

ANSWER KEY — 15 JUNE 2026

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

RC PASSAGES

Q1 C
The metaphor pairs a library (a store of knowledge) with a fire that produces no detectable smoke (a destruction nobody notices). The author has just argued that languages encode unique knowledge that 'simply evaporates' when they die. So the phrase conveys that irreplaceable knowledge is being destroyed largely unnoticed — option (C). It is not described as deliberate vandalism, nor as loudly announced, and the whole paragraph insists the loss is real, not harmless, ruling out the claim that knowledge is left unchanged.

Q2 D
The passage moves through several stages: the scale of language endangerment, why the loss matters (unique knowledge), its human cost (identity and belonging), and finally the possibility of revival. The option describing a serious, often invisible loss alongside the possibility of revival captures this arc. The author rejects the 'efficient consolidation' view rather than endorsing it; presents digital tools as helpful but not a completed solution; and explicitly says survival 'depends less on the raw number of its speakers' than on whether people choose to keep the language alive, contradicting the final option. Hence (D) is the correct answer.

Q3 A
The passage states directly that 'a language is reckoned endangered when it is no longer being learned by children' and that once a generation stops passing the tongue on, decline sets in. The test offered is intergenerational transmission, i.e. whether children are learning it — option (A). The author gives no fixed population threshold; the death of the last speaker marks the end of the decline rather than the onset of endangerment; and nothing ties endangerment to the presence or absence of a written script.

Q4 C
The final paragraph opens with 'Yet the picture is not wholly bleak' and cites the revival of Hebrew, Welsh and Maori, along with the promise of digital tools, while making survival conditional on communities and states choosing to act. That mixture of real hope tempered by conditions is best captured as cautiously hopeful. The author is plainly not despairing or indifferent given this paragraph, and the careful qualifications ('depends on whether...') rule out naive triumph. Hence (C) is the correct answer.

Q5 C
The author's claim is that when a language dies its unique knowledge 'is rarely translated in time; it simply evaporates.' A statement that such knowledge is in fact routinely documented and translated before the speakers die directly attacks the premise that the knowledge is lost, so option (C) weakens the claim most. The growth of major languages and the shrinking of speaker communities are consistent with the author's account, and the point about identity supports, rather than weakens, the broader argument.

Q6 B
The second paragraph explains the mechanism: '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.' That is option (B). The passage describes selection of pre-existing resistant microbes, not deliberate, directed mutation by the bacteria; it never says the drugs lose potency in storage; and it does not claim modern antibiotics are weaker than early penicillin — the problem is resistance, not declining drug strength.

Q7 C
The third paragraph states that developing an antibiotic is slow and costly, yet an ideal one is 'used as little as possible and for only a short course' — 'the opposite of a profitable product' — which is why many companies have left the field. That is option (C). The passage attributes the withdrawal to economics, not to any government prohibition, not to exhausted science, and not to patient preference for traditional remedies, none of which is mentioned.

Q8 D
The final paragraph lists the recommended remedies: prescribe only when genuinely needed, finish every course, curb agricultural use, improve sanitation, and reward new drug invention. Prescribing antibiotics broadly for viral colds is the very overuse the passage condemns (colds are viral and antibiotics 'cannot touch' them), so it is NOT a recommended remedy — option (D). The other three options each restate one of the listed remedies.

Q9 D

The passage opens with early optimism, shows why it 'was misplaced', traces how overuse and weak economics have created a crisis, and ends by warning of millions of deaths while offering clear remedies. The purpose is therefore to warn of a serious but avoidable threat — option (D). It does not celebrate an unbroken triumph (it undercuts that idea), does not call for banning antibiotics (it wants them used wisely), and is far more than a neutral history of penicillin.

Q10 B

The closing lines call the threat 'not a distant hypothetical' but 'the predictable consequence of how a precious resource has been squandered', while the same paragraph lists concrete remedies 'without action' being the operative caveat. This frames the crisis as a foreseeable, human-caused problem that deliberate action can still mitigate — option (B). The author plainly does not see it as unavoidable, minor and exaggerated, or already solved.

