

**ANSWER KEY — 27 JUNE 2026**

<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q5</b>	<b>Q6</b>	<b>Q7</b>	<b>Q8</b>	<b>Q9</b>	<b>Q10</b>
B	D	A	C	B	A	D	C	A	B
<b>Q11</b>	<b>Q12</b>	<b>Q13</b>	<b>Q14</b>	<b>Q15</b>	<b>Q16</b>	<b>Q17</b>	<b>Q18</b>	<b>Q19</b>	<b>Q20</b>
C	A	D	B	C	A	D	B	C	A
<b>Q21</b>	<b>Q22</b>	<b>Q23</b>	<b>Q24</b>	<b>Q25</b>	<b>Q26</b>	<b>Q27</b>	<b>Q28</b>	<b>Q29</b>	<b>Q30</b>
C	B	D	B	C	C	B	C	A	D
<b>Q31</b>	<b>Q32</b>	<b>Q33</b>	<b>Q34</b>	<b>Q35</b>	<b>Q36</b>	<b>Q37</b>	<b>Q38</b>	<b>Q39</b>	<b>Q40</b>
A	A	A	B	B	B	C	C	D	D

RC PASSAGES

**Q1 B**  
'Deceptively simple' describes something that looks simpler than it actually is; the appearance misleads the observer into underestimating the underlying complexity. The passage uses it to introduce a chemical reaction that seems easy but involves a specialised molecule and enzyme. It does not mean plainly obvious, nor genuinely fraudulent, nor needlessly complicated; the sense is precisely that of an appearance that misleads a first impression. Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q2 D**  
The passage repeatedly stresses that light production has evolved many times, is highly efficient as 'cold light', and serves varied survival purposes such as luring prey, escaping predators and signalling to mates. That combination is the central idea. The fireflies-and-mushrooms statement and the energy-efficiency point are mere supporting details, while the claim that bioluminescence is confined to the deep ocean is expressly contradicted by the examples drawn from land and surface waters. Hence, option (D) is correct.

**Q3 A**  
The passage states that the glow is 'cold light' which releases energy almost entirely as light, and that, unlike a bulb which wastes most of its energy as heat, a glowing organism 'loses almost nothing'. It follows that the organism converts a much greater proportion of its energy into visible light than a bulb does. The claims that its light is warmer, that it needs surface sunlight, or that it glows continuously all contradict the passage. Hence, option (A) is correct.

**Q4 C**  
The author marvels at bioluminescence, calling it one of nature's most widespread phenomena and ending with the lyrical image of 'a flash of meaning in an ocean of darkness', while also probing the question of why organisms glow. This blend of admiration and inquiry is best captured as appreciative and curious. There is no scepticism, alarm or indifference anywhere in the tone of the writing. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q5 B**  
The disputed claim is that glowing is a survival tool shaped by evolution. If species that lost the glow were swiftly eliminated by predators, that shows the glow confers a real survival advantage, directly strengthening the claim. Confining the phenomenon to sunlit waters or noting that divers can see the light is irrelevant, and finding the chemicals in non-glowing animals does nothing to show survival value. Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q6 A**  
The passage argues that the brief, ordinary boredom of daily life is 'not an enemy but an invitation', carrying benefits for creativity and self-reliance that we lose by smothering every dull moment. That is its central thesis. It does not claim all boredom is good — it expressly calls chronic boredom corrosive — nor does it argue that technology has lowered intelligence or that children must never use screens; those options overstate or distort the text. Hence, option (A) is correct.

**Q7 D**  
The author describes boredom as 'faintly uncomfortable' yet valuable because it 'prods us to act, to seek out something meaningful'. This shows approval of discomfort that drives a search for meaning. By contrast the author criticises constantly filling time with screens, distinguishes boredom from mere idleness, and doubts that a tightly scheduled childhood breeds curiosity, so the other three statements run against the author's view. Hence, option (D) is correct.

