

ANSWER KEY — 23 JUNE 2026

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

RC PASSAGES

Q1 B
The passage contrasts the tavern, whose 'social lubricant' was alcohol, with the coffeehouse. A 'social lubricant' is something that eases and accompanies social interaction — here, the drink around which people gathered and conversed. Option B captures this. Option A (public revenue), option C (cause of disorder) and option D (most-traded commodity) all misread the figurative phrase, which is about smoothing social exchange, not about money, crime or trade volume. Hence (B).

Q2 C
The passage repeatedly holds 'two truths at once': coffee built commerce and habits of public reasoning, yet rested on coerced colonial labour. Option C states exactly this double-edged thesis. Option A overstates coffee 'replacing' alcohol everywhere; option B makes the coffeehouse the single cause of the Enlightenment, which the cautious 'sometimes called' language avoids; and option D reduces the whole history to the suppression of dissent, only one paragraph's point. Hence (C).

Q3 A
The passage says that where 'the tavern dulled the senses, the coffeehouse sharpened them', and describes the coffeehouse's distinctive sober, conversational atmosphere — supporting the inference in option A. Option B reverses the chronology, since coffee spread through the Ottoman world before reaching Europe; option C invents a monarch founding Lloyd's, whereas it grew from a merchants' coffeehouse; and option D misattributes the Sufis' motive, which was staying alert in prayer, not selling to Europeans. Hence (A).

Q4 D
The passage deliberately holds two ideas in tension: coffee built networks of commerce and habits of public reasoning that we still inhabit, yet it was also 'an instrument of an exploitative global economy'. This refusal to land on a single verdict marks a balanced assessment, as option D states. Option A (celebratory) ignores the colonial exploitation the author stresses; option B (dismissive) contradicts the author's evident engagement with coffee's significance; and option C (alarmed about consumption) mistakes a historical essay for a health warning. Hence (D).

Q5 B
The author's claim is that the coffeehouse opened a 'public sphere' where private individuals could reason together. If, as option B states, those who actually attended were almost solely men already powerful enough to shape opinion privately, then the coffeehouse did not create a genuinely new or inclusive space of shared reasoning — directly weakening the claim. Option A (modern cultivation), option C (monarchs trying to close them, which the passage already notes) and option D (Lloyd's relocating) do not touch the inclusiveness of public reasoning. Hence (B).

Q6 A
The passage defines function creep by example: a system installed for one narrow purpose can be 'quietly repurposed' for broader, unintended uses such as routine surveillance. Option A states precisely this gradual broadening of use beyond the original purpose. Option B (hardware ageing), option C (geographic spread) and option D (concealment of purpose) describe different phenomena that are not what the term means. Hence (A).

Q7 D
The passage states that, 'unlike a fingerprint, a face can be captured at a distance, in public, without the subject's knowledge'. Option D restates this contrast and is directly supported. Option A (more accurate than fingerprints in every respect) is unsupported and contradicts the accuracy concern; option B (author favours an outright ban) misreads the measured stance; and option C (comprehensive laws already exist) is contradicted by the closing call for rules and oversight. Hence (D).

Q8 C
The passage's thesis, stated most clearly in the final paragraph, is that facial recognition carries 'real benefits and real dangers', so the live question is not whether it works but under what rules it should operate — option C. Option A (risks clearly outweigh benefits) and option B (essentially harmless) each take only one side, which the author refuses; option D (mass surveillance is inevitable) overstates and ignores the call for legislative limits. Hence (C).

Q9 B

Throughout, the author lays out the proponents' genuine benefits and the critics' three concerns side by side, and closes not with a verdict but with a question for legislators about rules, oversight and limits. This even-handed, reasoned treatment is a measured and analytical tone, as option B states. Option A (enthusiastic and promotional) and option C (fearful and alarmist) each adopt only one side of the debate, while option D (indifferent) is wrong because the author plainly regards the issue as important. Hence (B).

Q10 A

The accuracy concern is that systems perform less reliably on women and darker-skinned people, so false matches fall unevenly. Option A — an independent study finding several deployed systems misidentify darker-skinned women far more often than lighter-skinned men — is direct empirical support and strengthens that concern. Options B (faster airport queues), C (higher bank satisfaction) and D (a child located quickly) speak to convenience or benefit, not to accuracy bias, and so do not strengthen the criticism. Hence (A).

