

ANSWER KEY — 8 JUNE 2026

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

RC PASSAGES

Q1 D
The passage's central argument is that aesthetic landscaping choices — manicured lawns, imported palms, ornamental flowerbeds — systematically replace functional native habitat with ecologically empty greenery, driving the quiet collapse of urban biodiversity. The author is explicit that pollution and temperature are not the sole drivers and that the decline is in large part a consequence of landscape design choices. Option A wrongly attributes the loss principally to pollution and temperature. Option C overstates the author's prescription. Option B similarly overstates a single example. The correct answer is D.

Q2 C
The passage defines 'ecological theatre' as green spaces that 'perform the appearance of nature without its function' — vertical gardens, imported topiary, etc. Option C captures this precisely. Option A misreads 'theatre' as performance art. Option B describes tree-plantation drives, which the passage does not address. Option D describes museum dioramas, which the passage does not address. The correct answer is C.

Q3 A
If sparrow populations have declined equally in remote forest patches with no human landscaping at all, the cause of decline cannot be principally attributed to landscaping; some other factor common to both forests and cities is at work. This directly undermines the author's central claim. Option B is irrelevant to the causal claim. Option C is consistent with the author's claim (not weakening). Option D actually supports the claim (recovery where landscaping is reversed). The correct answer is A.

Q4 B
The author writes with measured concern, drawing attention to a slow loss overlooked because the substitutes 'appear, on the surface, to be greener' than what they replaced — a reflective, gently admonitory tone. The author does not name and shame specific municipal authorities, so option A overstates the polemic. Option C is the opposite of the tone (the author is not celebratory). Option D is wrong because the author takes a clear normative position. The correct answer is B.

Q5 C
The phrase 'a deliberate inversion of taste — a willingness to value the untidy and the indigenous over the orderly and the imported' clearly indicates a reversal of relative valuation, placing previously disfavoured aesthetic options above those that have hitherto been preferred. Option C captures this. Option A wrongly substitutes elimination for reversal. Option B substitutes a legislative ban. Option D substitutes statistical correlation. The correct answer is C.

Q6 D
The central thesis is that attention is the scarce resource extracted under asymmetric terms, and that the market requires regulatory architecture analogous to that governing other extractive markets. Option D captures this faithfully. Option A overstates the malice attribution (the author explicitly distances himself from blaming engineers). Option C describes the demise of newspapers, which is not the principal claim. Option B oversimplifies the prescription. The correct answer is D.

Q7 A
The author's argument depends on the assumption that the parties to the attention transaction are in asymmetric positions — the platform knows the user's vulnerabilities, the user knows almost nothing about the platform's logic. Option A captures this as the load-bearing assumption. Option B is too specific. Option C is the opposite of what the author argues. Option D is not assumed; the author only assumes the analogy is workable. The correct answer is A.

Q8 B
If users who attempt self-restraint typically fail despite multiple efforts, this shows that informed individual choice cannot correct the asymmetries — strengthening the case for regulatory architecture beyond disclosure. Option A is a voluntary-action point that arguably weakens the case for regulation. Option C suggests the model is self-correcting (weakening). Option D is irrelevant to the regulatory case. The correct answer is B.

Q9 C

The author uses the phrase to identify the self-image platforms project — that they are neutral mirrors of consumer choice — and to indicate that this self-image is, in the author's view, inaccurate given the documented asymmetries. Option C captures this critical use. Option A wrongly endorses the description. Option B misreads the phrase as part of a remedy. Option D wrongly transposes the phrase to newspapers. The correct answer is C.

Q10 B

The third paragraph uses 'extraction' to describe the transaction whose terms are 'profoundly asymmetric' and resembles 'less a fair exchange and more an extraction'. Option B captures this — removal of value under asymmetric terms. Option A describes the opposite (symmetric exchange). Option C is a technical computer-science meaning unrelated to the passage. Option D substitutes a regulatory inquiry. The correct answer is B.

