

**ANSWER KEY — 16 JUNE 2026**

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

RC PASSAGES

**Q1 D**  
The passage argues that we are too quick to banish boredom, that ordinary boredom signals a need for meaning and lets the mind wander productively, and that it builds self-reliance — while expressly distinguishing this from corrosive chronic boredom. That balanced thesis is captured by the first option. The passage is not chiefly about productivity gains from technology; it does not claim that all boredom, including chronic boredom, is good (it says the opposite); and it makes no blanket demand that children be banned from devices, offering instead a developmental observation about self-entertainment. Hence (D) is the correct answer.

**Q2 C**  
Immediately after calling the wandering mind 'busy', the author explains that it 'makes unexpected connections, revisits old problems, and rehearses plans for the future' — that is, it is mentally active rather than idle. The first option captures this. The word is not used to mean overwhelmed by distraction (the wandering occurs when distraction is absent), nor occupied with desk work (the best ideas are said to come away from the desk), nor anxious and unsettled, since the passage presents the wandering as fruitful, not distressing. Hence (C) is the correct answer.

**Q3 B**  
The third paragraph states that 'the capacity to sit with one's own thoughts is not innate; it is a skill, and like any skill it withers without practice'. That directly supports the first option. The passage denies that the capacity is innate, so the second option is wrong; it treats the capacity as valuable rather than a negative habit to unlearn, contradicting the third; and it presents the skill as available to people generally, not restricted to a creative few, ruling out the fourth. Hence (B) is the correct answer.

**Q4 D**  
These examples come right after the claim that a wandering mind makes unexpected connections, and the author notes that such moments are 'precisely the unstructured moments we are now so quick to fill'. The examples therefore illustrate that good thinking happens in idle, unfilled time — the first option. They are not offered to prove that travel raises intelligence, nor as travel advice, nor to credit screens; indeed the passage's point is that filling these moments with screens forecloses such thinking. Hence (D) is the correct answer.

**Q5 B**  
The author's claim is that letting ordinary boredom run its course fosters creativity and self-reliance. Evidence that those who promptly distract themselves are just as creative and self-reliant would directly undercut that causal claim, so the first option weakens the argument most. The prevalence of smartphones and the early age of device use are premises the author already accepts and even relies on; and the unpleasantness of chronic boredom is something the author concedes, so none of those three damages the narrower argument about ordinary boredom. Hence (B) is the correct answer.

**Q6 A**  
The third paragraph draws the key line between editing a consenting patient's body cells, which affect only that person, and editing the germ line — eggs, sperm or embryos — whose changes 'would be passed on to every future generation'. That is the first option. The passage does not frame the crucial distinction as plant-versus-animal editing, and it says rewriting the genome is now possible rather than impossible. Inequality is raised as a separate concern, not as the crucial ethical distinction, which is specifically about heritability. Hence (A) is the correct answer.

**Q7 D**  
The passage lays out CRISPR's 'immense' promise and then its troubling risks — heritable germ-line edits and the spectre of inequality — before concluding that the 'harder task' is to decide collectively where to draw the line. That balanced, decision-focused purpose is the first option. The author does not call for an outright ban, does not present gene editing as an unmixed good, and offers only a brief account of CRISPR's origin rather than a detailed biochemical mechanism, so the other options misstate the purpose. Hence (D) is the correct answer.

**Q8 D**

The final paragraph states plainly that 'the technology itself is neither good nor evil; it is a tool of extraordinary reach', and that the hard task is to decide how to use it. This supports the first option, that the technology is morally neutral and its value turns on human choices. The author does not call the technology inherently dangerous or inherently benevolent — both are explicitly rejected by the 'neither good nor evil' formulation — and far from finding it too primitive to raise ethical questions, the passage is devoted to the serious questions it raises. Hence (D) is the correct answer.

**Q9 C**

The third paragraph explains that 'an edit made to an embryo cannot be consented to by the person it will become, and a mistake could ripple down the generations'. The first option restates these two grounds — absence of consent and heritable error — which is exactly why embryo editing is singled out as troubling. The passage says nothing about embryos being costlier to edit, reports that trials have had real successes rather than total failure, and does not claim that agricultural use has caused widespread harm, so the other options are unsupported. Hence (C) is the correct answer.

**Q10 A**

The phrase follows the author's worry that genetic enhancement might be 'available only to those who could pay', producing a divide based not just on money but on inherited biological traits. The first option captures this: paid-for enhancement would give the wealthy durable biological advantages. The phrase is not about geography or ecosystems, nor about disagreement among scientists, nor about separating species; it is specifically about a social divide deepened into a biological one through unequal access to enhancement. Hence (A) is the correct answer.