CR PASSAGES

Q11 B

The argument's stated conclusion, drawn together in the final paragraph from monetary sovereignty, investor protection and illicit finance, is that India should comprehensively ban private cryptocurrencies rather than regulate them — option B. Option A (technological superiority) is the opposite of the supporters' stance; option C (volatility for investors) and option D (issue an official digital currency) are at most premises or unrelated proposals, not the conclusion. Hence (B).

Q12 A

The monetary-sovereignty argument only works if cryptocurrencies could realistically capture a significant share of transactions; otherwise the central bank's levers would not be 'blunted'. Option A is exactly this unstated bridging assumption. Option B overstates it as present majority use, an explicit and extreme claim rather than the minimal assumption needed; option C wrongly assumes the bank is already powerless; and option D makes a sweeping empirical claim the argument never relies on. The argument needs only the possibility of significant migration. Hence (A).

Q13 D

The supporters favour a ban over regulation, partly by claiming regulation would be ineffective. Option D — comparative evidence that well-designed regulation curbs fraud and illicit use as effectively as a ban while preserving lawful innovation — directly undercuts the case for prohibition by showing a less drastic alternative achieves the same protective ends. Options A (prices rose), B (exchange fees) and C (a few investors profited) are tangential and do not address whether a ban is preferable to regulation. Hence (D).

Q14 C

The illicit-finance strand claims crypto's pseudonymity and cross-border reach make it ideal for laundering and terror financing. Option C — independent investigations finding that ransomware and terror-financing payments are routinely settled in pseudonymous cryptocurrencies — supplies direct evidence that this misuse actually occurs, strengthening the strand. Option A (store of value), option B (small market size, which would weaken the worry) and option D (firms accepting crypto) do not support the illicit-finance claim. Hence (C).

Q15 A

The investor-protection argument assumes a ban will actually protect retail savers. Option A identifies the weakness: prohibition may simply drive those savers into unregulated foreign or underground markets that offer even less protection, so the ban could fail to protect — or even harm — the very people it targets. Option B (reliance on economists), option C (claiming no one ever profits) and option D (all investments equally risky) misstate the argument rather than expose its real gap. Hence (A).

Q16 B

The abolitionists' conclusion, gathered in the final paragraph from the four pillars, is that India should abolish the death penalty entirely and replace it with imprisonment — option B. Option A (retain it for the rarest cases) is the opposite position; option C (reduce wrongful convictions) and option D (free counsel for the accused) are at most reforms touched on in passing, not the stated conclusion of the argument. Hence (B).

Q17 A

The deterrence pillar reasons that if the death penalty saves no more lives than imprisonment, the state has 'no compelling reason to take a life'. This depends on the unstated assumption that the absence of a unique deterrent advantage removes the justification for using it — option A. Option B (offenders see prison as harsher) is not required; option C (crime already eliminated) is absurd and unneeded; and option D (deterrence is the only purpose of punishment) is stronger and narrower than the argument actually needs. Hence (A).

Q18 C

The deterrence pillar claims capital punishment deters no better than imprisonment. Option C — a rigorous study showing that, for a particular category of offence, the death penalty measurably reduces that offence in a way imprisonment does not — directly contradicts that pillar and so most weakens the overall argument. Options A (other countries abolished long ago) and B (some lifers feel remorse) are irrelevant to deterrence; option D (majority public support) speaks to opinion, not to whether the abolitionist reasons are sound. Hence (C).

Q19 D

The arbitrariness pillar observes that the death sentence falls unevenly on the poor and ill-represented. Option D identifies the weakness: uneven application is, by itself, an argument for fairer procedures and better representation rather than necessarily for abolishing the penalty as such — the conclusion does not follow from that premise alone. Option A (wealthy never sentenced) and option C (treating prison and execution as identical) misdescribe the argument, and option B's dignity point belongs to a different pillar. Hence (D).