CR PASSAGES

Q11 A

The conclusion is the central claim the rest of the passage is marshalled to support. The opening sentence states it outright — 'India should lower its voting age from eighteen to sixteen' — and the closing paragraph restates it as a reform that is 'modest, principled and overdue'. That is option (A). The facts that sixteen-year-olds are taxed, that Austria and Scotland enfranchised the young, and that maturity is not the legal test are premises offered in support of the conclusion, not the conclusion itself.

Q12 A

To rebut the maturity objection, the author argues that we never test adults' competence before letting them vote and that the vote is extended 'on the ground of equal citizenship, not demonstrated wisdom.' The argument therefore assumes that citizenship, not measured competence, is the proper basis of the franchise — option (A). The author does not claim the young are better informed than adults, does not assert that no adult is ever ignorant (indeed concedes some are ill-informed), and the point is not that maturity is unmeasurable but that it is the wrong test.

Q13 A

A key plank of the argument is that experience abroad is 'encouraging' — young voters turned out well and voted coherently, and early voting builds a lifelong habit. Evidence that, in those very countries, sixteen-year-olds turned out far less than older citizens and rarely voted again directly contradicts both the foreign-experience claim and the habit-formation claim, weakening the argument most — option (A). Party support is irrelevant to the merits; unprepared eighteen-year-olds, if anything, cut against keeping the age at eighteen; and the need for an amendment speaks to procedure, not to whether the reform is desirable.

Q14 B

The Austria and Scotland paragraph is introduced as 'encouraging rather than alarming' and concludes that 'the predicted calamities of youthful voting do not materialise.' The examples thus function to rebut the critics' prediction of harm — option (B). The author does not claim that every democracy has lowered the age, asserts no legal obligation to copy other countries, and does not argue that the young everywhere care more about politics than adults; the examples are about consequences, not comparative enthusiasm.

Q15 B

The argument repeatedly leans on the analogy that because the law already taxes the young, subjects them to criminal law and imposes other duties, it should also give them the vote. A critic could fairly object that being taxed or bound by criminal law is not clearly analogous to the capacity or entitlement to choose a government — the argument asserts the parallel without establishing that the cases are relevantly alike, option (B). The passage does not rest on a single Indian election, does not contradict itself, and never assumes the age has already been lowered.

Q16 C

The thesis is stated at the end of the first paragraph — the answer 'should be no — at least where the machine, rather than a human being, is the true author' — and restated in the last paragraph: copyright 'should follow the human, and stop where the human contribution does.' That is option (C). The author expressly does not deny protection to all software-assisted art (the final paragraph protects genuine human creative control), merely notes the software's capability as background, and does not make the broad compensation claim in the last option.

Q17 B

The second paragraph supplies the core reasoning: copyright is 'a bargain struck with human creators', an incentive 'aimed at people, because only people respond to incentives', whereas a generative system 'does not need the promise of a monopoly' to keep producing. The denial of copyright thus rests on the incentive rationale — option (B). The author never argues the images are aesthetically inferior, concedes (in the opening) that the software produces striking images rather than denying its capability, and the registration-volume point is a separate worry, not the central reason.

Q18 A

The author's key premise is that machines, unlike humans, need no copyright incentive to keep creating. Evidence that generative systems produce images at the same rate whether or not the output is protected directly confirms that premise — protection adds no incentive — and so strengthens the argument most, option (A). Images selling at auction or being registered elsewhere, and the software's ability to imitate human styles, are at best neutral or actually cut against the author by suggesting the output has independent value or is already being protected.

Q19 A

The third paragraph reasons that if every machine image were protected, 'a handful of operators could... lay claim to a colossal territory of imagery, crowding out the human artists.' The 'weapon' claim therefore assumes precisely that mass protection of machine output would let a few operators monopolise imagery to the detriment of human artists — option (A). The argument does not assume artists are barred from using the software, indeed acknowledges they do; it points out that systems are trained on human works (the opposite of the distractor claiming they never are); and it makes no assumption about courts always favouring large operators.

Q20 C

The final paragraph draws the author's line: where a person exercises 'genuine creative control — selecting, arranging, substantially editing, and shaping the final work through real artistic choices', the work reflects human authorship and 'may well merit protection.' That is option (C). The author explicitly rejects drawing the line at the use of software versus a brush, says nothing to suggest beauty or polish is the test, and ties protection to human contribution rather than to the sophistication of the machine.

SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK & CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q21 B

The International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, sits at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. Geneva hosts many UN agencies, New York is the UN's overall headquarters, and Vienna houses bodies such as the IAEA, but the ICJ itself is in The Hague. Candidates often confuse the ICJ with the International Criminal Court, which also sits in The Hague, but this question concerns the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, whose seat is at the Peace Palace. Hence (B) is the correct answer.

Q22 D

Habeas Corpus ('you may have the body') commands that a detained person be brought before the court to test whether the detention is lawful. Mandamus commands performance of a public duty, Quo Warranto questions a person's authority to hold a public office, and Certiorari quashes an order of a lower court or tribunal. Habeas corpus is the appropriate remedy whenever the very legality of a person's detention is in question, which is precisely the situation described in the stem, so the other three writs do not fit. Hence (D) is the correct answer.

Q23 B

Fundamental Rights are guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution (Articles 12–35). Part II deals with citizenship, Part IV contains the Directive Principles of State Policy, and Part IV-A sets out the Fundamental Duties of citizens. Part III is often called the cornerstone of the Constitution because the rights it guarantees are justiciable and enforceable in court, which distinguishes them from the non-justiciable Directive Principles found in Part IV. Hence (B) is the correct answer.

Q24 B

'Ephemeral' means lasting for a very short time, fleeting. 'Short-lived' is its closest synonym. 'Eternal' is its opposite, while 'considerable' (large in amount) and 'honest' (truthful) are unrelated in meaning. A useful clue lies in the root 'ephemera', used for things that last only a day, so 'short-lived' captures the sense of something fleeting far more accurately than any of the other choices. Hence (B) is the correct answer.

Q25 A

'Candid' means truthful, frank and straightforward. Its antonym is 'evasive', meaning tending to avoid giving a direct answer. 'Frank' is a synonym, not an antonym, while 'cheerful' and 'hostile' describe mood and are not opposites of 'candid'. Because the question asks specifically for an antonym, the synonym 'frank' is a deliberate trap; 'evasive', meaning unwilling to give a straight answer, is the true opposite of being candid. Hence (A) is the correct answer.

Q26 D

'To bury the hatchet' means to end a quarrel and make peace, from the practice of literally burying weapons to mark the end of hostilities. It has nothing to do with digging, concealing evidence or conceding defeat. Recognising the phrase as a fixed idiom for reconciliation is essential, because its meaning cannot be worked out literally from the individual words 'bury' and 'hatchet', which is exactly what the distractors invite you to do. Hence (D) is the correct answer.

Q27 A

The Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of India, conferred for exceptional service or performance of the highest order. The Param Vir Chakra is the highest wartime military decoration, the Jnanpith is a leading literary prize, and the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna is the top sporting honour. The Bharat Ratna may be awarded for exceptional service in any field, including art, literature, science and public affairs, which is precisely why it is classified as a civilian award rather than a specialised military, literary or sporting one. Hence (A) is the correct answer.

Q28 D

The basic structure doctrine — that Parliament cannot amend the Constitution so as to destroy its essential features — was laid down in *Kesavananda Bharati v State of Kerala* (1973). Golaknath had earlier held that fundamental rights could not be amended, and *Minerva Mills* later applied and reinforced the basic structure doctrine, but it originated in *Kesavananda Bharati*. Hence (D) is the correct answer.

Q29 C

The Tropic of Cancer passes through eight Indian states, including Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tripura, but it does not pass through Kerala, which lies well to the south of the line. The Tropic of Cancer runs at roughly 23.5° north latitude, crossing states such as Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tripura, all of which lie to the north of Kerala, so Kerala is the state the line misses and is the correct answer. Hence (C) is the correct answer.

Q30 D

The currency of Japan is the Yen. The Won is the currency of South Korea, the Yuan (renminbi) is the currency of China, and the Ringgit is the currency of Malaysia. Distinguishing these four East and South-East Asian currencies is a common static-GK requirement; only the Yen belongs to Japan, which makes the other three clear distractors. Hence (D) is the correct answer.