

ANSWER KEY — 13 JUNE 2026

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

RC PASSAGES

Q1 C
In the passage, 'inference' refers to what the reader must work out from what the novel leaves unsaid — wondering 'why a character hesitates, what a silence conceals'. That is a reasoned conclusion drawn from what is implied rather than stated (C). It is not a doubt-free proof (A), not a baseless guess (B), and not a plot summary (D). Hence, (C) is the correct answer.

Q2 A
The passage's central claim is the psychologists' hypothesis that immersion in literary fiction may sharpen our ability to understand other minds, balanced against sceptics' doubts and the author's own caution — captured by A. B inverts the passage's preference, C describes only the historical background, and D overstates the evidence, which the passage explicitly calls unproven. Hence, (A) is the correct answer.

Q3 D
The passage says literary fiction's 'refusal to spell everything out forces the reader to infer what is left unsaid', and that it is 'the difficult, character-driven novel... that supposedly does the cognitive work'. So the author would agree that a novel's reluctance to explain its characters fully is part of what makes it cognitively demanding (D). A, B and C contradict the passage. Hence, (D) is the correct answer.

Q4 B
The author is drawn to 'the romance of reading' yet 'careful not to overstate the case', calling the claim 'a hopeful hypothesis still in search of firm proof'. That is sympathetic but cautious, withholding final endorsement (B) — neither dismissive (A), nor certain (C), nor indifferent (D). Phrases such as 'sympathetic to the romance of reading' signal warmth, while 'careful not to overstate' and 'still in search of firm proof' signal reserve. The blend is approval held in check, which rules out dismissiveness, certainty and indifference as descriptions of her stance. Hence, (B) is the correct answer.

Q5 A
The psychologists claim that reading literary fiction improves the understanding of other minds (empathy). A large, well-designed study finding no empathy difference between literary-fiction readers and non-readers (A) directly undercuts that causal claim. B, C and D are consistent with the claim or merely incidental, so they do not weaken it. Hence, (A) is the correct answer.

Q6 C
The passage explains how the attention economy works — attention as the scarce commodity, platforms monetising it through advertising — and highlights the resulting conflict of interest (C). It does not call for a ban (A), only notes information abundance as background (B), and does not compare specific firms' revenues (D). The passage moves from the economic premise of scarce attention to the advertising model that monetises it and finally to the 'quiet conflict of interest' this creates. It neither demands a ban nor compares firms' revenues, so the descriptive-and-analytical option captures its purpose best. Hence, (C) is the correct answer.

Q7 B
The closing lines ask readers to judge services 'by what they quietly extract' — their focus, paid 'in a currency we rarely count'. Here 'extract' means to draw out or take away, often without the giver fully noticing (B). It is not advertising (A), summarising (C) or repairing (D). The platforms are said to be 'paid for in a currency we rarely count: our focus', and to 'quietly extract' attention. In this setting 'extract' means to draw out or take away, often unnoticed — not to advertise, summarise or repair, none of which fits the sentence's sense. Hence, (B) is the correct answer.

Q8 D
The model earns more 'the longer a user lingers' and the more advertisements can be shown, rewarding 'quantity' of attention. The platform would therefore most prefer a user who spends many hours scrolling and viewing many advertisements (D). A, B and C all describe users who generate little advertising exposure, the opposite of what the model rewards. Hence, (D) is the correct answer.

Q9 A

The author criticises the model's incentives ('a quiet conflict of interest', design that 'exploits... weaknesses in human psychology') but states 'the passage does not call for the platforms to be banned', asking instead that we guard our attention. That is critical yet short of demanding prohibition (A). B, C and D misstate this balanced stance. Hence, (A) is the correct answer.

Q10 C

The critics argue the design deliberately exploits psychological weaknesses to maximise time spent. Internal research showing features are deliberately tuned to be hard to stop using, so as to maximise time spent (C), directly supports that claim. A and B cut the other way, and D is mere background, so none of them strengthens the critics. Hence, (C) is the correct answer.