CR PASSAGES

Q11 B

The conclusion is signposted at the end of the final paragraph: 'The case for a universal basic income is therefore not utopian. It is the most realistic response available to an economy in which the link between labour and livelihood has been structurally weakened by intelligent automation.' Option B captures this verbatim. Option A is a subsidiary premise (retraining). Option C overstates the pilot evidence. Option D is the opposite of the author's conclusion. The correct answer is B.

Q12 D

The argument depends on the assumption that intelligent automation will continue to displace human labour at a pace faster than stable new occupations can emerge — that is what makes the link between labour and livelihood structurally weakened and what makes retraining inadequate. Option D captures this load-bearing assumption. Option A overstates by saying 'every' worker. Option C is not assumed. Option B is not the assumption — the author treats the pilots as suggestive, not as the load-bearing assumption. The correct answer is D.

Q13 C

If unconditional transfers do produce significant withdrawal from the labour market when scaled to a level sufficient to meet basic living standards, the author's central empirical claim (that pilots show no mass withdrawal) collapses, and one of the four pillars of the argument falls. Option A weakly supports the author. Option B is consistent with the author. Option D is irrelevant. The correct answer is C.

Q14 B

If retraining works for fewer than 15% of participants over the long term across multiple major economies, the author's central claim that retraining is inadequate as a response to structural displacement is empirically strengthened, which directly bolsters the case for an alternative such as universal basic income. Option A is mixed — low exclusion errors and rising costs cut both ways. Option C is weak because mere popularity among recipients is not the author's claim. Option D is irrelevant because pre-UBI voluntary withdrawal does not bear on the merits of the proposal. Hence (B) is the correct answer.

Q15 A

A standard flaw in arguments from pilot programmes is scale-up risk — that the effects observed in small pilots may not survive scaling to the entire adult population (e.g., labour-market equilibrium effects, fiscal effects, behavioural feedback). The argument does not address this. Option A identifies this flaw correctly. Options B, C and D are largely irrelevant or pedantic. The correct answer is A.

Q16 B

The conclusion is stated explicitly: 'mandatory death sentences cannot survive constitutional scrutiny in any legal order committed to individualised sentencing, proportionality and the prohibition on cruel and inhuman punishment'. Option B captures this. Option A overstates by extending to capital punishment in every form. Option C overstates the rejection of retribution. Option D is not the author's prescription. The correct answer is B.

Q17 A

The argument is conditional on the relevant constitutional order being committed to individualised sentencing, proportionality and the right against cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. The author argues 'in any legal order committed to' these principles. Option A captures this load-bearing premise. Option B overstates the empirical claim. Option C overstates by treating deterrence as wholly irrelevant. Option D is too strong. The correct answer is A.

Q18 C

If robust empirical evidence emerged that the certainty of execution under a mandatory sentence has a large, statistically significant deterrent effect uniquely attributable to the mandatory character of the sentence, the deterrence argument the author rejects is suddenly empirically supported, and a major arm of the author's argument is weakened. Option A is mixed/weak. Option B actually supports the author. Option D is consistent with the author's framing. The correct answer is C.

Q19 A

The argument treats individualised sentencing as established by 'recognition across jurisdictions' — an appeal to comparative consensus rather than independent constitutional argumentation grounded in the relevant legal order. This is a load-bearing methodological flaw because the entire constitutional case against mandatory death sentences depends on this premise being independently established. Option A identifies the flaw correctly. Option B raises legislative reclassification, which is largely irrelevant to the argument's structure. Option C demands precise jurisdictional counts, which is pedantic. Option D's rupee-value point misunderstands constitutional proportionality. Hence (A) is the correct answer.

Q20 D

The author's exact response to the retributive argument is that it 'conflates society's judgement of the offence with society's judgement of the offender, and a constitutional order committed to individualised punishment must keep the two distinct'. Option D captures this verbatim. Option A overstates by treating retribution as wholly illegitimate. Option C wrongly imports the deterrence-evidence language. Option B wrongly characterises the response as a balancing argument. The correct answer is D.

SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK & CURRENT AFFAIRS**Q21 D**

Astana was renamed Nur-Sultan in March 2019 to honour Nursultan Nazarbayev, the first president of independent Kazakhstan, before being restored to its original name Astana in September 2022 following a fresh presidential decree by Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. Option D captures this dual-renaming history correctly. Option A (Almaty) is the former capital and the largest city, but not the current capital. Option B (Bishkek) is the capital of neighbouring Kyrgyzstan, not Kazakhstan. Option C (Tashkent) is the capital of neighbouring Uzbekistan. Hence (D) is the correct answer.

Q22 B

The Jnanpith Award is given for outstanding contribution to literature in any of the languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India, together with English. The Eighth Schedule lists the languages of the country recognised for the purposes of the relevant constitutional provisions. The correct answer is B. Option A is the federal-subjects schedule. Option C is the legislative-protection schedule. Option D is the anti-defection schedule.

Q23 A

'The Discovery of India' was written by Jawaharlal Nehru during his imprisonment in Ahmadnagar Fort jail between 1942 and 1946 alongside other Congress leaders detained after the Quit India movement. The book was first published in 1946 and remains a major work on Indian civilisation, history and culture. Option B (Gandhi) is known for 'Hind Swaraj' and 'My Experiments with Truth', not this book. Option C (Ambedkar) authored 'Annihilation of Caste' and constitutional writings, not 'The Discovery of India'. Option D (Patel) was not a literary author of this work. Hence (A) is the correct answer.

Q24 D

The Reserve Bank of India has, in its recent bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee announcements, held the policy repo rate at 6.50%, reflecting a calibrated approach aimed at managing headline consumer-price inflation while remaining mindful of growth requirements across the country. Option A (8.50%) overstates and would imply a sharp pre-emptive tightening that has not been adopted. Option B (2.50%) reflects an extraordinarily accommodative stance the RBI has never adopted in its recent history. Option C (4.00%) reflects the older pandemic-era accommodative stance, which has since been revised upwards. Hence (D) is the correct answer.

Q25 B

Aditya-L1 is the first dedicated solar observation mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation, launched on 2 September 2023 and placed in a halo orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange point L1. The name 'Aditya' refers to the Sun god in Hindu tradition. The correct answer is B. Option A is the lunar mission. Option C is a planned Mars follow-up. Option D is the planned crewed mission. The correct answer is B.

Q26 A

The Hoysala Temples of Belur, Halebid and Somanathapura in Karnataka were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2023 for their outstanding architectural, archaeological and cultural significance. The correct answer is A. Option B (Ramappa Temple) is in Telangana. Option C (Dholavira) is in Gujarat. Option D (Santiniketan) is in West Bengal. All of those are themselves valid UNESCO sites, but the Karnataka site is the Hoysala Temples. The correct answer is A.

Q27 B

'Ephemeral' is derived from the Greek 'ephēmeros' meaning lasting only a day; in standard written English it denotes something that lasts for a very short time — transient, fleeting, momentary. The closest synonym among the four options is 'transient', which carries the same sense of brief duration. Option A (perpetual) means continuing without interruption and is therefore the antonym, not the synonym. Option C (substantial) means of considerable size, value or importance, bearing no semantic relation to duration. Option D (reticent) refers to reluctance to speak and is wholly unrelated. Hence (B) is the correct answer.

Q28 C

'Ubiquitous', from the Latin 'ubique' meaning everywhere, denotes something present, appearing or found everywhere simultaneously across the relevant context. The closest antonym among the four options is 'scarce', which means insufficient or limited in supply or occurrence — the direct semantic opposite of being everywhere. Option A (pervasive) means spreading widely throughout an area and is therefore a synonym, not an antonym. Option B (omnipresent) is an even closer synonym, denoting presence everywhere at once. Option D (eminent) refers to high rank or quality and bears no opposition relation. Hence (C) is the correct answer.