## CR PASSAGES

**Q11 C**

The conclusion is the claim the rest of the passage is offered to support. The opening sentence states it directly — 'India should make voting compulsory' — and the closing paragraph defends it against objections. That is the first option. The fact that turnout leaves many citizens silent, the example of Australia's high turnout, and the observation that the law already compels taxes and schooling are all premises marshalled in support of the conclusion, not the conclusion itself, which is the recommendation that voting be made compulsory. Hence (C) is the correct answer.

**Q12 B**

The second paragraph reasons that under voluntary turnout parties focus on firing up their base, but that 'where everyone must vote, that strategy collapses', forcing parties toward the moderate middle. The argument therefore assumes that compulsory turnout removes the winning power of a base-mobilisation strategy — the first option. It does not assume parties currently cannot reach moderates, nor that disengaged citizens are better informed, nor that voluntary campaigns never use persuasion; its claim is comparative, about where the emphasis would shift, which the first option correctly identifies. Hence (B) is the correct answer.

**Q13 B**

A central plank of the argument is that compulsory voting makes the result 'reflect the whole nation' more faithfully. Evidence that the additional, compelled voters chose almost at random, so that outcomes represented the electorate no better than before, directly attacks that benefit and weakens the argument most — the first option. A few opinion columns do not bear on the merits; the inconvenience felt by existing voters does not address the representativeness claim; and a modest rise in voluntary turnout, if anything, is peripheral to whether compulsion would improve representation. Hence (B) is the correct answer.

**Q14 A**

In the final paragraph the author meets the liberty objection by noting that the law already compels much — taxes, jury service, schooling — so a duty to spend a few minutes voting is a light burden, and by adding that no one is forced to back any candidate, since a voter may reject them all on the ballot. The first option captures both moves. The author does not dismiss liberty as outdated, does not rest on the small number of objectors, and does not claim that voting is so enjoyable that people come to welcome it; the response is about proportionate duty and preserved choice. Hence (A) is the correct answer.

**Q15 C**

The argument leans on an analogy: because the law already compels taxes, jury service and schooling, compelling a citizen to vote is said to be a comparably light burden. A critic could fairly object that the duty to vote may not be relevantly similar to paying taxes or sending children to school — those serve concrete functions in ways a forced vote may not — so the argument asserts the parallel without establishing it, which is the first option. The passage does not contradict itself, does not rest on a single Indian election, and never assumes compulsory voting is already in force, so the remaining criticisms do not apply. Hence (C) is the correct answer.

**Q16 A**

The thesis is stated at the end of the first paragraph — platforms 'should not, as a general rule, be held legally liable for the content their users create' — and restated in the final paragraph, which says primary liability should fall on the author, not the platform. That is the first option. The author does not argue that users should escape consequences (the opposite: the author would place liability on them), does not call for platforms to be shut down, and uses the telephone company only as an analogy for non-liability, not as a target of liability. Hence (A) is the correct answer.

**Q17 B**

The analogy appears in the paragraph arguing that a platform is 'in the main, a conduit' that carries messages it did not write, just as a telephone network carries a conversation. Its point is that responsibility lies with the speaker, not the carrier — the first option. The author is not claiming the technologies are identical, only relevantly similar in the carrier role; is not asserting that no medium has ever been held liable; and is not proposing that platforms be placed under the same telephone statute, so the other options overstate or misread the comparison. Hence (B) is the correct answer.

**Q18 A**

A key strand of the argument is that imposing liability on platforms would lead them to delete lawful speech wholesale rather than judge each post. Real-world evidence that, where platforms were made liable, they did in fact delete large amounts of lawful and harmless speech directly confirms that predicted consequence and strengthens the argument most — the first option. The platforms' advertising revenue, users' preferences about advertisements, and the fact that many people get news through platforms are all beside the point of whether liability causes over-removal of lawful speech. Hence (A) is the correct answer.

**Q19 D**

The third paragraph reasons that, made liable for each post, platforms would pre-screen everything and delete 'anything remotely controversial', 'because it is cheaper to delete than to judge'. The over-removal prediction therefore rests on the assumption that, under threat of liability, deletion would be cheaper and safer for platforms than case-by-case judgement — the first option. The argument does not assume platforms cannot remove content (it assumes they would remove too much), nor that users would flee at a single removal, nor that governments would forbid all moderation, so those assumptions are not the ones the claim depends on. Hence (D) is the correct answer.

