Won
- B. Yuan
- C. Ringgit
- D. Yen