CR PASSAGES

Q11 D

The argument's other statements are premises building towards its recommendation. The main conclusion — what the premises are marshalled to support — is that the state is justified in restricting junk-food advertising to children (D). A is background, while B and C are supporting premises, not the conclusion. A conclusion is the claim the other sentences are offered to support. Here the facts about obesity, children's inability to judge advertising, and junk food's role are all marshalled to justify state restriction of such advertising — the recommendation the whole passage builds toward. Hence, (D) is the correct answer.

Q12 A

The argument reasons: less advertising → less consumption → better health. It therefore assumes that reducing junk-food advertising to children will actually reduce their consumption of such foods (A); if that link failed, the chain to better health would collapse. B, C and D are far stronger than the argument needs and are not assumed (the argument never claims obesity has a single cause, nor that all advertising should be banned). Hence, (A) is the correct answer.

Q13 B

The argument needs the advertising-to-consumption link. Evidence that, where such advertising was banned, children's junk-food consumption stayed unchanged because they encountered the products elsewhere (B) breaks that link and most weakens the case. A and D are irrelevant to children's consumption, and C (a few firms losing revenue) is a cost the argument already accepts. Hence, (B) is the correct answer.

Q14 C

The pivotal premise is that less advertising reduces consumption. Controlled studies showing that children exposed to less junk-food advertising eat measurably less of such food (C) directly confirm that premise and most strengthen the argument. A and B do not establish the causal link, and D is mere background about television's popularity. Hence, (C) is the correct answer.

Q15 A

The opponents say parents, not the state, should police children's viewing. This responds to — and undercuts — the argument's step that children themselves cannot critically evaluate the advertising (A); if responsible parents can shield them, the claimed need for state action weakens. It does not touch the factual claims about obesity trends (B), fat/sugar content (C) or the scope of the ban (D). Hence, (A) is the correct answer.

Q16 D

The premises about fairness and about the dangers of concentrated wealth are marshalled to support one recommendation: that a well-designed wealth tax on the ultra-rich is both just and prudent (D). A is background, and B and C are the supporting premises themselves, not the conclusion. The fairness premise and the concentration-of-power premise are both deployed to support one recommendation: that a wealth tax is just and prudent. The widening gap and the asset-growth point are supporting observations, not the thing argued for, so the recommendation is the genuine conclusion. Hence, (D) is the correct answer.

Q17 C

The fairness strand contends that asset-based wealth grows lightly taxed while wages are taxed in full. It thus assumes that wealth which grows through rising asset values often escapes taxation that wages do not escape (C). A and D are far too strong (the argument never says the rich earn no salary, nor that valuation is costless), and B misstates the claim — it does not hold that wages should go untaxed. Hence, (C) is the correct answer.

Q18 B

The strongest blow to the proposal is practical evidence that it fails to deliver. That, in countries adopting the tax, the rich relocated assets abroad and revenue fell far below projections (B) attacks the claim that the tax is prudent and effective. A and D are irrelevant, and C (disagreement over the threshold) is a detail of design, not a reason to reject the tax. Hence, (B) is the correct answer.

Q19 A

The critics' main practical objections are valuation difficulty and the mobility of the rich. Evidence that new international agreements and valuation rules now make the tax practical to assess and collect with little evasion (A) answers exactly those objections and most strengthens the case. B and D are immaterial, and C cuts the other way by suggesting the rich are already taxed heavily. Hence, (A) is the correct answer.

Q20 C

The reply concedes the policy is difficult to implement but insists difficulty alone does not defeat a policy that is just in principle. It is best understood as an attempt to separate the practical objections from the question of the policy's underlying justice (C). It is not an admission of unfairness (A), not a claim of easy administration (B), and not a surrender to the critics (D). Hence, (C) is the correct answer.

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

The official currency of Japan is the Yen (¥). The Won is the currency of South Korea, the Yuan (Renminbi) of China, and the Ringgit of Malaysia. Answer: B. The yen, symbol ¥, is issued by the Bank of Japan and is among the most traded currencies in the world. The won belongs to Korea, the yuan (renminbi) to China and the ringgit to Malaysia, so each of those names a different Asian economy's currency altogether. Hence, (B) is the correct answer.