**Q8 C**  
Chronic, inescapable boredom is described as 'genuinely corrosive', meaning that it slowly eats away at wellbeing over time, much as a corrosive substance gradually wears down a surface. The sense is one of steady, cumulative damage rather than a brief irritation, sharp physical pain or open hostility. The option capturing slow, steady damage therefore matches the intended meaning most closely. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q9 A**

The children example appears in support of the claim that unstructured, 'boring' time teaches invention, storytelling and self-knowledge, contrasting capable but perhaps incurious adults produced by an over-scheduled childhood. It is offered to illustrate how dull, free time fosters creativity and self-reliance. It is not used to disparage today's children, to rank harms, or to demand the abolition of all school timetables. Hence, option (A) is correct.

**Q10 B**

A central pillar of the argument is that boredom boosts creativity, supported by research that bored people generate more original ideas. If idle, bored people in fact produce no more original ideas than busy people, that evidence collapses and the argument is seriously weakened. The link between chronic workplace boredom and dissatisfaction is something the author already concedes, and the artist and complaining-children points are too weak to undermine the thesis. Hence, option (B) is correct.

## CR PASSAGES

**Q11 C**

The argument's main conclusion is its central recommendation, stated at both the opening and the close: that India should make voting compulsory by law. Everything else functions as support. The claims about Australia's turnout, about low turnout reflecting only motivated voters, and about existing compulsory duties are premises offered to back that recommendation, not the conclusion itself. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q12 A**

The legitimacy argument moves from low turnout to the claim that compulsory voting would yield assemblies that 'mirror the electorate far more faithfully'. This depends on assuming that fuller participation actually produces a more representative government; without that link the conclusion fails. The argument does not need every compelled voter to vote thoughtfully (it allows a 'none of the above' option), nor that the two countries are identical, nor that voting is the only permissible duty. Hence, option (A) is correct.

**Q13 D**

The core benefit claimed is that compulsory voting yields assemblies more faithfully mirroring the electorate. If compelled but uninterested voters choose candidates at random, the outcome is distorted rather than more representative, striking directly at that central benefit. Contented abstainers, a slight dip in trust, or a modest rise in cost are comparatively minor and do not undermine the main representativeness claim in the same decisive way. Hence, option (D) is correct.

**Q14 B**

The argument asserts that the obligation to vote 'nudges people towards engagement' and prompts them to inform themselves. Evidence that compelled voters do in fact become better informed over time directly supports that mechanism and strengthens the case. Disliking state direction and high turnout achieved without compulsion would cut against the argument, and constant Indian turnout is neutral to it. Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q15 C**

The freedom objection is answered by analogy: voting is likened to paying taxes, serving on juries and sending children to school, all duties compelled in the public interest, so compelling voting is said to be no different. That analogical move is the heart of the reply. The argument never denies that freedoms matter, nor rests this reply on Australia's similarity or on turnout never affecting results. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q16 A**

The conclusion is the author's recommendation, stated plainly at the start and again at the end: heritable editing of human embryos should not be permitted for now. The points about one gene affecting many traits and about cost favouring the wealthy are supporting reasons, while the claim that screening is 'completely risk-free' overstates the author, who only calls it a safer means that can 'largely' achieve the goal. Hence, option (A) is correct.

**Q17 D**

The equality reason runs: editing will be expensive, hence available chiefly to the rich, hence it could entrench advantage and deepen divisions. This depends on assuming that a technology accessible mainly to the wealthy can worsen existing social divisions. If it could not, the worry evaporates. The reason does not assume that all technologies become cheap, nor that wealth is currently equal, nor that the rich deserve no better care. Hence, option (D) is correct.