Q20 B

The irreversible-error pillar rests on the fear of executing an innocent person, an error that cannot be undone. Option B — a national audit revealing that several executed persons were later shown by fresh evidence to have been innocent — shows that this fear has actually materialised, strengthening the pillar most directly. Option A (mercy petitions filed), option C (more capital offences) and option D (apex-court confirmation, which would if anything cut the other way) do not establish that innocents have in fact been executed. Hence (B).

SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK & CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q21 C

The official currency of Japan is the Yen, usually denoted by the symbol that resembles a capital Y with two strokes. The other options belong to different countries: the Won is the currency of South Korea, the Yuan — part of the Renminbi — is the currency of China, and the Ringgit is the currency of Malaysia. Only the Yen is Japanese, so the correct answer is option C. Hence (C).

Q22 D

Article 32 gives every person the right to move the Supreme Court directly for the enforcement of the fundamental rights, and empowers the Court to issue writs — habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quo warranto. Dr B. R. Ambedkar called Article 32 the 'heart and soul' of the Constitution. Article 226 confers a similar but wider writ jurisdiction on the High Courts, but the question asks specifically about the Supreme Court, so the answer is Article 32. Hence (D).

Q23 A

'Meticulous' describes someone who shows great, careful attention to detail and precision in their work. Among the choices, 'painstaking' — taking pains to get every detail right — is the closest synonym. 'Careless' and 'indifferent' are antonyms, describing a lack of attention, while 'hasty' suggests doing something quickly and without care, which is the opposite of meticulous. The best match in meaning is therefore option A. Hence (A).

Q24 B

The idiom 'to bury the hatchet' means to make peace, to settle a quarrel and to put hostilities behind one. It derives from a Native American custom of literally burying weapons such as tomahawks to mark the end of a conflict. The other options describe concealing wrongdoing, giving up a hard task, or getting ready for a fight — none of which captures the reconciliation sense of the idiom. The correct meaning is to make peace and end a quarrel. Hence (B).

Q25 C

The 'basic structure doctrine' — the principle that Parliament's power to amend the Constitution does not extend to altering or destroying its essential features — was laid down by the Supreme Court in *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala* (1973). *Minerva Mills* later reaffirmed and applied the doctrine, *Maneka Gandhi* concerned the scope of Article 21, and *A. K. Gopalan* predated the doctrine and was overruled on a related point. The originating case is *Kesavananda Bharati*. Hence (C).

Q26 D

'The Discovery of India' was written by Jawaharlal Nehru while he was imprisoned at Ahmadnagar Fort during the early 1940s. In it, Nehru surveys India's long history, philosophy, culture and civilisation, and reflects on the idea of India itself. Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel and Rabindranath Tagore each wrote other notable works, but none of them authored this book. The correct answer is therefore Jawaharlal Nehru. Hence (D).

Q27 A

The Ganga is the longest river flowing within India, running roughly 2,500 kilometres from its Himalayan source at Gangotri to the Bay of Bengal. The Godavari is the longest river of peninsular India but is shorter than the Ganga overall; the Yamuna is itself a major tributary of the Ganga; and a large part of the Brahmaputra's total length lies outside India, in Tibet and Bangladesh. So the longest river flowing within India is the Ganga. Hence (A).

Q28 B

The Ranji Trophy is the premier domestic first-class cricket competition in India, contested each season by teams representing the various states and regions. It is named after Ranjitsinhji, the celebrated cricketer. It has no connection with hockey, football or badminton, each of which has its own separate national tournaments in India. The Ranji Trophy belongs to cricket, so the correct answer is option B. Hence (B).

Q29 C

The Preamble to the Constitution describes India as a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic, securing to its citizens justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. The words 'Socialist' and 'Secular' were inserted by the 42nd Amendment in 1976. The term 'Capitalist' nowhere appears in the Preamble, so it is the exception among the four options listed. The correct answer is therefore Capitalist. Hence (C).

Q30 D

The Reserve Bank of India, established in 1935, has its central headquarters in Mumbai, to which it was shifted from Kolkata in 1937. While the RBI maintains regional offices in cities including New Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai, its central office — housing the Governor and the principal departments — is located in Mumbai. The central board of the bank also meets principally in Mumbai, and the office of the Governor is situated there as well. The correct answer is therefore Mumbai. Hence (D).