Q22 D

'Ephemeral' means lasting for a very short time, transitory. The closest synonym is 'short-lived'. 'Eternal' is its opposite; 'spacious' and 'hidden' are unrelated. Answer: D. Derived from a Greek word meaning 'lasting only a day', 'ephemeral' describes things that are fleeting or transient, like a mayfly or a passing trend. 'Eternal' is its direct opposite, while 'spacious' relates to size and 'hidden' to concealment, so neither captures brief duration. Hence, (D) is the correct answer.

Q23 A

'Benevolent' means kind and well-meaning. Its opposite is 'malevolent', meaning wishing harm to others. 'Generous', 'gentle' and 'cordial' are near-synonyms, not antonyms. Answer: A. Both words share the Latin root volent- (wishing): 'bene-' means well and 'male-' means ill, so a benevolent person wishes good and a malevolent person wishes harm. 'Generous', 'gentle' and 'cordial' are near-synonyms of benevolent, not its opposite, confirming malevolent. Hence, (A) is the correct answer.

Q24 C

'To bury the hatchet' is an idiom meaning to settle a quarrel and make peace, from the practice of burying weapons to signal the end of hostilities. Answer: C. The image comes from the practice among some Native American peoples of literally burying a war-axe to mark the end of fighting. Figuratively it now means to set aside a quarrel and reconcile — quite distinct from hiding evidence, starting a fight or working hard, the tempting wrong readings. Hence, (C) is the correct answer.

Q25 B

A writ of Habeas Corpus ('you may have the body') commands that a detained person be produced before the court to test the legality of the detention, securing release if it is unlawful. Mandamus, Certiorari and Quo Warranto serve other purposes. Answer: B. Habeas corpus, Latin for 'you shall have the body', requires the detaining authority to produce the person and justify the detention, and is a key safeguard of liberty. Mandamus commands a public duty, certiorari quashes an order, and quo warranto questions a person's right to an office. Hence, (B) is the correct answer.

Q26 D

Nobel Prizes are awarded in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature and Peace, with the Economic Sciences prize added later. There is no Nobel Prize in Mathematics. Answer: D. Alfred Nobel's will endowed prizes in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature and Peace; the Economic Sciences prize was added later by Sweden's central bank. Mathematics was never included, which is why the Fields Medal is often loosely called mathematics' Nobel. Hence, (D) is the correct answer.

Q27 A

The Ganga is the longest river flowing within India (about 2,525 km), running from Gangotri to the Bay of Bengal. The Godavari is the longest river of peninsular India but is shorter than the Ganga. Answer: A. Rising from the Gangotri glacier and flowing about 2,525 km to the Bay of Bengal, the Ganga is the longest river lying wholly within India. The Godavari is the longest of peninsular India but is shorter overall, while the Brahmaputra and Yamuna are shorter still within Indian territory. Hence, (A) is the correct answer.

Q28 C

The 2024 Summer Olympic Games (Games of the XXXIII Olympiad) were hosted by France, in Paris. Japan (Tokyo) hosted the 2020 Games, held in 2021. Answer: C. Paris hosted the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad in 2024, becoming the second city after London to host the Summer Olympics three times. Tokyo (Japan) held the previous edition in 2021, while the United States and Australia are scheduled to host in 2028 and 2032 respectively. Hence, (C) is the correct answer.

Q29 B

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 replaced the Indian Penal Code, 1860 as India's principal substantive criminal law with effect from 1 July 2024. (The BNSS replaced the CrPC, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam replaced the Evidence Act.) Answer: B. From 1 July 2024 three new codes replaced the colonial-era criminal laws: the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita replaced the Indian Penal Code, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita replaced the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam replaced the Evidence Act. The substantive-offences law is the first. Hence, (B) is the correct answer.

Q30 D

A 'polyglot' is a person who knows or uses several languages. A 'bilingual' speaks only two; a 'linguist' studies language; an 'orator' is a skilled public speaker. Answer: D. 'Polyglot' comes from Greek roots meaning 'many tongues' and denotes someone fluent in several languages. A 'bilingual' speaker commands only two, a 'linguist' studies the science of language without necessarily speaking many, and an 'orator' is a skilled public speaker, so only polyglot fits. Hence, (D) is the correct answer.