

ANSWER KEY — 17 JUNE 2026

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

RC PASSAGES

Q1 B
In context, the night sky is described as something handed down to all of humanity from the past — 'a shared inheritance' that anyone could once enjoy. This matches 'something of value received from the past and shared by all'. The word is used figuratively, not as a literal legacy of money or property, and not in the biological sense of a genetic trait. So option (B) best fits the meaning. Hence (B) is correct.

Q2 D
The passage establishes that light pollution harms wildlife and human health, but it closes by stressing that, unlike carbon dioxide, light 'vanishes the instant a lamp is switched off' and that affordable remedies already exist. The central idea is thus that light pollution is a serious yet uniquely reversible harm. It does not claim light is mostly beneficial, nor that the loss is merely aesthetic, nor that the problem is intractable. So option (D) captures the main idea. Hence (D) is correct.

Q3 A
The author explicitly contrasts the two: 'Unlike carbon dioxide, which lingers for centuries, light vanishes the instant a lamp is switched off.' The implication is that light pollution is easier to undo because its effects stop the moment the source is removed. The passage does not call it more dangerous or less studied, and it stresses low cost, not high expense. So option (A) is the supported inference. Hence (A) is correct.

Q4 C
The author documents real harms yet ends on a hopeful note: practical, low-cost remedies — shielded fixtures, warmer light, motion sensors — are 'already in our hands'. This blend of worry and optimism is best described as 'concerned yet hopeful'. The tone is neither detached, nor despairing about irreversibility, nor dismissive of the harm. So option (C) fits. Hence (C) is correct.

Q5 B
The author's reversibility claim rests on the idea that switching lights off cheaply restores the night. The claim is weakened most by something showing that, in practice, the lights will not be switched off — option (B), where cities refuse to reduce lighting for safety reasons, blocks the remedy regardless of how technically easy it is. The other options either support reversibility or are neutral. So option (B) most weakens the claim. Hence (B) is correct.

Q6 A
The passage traces how blue, though common to us, was historically the last colour to be named and the most expensive to produce, ending: 'The hue we now take for granted was, for most of history, the rarest and most precious of all.' Option (A) captures this. The Greeks were not actually colour-blind; Egyptian blue and ultramarine were not the only blues; and Prussian blue was created by accident, not to cheapen religious art. So option (A) is the main idea. Hence (A) is correct.

Q7 C
In the second paragraph the Egyptians 'reserved it for gods and pharaohs' — that is, they kept blue set apart for an exclusive and restricted use by a privileged few, rather than allowing it for everyone. This matches the sense in option (C). It does not mean booking something ahead for a future occasion, being shy and quiet in manner, or storing an item away in order to sell it later. The word here conveys exclusive, restricted use. Hence (C) is correct.

Q8 D
The passage stresses that ultramarine came from costly lapis lazuli and was used 'sparingly', with patrons specifying its quantity in contracts. The clear inference is that, because the pigment was so expensive, the amount used directly affected the painting's cost — option (D). The text does not attribute the clauses to distrust of theft, to fading, or to a Church rule. So option (D) is the correct inference. Hence (D) is correct.

Q9 B

Homer's 'wine-dark' sea is offered as an example that the Greeks had no settled word for blue, supporting the claim that blue was named late in most languages — option (B). The author expressly rejects the idea that this proves the Greeks were backward or colour-blind, and does not argue the sea is really wine-coloured or that Greek poetry was careless. So option (B) states the purpose. Hence (B) is correct.

Q10 A

The passage explains blue's late naming by noting it appeared 'well after black, white, red and yellow'. A finding that languages reliably acquire colour words in a fixed order ending with blue — option (A) — directly supports this developmental explanation. The other options are irrelevant or actually cut against the passage's reasoning. So option (A) best supports the explanation. Hence (A) is correct.

CR PASSAGES

Q11 C

The argument's overall thesis, stated in the first sentence and restated at the close, is that India should adopt a four-day working week as its national standard without cutting pay — option (C). The points about mistakes, rested workers and essential services are premises supporting that recommendation, not the conclusion itself. So option (C) is the main conclusion. Hence (C) is correct.

Q12 D

The argument cites overseas pilot programmes as evidence for what India should do. This only works if the results observed abroad would broadly transfer to Indian workplaces — option (D) — otherwise the foreign evidence proves nothing about India. The argument does not assume Indians are already the most productive, that all firms give a two-day weekend, or that no Indian firm has tried it. So option (D) is the necessary assumption. Hence (D) is correct.

Q13 A

A central premise is that a shorter week keeps productivity steady or higher. Option (A), showing that in most large trials output per worker fell sharply on a four-day week, directly contradicts that premise and undercuts the whole case. The other options either support the argument (less stress, more family time, lower resignations) or are neutral. So option (A) most weakens the argument. Hence (A) is correct.

Q14 B

The argument would be strengthened by direct evidence from an Indian setting. Option (B) — a large Indian firm that adopted a four-day week and saw output rise and resignations fall over two years — supplies exactly the kind of local, real-world support the argument needs. A preference for higher pay, the history of the eight-hour day, or traffic patterns do little to bolster the case. So option (B) most strengthens it. Hence (B) is correct.

Q15 C

The disputed claim assumes that because a government once legislated an eight-hour day, it can equally legislate a four-day week. The strongest objection, option (C), is that the power to pass one kind of law does not show that a quite different law is workable in practice — feasibility, not legislative power, is the real question. The other options dispute side facts rather than the inference. So option (C) is the best objection. Hence (C) is correct.