**Q20 C**

In the final paragraph the author says platforms 'can and should remove clearly illegal content once it is flagged' and cooperate with authorities, while insisting that primary liability rest on the author. The first option matches this position precisely. The author does not say platforms should never remove content — quite the reverse; does not absolve the user, on whom liability is placed; and rejects treating the platform as the author of every post, which is the very view the passage argues against. Hence (C) is the correct answer.

## SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK &amp; CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Q21 A**

The World Health Organization, a specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health, has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Paris is the seat of UNESCO, Rome hosts the Food and Agriculture Organization, and New York is the overall headquarters of the United Nations; but the WHO itself is based in Geneva, which also hosts several other international organisations. Hence (A) is the correct answer.

**Q22 A**

Mandamus, meaning 'we command', is issued to direct a public official, authority or lower court to perform a public or statutory duty that it has wrongfully failed or refused to perform. Producing a detained person to test the detention is the function of Habeas Corpus; quashing the order of a lower court or tribunal is the function of Certiorari; and questioning a person's right to hold a public office is the function of Quo Warranto. Only Mandamus compels the performance of a public duty. Hence (A) is the correct answer.

**Q23 B**

Article 32 guarantees the right to move the Supreme Court for the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights, and empowers the Court to issue writs for that purpose; Dr B.R. Ambedkar famously called it the 'heart and soul' of the Constitution. Article 19(1)(a) protects the freedom of speech and expression, Article 21 protects life and personal liberty, and Article 44 is a Directive Principle on a uniform civil code, so only Article 32 is the right to constitutional remedies. Hence (B) is the correct answer.

**Q24 B**

'Benevolent' means well-meaning and kindly, disposed to do good to others. Its closest synonym among the options is 'kind'. 'Hostile', meaning unfriendly or antagonistic, is in fact an opposite; 'wealthy' concerns riches rather than kindness; and 'cautious' concerns carefulness. Only 'kind' captures the generous, good-natured sense of benevolent, so it is the correct choice. Hence (B) is the correct answer.

**Q25 D**

'Transparent' means allowing light to pass through so that objects behind can be seen, and, figuratively, open and easy to understand. Its antonym is 'opaque', which describes a material that light cannot pass through. 'Clear' is a synonym rather than an opposite; 'fragile' refers to being easily broken; and 'honest', if anything, aligns with the figurative sense of transparent. Only 'opaque' is the true opposite. Hence (D) is the correct answer.

**Q26 D**

'Once in a blue moon' is an idiom meaning very rarely or hardly ever, drawn from the unusual event of a second full moon within a single calendar month. It does not mean very often, which would be its opposite; it has nothing to do with literally happening at night; and it does not mean suddenly. The phrase must be read as a fixed expression for rarity rather than interpreted word by word. Hence (D) is the correct answer.

**Q27 A**

The Dronacharya Award is the national honour given to eminent coaches who have produced medal winners in international sporting events, and it is named after Dronacharya, the legendary teacher of archery in the Mahabharata. Gallantry in war is recognised by awards such as the Param Vir Chakra; the arts are honoured by the Sangeet Natak Akademi and similar awards; so among the options only outstanding sports coaches are the recipients of the Dronacharya Award. Hence (A) is the correct answer.

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**Q28 C**

In Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) v Union of India (2017), a nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court unanimously held that the right to privacy is a fundamental right protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21. Maneka Gandhi expanded the meaning of personal liberty, Kesavananda Bharati laid down the basic structure doctrine, and ADM Jabalpur is remembered for the opposite reason; only Puttaswamy established the right to privacy. Hence (C) is the correct answer.

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**Q29 C**

The Ganga is the longest river within India, running for roughly 2,500 kilometres from its Himalayan source to the Bay of Bengal and draining a vast and densely populated basin. The Godavari is the longest river of peninsular India but is shorter than the Ganga; the Yamuna is a major tributary of the Ganga; and the Brahmaputra, though very long overall, flows for a smaller part of its course inside India. Hence the Ganga is the correct answer. Hence (C) is the correct answer.

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**Q30 B**

The official currency of the United Kingdom is the Pound Sterling, denoted by the symbol £. The Euro is the currency of much of the European Union but not of the United Kingdom, which never adopted it; the United States Dollar is used by the United States and several other countries; and the Franc was formerly used by France and is still used, in forms, by Switzerland and others. Only the Pound Sterling is the United Kingdom's currency. Hence (B) is the correct answer.

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