**Q18 B**

The author's first and strongest reason is irreversibility, that germline edits propagate permanently through descendants. If such edits can in fact be reliably reversed in later generations, that central pillar collapses and the argument is most weakened. Cheaper equipment would, if anything, sharpen the equality worry, and the suffering caused by disease or the limits of screening do not defeat the case for restraint. Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q19 C**

The second reason warns that editing one gene may unintentionally cause other disorders because our knowledge is incomplete. Evidence that past single-gene edits have repeatedly produced unforeseen new disorders confirms exactly that danger and strengthens the call for caution. Problem-free edits or simpler technology would cut against the argument, and public enthusiasm for ending disease does not address the risks at all. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q20 A**

The author concedes the defenders' aim, writing that the hope of eliminating disease 'is real, and I do not dismiss it', but then argues that the same goal can largely be reached by the safer route of screening embryos rather than editing them. This is a concede-then-redirect reply. The author does not deny that disease causes suffering, impute financial motives, or reject the goal of ending disease. Hence, option (A) is correct.

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

**Q21 C**

The capital of Australia is Canberra, a planned city built specifically to serve as the seat of national government. Sydney and Melbourne are the country's two largest cities and are often mistaken for the capital, while Perth lies on the west coast. The capital, however, is Canberra, located between Sydney and Melbourne in the Australian Capital Territory. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q22 B**

The official 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. Among the options, only the yen belongs to Japan, where it is the standard unit of money used in everyday transactions. Its symbol is the character resembling a Y with two strokes, and it is one of the most heavily traded currencies in the world's foreign-exchange markets. Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q23 D**

The Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the Republic of India, conferred for exceptional service or performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour. It is not a military decoration, a literary prize or a sporting award; it is fundamentally a civilian honour, India's most prestigious decoration for distinguished national service. Hence, option (D) is correct.

**Q24 B**

'The Discovery of India' was written by Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, during his imprisonment at Ahmednagar Fort in the early 1940s. Published in 1946, it traces the long history, philosophy and culture of India and remains a celebrated survey of the nation's civilisation. Mahatma Gandhi, B. R. Ambedkar and Sardar Patel were distinguished contemporaries of Nehru, but none of them was the author of this particular work. Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q25 C**

A standard cricket team fields eleven players per side at any one time, comprising a mix of batters, bowlers, a wicketkeeper and all-rounders. Nine, ten and thirteen are incorrect: a side is eleven strong, though a twelfth man may sit in reserve as a substitute fielder. On the field of play, each team has exactly eleven players. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q26 C**

During photosynthesis green plants absorb carbon dioxide from the air and, using sunlight and water, convert it into glucose, releasing oxygen as a by-product. Plants take in carbon dioxide and give out oxygen during this process. Nitrogen and carbon monoxide are not the gases absorbed for photosynthesis, so carbon dioxide is the gas chiefly taken in from the surrounding air. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q27 B**

'Ephemeral' means lasting for only a very short time — fleeting, momentary or transient — like a mayfly that lives but a single day. Among the choices, 'short-lived' is the closest synonym, sharing the sense of brief duration. 'Permanent', 'long-lasting' and 'ancient' all suggest the opposite idea of enduring for a long time, the very reverse of what is wanted. Hence 'short-lived' is the word most nearly similar in meaning to 'ephemeral'. Hence, option (B) is correct.

**Q28 C**

'Benevolent' means kindly, well-meaning and disposed to do good to others. Its true opposite is 'malevolent', which means wishing harm, evil or ill-will towards others. 'Generous', 'cheerful' and 'compassionate' are all broadly positive or pleasant qualities and therefore do not stand in opposition to 'benevolent'; indeed 'compassionate' is close to a synonym of it. The antonym sought is 'malevolent', expressing ill-will rather than goodwill. Hence, option (C) is correct.

**Q29 A**

The idiom 'to bite the bullet' means to face a painful, difficult or unpleasant situation with courage and endurance — to brace oneself and get on with something one would rather avoid. It is said to originate from the days when wounded soldiers were given a bullet to bite on during surgery without anaesthetic. It does not mean to act recklessly, to waste money or to speak rudely; the sense is one of bravely accepting hardship. Hence, option (A) is correct.