Q16 D

Every strand of the passage — the weakness of the educational case, the thinness of the conservation claim, and the real welfare costs of captivity — is marshalled towards a single recommendation, stated at the very start and repeated at the close: that traditional zoos displaying wild animals should be phased out over the coming decades. That recommendation is the conclusion, while the points about documentaries, brief visits and animal suffering are supporting premises rather than the main claim. Option (D) states this conclusion. Hence (D) is correct.

Q17 A

The educational argument runs: documentaries now teach about wildlife better than zoos, so zoos are no longer needed for education. This depends on assuming that documentaries can inspire concern for wildlife at least as well as seeing animals in person — option (A). The argument does not need the stronger claims that no one ever learns at a zoo, that all documentaries are flawless, or that only children's education is at stake. So option (A) is the assumption. Hence (A) is correct.

Q18 C

The conservation argument claims that only a tiny fraction of zoo animals are part of genuine programmes to return species to the wild. Option (C) — that a majority of zoos now run breeding programmes that have successfully returned threatened species to the wild — directly contradicts this premise and so most weakens the argument. The others either support it or are about cost and viewing habits. So option (C) most weakens the conservation argument. Hence (C) is correct.

Q19 B

A key strand is that captivity harms large animals, which 'die younger than they would in protected reserves'. Option (B), providing consistent evidence that large mammals in zoos die several years earlier than those in protected reserves, directly reinforces this welfare premise. Improved enclosures or rising ticket sales would not help the argument, and one bird-breeding success would slightly cut against it. So option (B) most strengthens the argument. Hence (B) is correct.

Q20 D

The author's structure is: this practice (zoos) is justified only by benefits — education and conservation — that no longer hold, therefore it should be discontinued. Option (D) mirrors that exact pattern: a practice justified only by benefits that no longer exist should now be stopped. The other options are over-generalisations or hasty conclusions with a different logical shape. So option (D) is the parallel reasoning. Hence (D) is correct.

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

The official currency of Japan is the Japanese yen, denoted by the international code JPY. The other options belong elsewhere: the won is the currency of South Korea, the yuan or renminbi is the currency of China, and the ringgit is the currency of Malaysia. Only the yen is associated with Japan among the choices given. The correct answer is therefore the yen. Hence (A) is correct.

Q22 C

'Ephemeral' describes something that lasts for only a very short time before fading away, such as a passing mood or a mayfly's single day of life. Among the options, the word closest in meaning is 'short-lived'. 'Permanent' is in fact its direct opposite, while 'colourful' and 'enormous' relate to appearance and size and have nothing to do with duration. The best synonym for ephemeral is therefore short-lived. Hence (C) is correct.

Q23 B

The idiom 'to bite the bullet' means to brace oneself and endure a painful or unpleasant but unavoidable situation with courage, an expression said to come from battlefield surgery performed before anaesthesia. This corresponds to 'to face a hard or unpleasant situation bravely'. The phrase has nothing to do with making a costly mistake, wasting an opportunity, or speaking rashly. The correct meaning is therefore to face a difficult situation bravely. Hence (B) is correct.

Q24 D

The Preamble to the Indian Constitution solemnly declares India to be a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic; the words 'Socialist' and 'Secular' were inserted by the 42nd Amendment in 1976. The terms socialist, secular and democratic republic therefore all appear in it. 'Capitalist' is not part of the Preamble's description of the Indian state. As the question asks for the exception, the answer is the capitalist republic. Hence (D) is correct.

Q25 A

The Ranji Trophy is India's premier domestic first-class cricket championship, contested every season between teams that represent the various states and regions of the country, and it is named after the celebrated cricketer Ranjitsinhji, known as Ranji. It is firmly associated with the sport of cricket and not with hockey, football or badminton, each of which has its own separate national-level tournaments. The sport linked to the Ranji Trophy is therefore cricket. Hence (A) is correct.

Q26 C

'Benevolent' means kind, generous and well-meaning towards others. The word most opposite in meaning among the options is 'malicious', which describes a desire to cause harm or injury and to act with ill will. 'Generous' and 'kindly' are near-synonyms of benevolent rather than opposites, and 'cheerful' refers merely to mood and is unrelated. The correct antonym of benevolent is therefore malicious. Hence (C) is correct.

Q27 B

The Ganga is the longest river flowing within India, running about 2,525 kilometres from its Himalayan source at Gangotri down to the Bay of Bengal. The Yamuna, though long, is a tributary of the Ganga, while the Godavari and the Narmada are both shorter than the Ganga within the country. The longest river inside India is therefore the Ganga. Hence (B) is correct.

Q28 D

The basic structure doctrine — the principle that Parliament's power to amend the Constitution does not extend to altering its essential or 'basic' features — was propounded by a thirteen-judge bench of the Supreme Court in *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala* (1973). Maneka Gandhi, A. K. Gopalan and Golaknath concerned other constitutional questions. The case that gave birth to the doctrine is therefore *Kesavananda Bharati*. Hence (D) is correct.

Q29 C

'The Discovery of India' was written by Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, during his imprisonment at Ahmednagar Fort between 1942 and 1946. The book surveys India's long history and civilisation. It was not authored by Mahatma Gandhi, B. R. Ambedkar or Sardar Patel, each of whom is associated with other works. The author of 'The Discovery of India' is therefore Jawaharlal Nehru. Hence (C) is correct.

Q30 A

The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution lists the languages officially recognised by the Republic of India, a list that presently contains twenty-two languages. By contrast, the Ninth Schedule shields certain laws from judicial review, the Seventh Schedule divides legislative powers between the Union and the States, and the Tenth Schedule contains the anti-defection provisions. The schedule that holds the recognised languages is therefore the Eighth Schedule. Hence (A) is correct.