**Q30 D**

Article 21 of the Constitution of India provides that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law, thereby guaranteeing the right to life and personal liberty. The right to equality flows from Article 14, freedom of speech and expression from Article 19, and the right against exploitation from Articles 23 and 24. Hence, option (D) is correct.

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**Q31 A**

The capital of Canada is Ottawa, situated in the province of Ontario on the banks of the Ottawa River. Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal are among Canada's largest and best-known cities and are often mistaken for the capital, but the seat of the federal government and Parliament is Ottawa. It was chosen as a compromise capital lying between the English-speaking and French-speaking regions of the country. Hence, option (A) is correct.

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**Q32 A**

The headquarters of the United Nations is located in New York City, on the eastern side of Manhattan beside the East River. Geneva hosts many important UN offices and agencies, and Paris is home to UNESCO, but the principal seat of the UN, housing the General Assembly and the Security Council, is in New York. Washington DC, the United States capital, is sometimes wrongly assumed to host it. Hence, option (A) is correct.

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**Q33 A**

'Jana Gana Mana', the national anthem of India, was composed by Rabindranath Tagore, the Nobel-laureate poet; it was first sung in 1911 and adopted as the national anthem in 1950. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee wrote 'Vande Mataram', the national song, while Sarojini Naidu and Mahatma Gandhi, though celebrated figures of the freedom movement, did not write the anthem. Its author is Rabindranath Tagore. Hence, option (A) is correct.

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**Q34 B**

The Olympic flag bears five interlocking rings, coloured blue, yellow, black, green and red on a white background. The five rings symbolise the union of the five inhabited continents and the meeting of athletes from across the world at the Games. The numbers four, six and seven do not match the well-known emblem; the correct count of rings on the Olympic flag is five. Hence, option (B) is correct.

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**Q35 B**

Nitrogen makes up the largest proportion of the Earth's atmosphere, accounting for roughly seventy-eight per cent of the air by volume. Oxygen, essential for respiration, forms about twenty-one per cent, while carbon dioxide and hydrogen are present only in very small traces. Although oxygen is vital to life, it is nitrogen that is the most abundant gas in the air that we breathe. Hence, option (B) is correct.

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**Q36 B**

'Abundant' means existing in large quantities, plentiful or more than enough. Among the choices, 'plentiful' is the closest synonym, sharing the sense of ample supply. 'Scarce' and 'insufficient' mean the very opposite, namely lacking or too little, while 'costly' refers to price rather than to quantity. Hence the word most nearly similar in meaning to 'abundant' is 'plentiful'. Hence, option (B) is correct.

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**Q37 C**

'Candid' means frank, open and honest in expressing one's opinions or feelings. Its opposite is 'evasive', meaning inclined to avoid giving a direct or straightforward answer. 'Frank', 'sincere' and 'outspoken' are all close in sense to 'candid' rather than opposed to it. The antonym sought, expressing concealment and avoidance instead of openness, is therefore 'evasive'. Hence, option (C) is correct.

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**Q38 C**

The idiom 'a blessing in disguise' refers to something that appears unfortunate or unwelcome at first but later turns out to be beneficial. A setback that ultimately leads to a better outcome is the classic example. It does not mean a hidden danger, a costly mistake or a broken promise; the phrase describes a good thing that was, at first, mistaken for a bad one. Hence, option (C) is correct.

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**Q39 D**

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar is widely regarded as the chief architect of the Constitution of India, having served as Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly. Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad and Sardar Patel were leading members of the Assembly and of the freedom movement, but it was Ambedkar who principally shaped and piloted the drafting of the Constitution adopted in 1949. Hence, option (D) is correct.

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**Q40 D**

The Constitution of India presently guarantees six Fundamental Rights: the right to equality, the right to freedom, the right against exploitation, the right to freedom of religion, cultural and educational rights, and the right to constitutional remedies. The right to property was removed from the list of Fundamental Rights in 1978. Hence the correct number of Fundamental Rights currently guaranteed is six. Hence, option (D) is correct.

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