

Daily Reading Comprehension & Critical Reasoning

Two RC passages (English-as-Language) and two CR passages (Argumentation). Read each carefully and answer based on what is stated or implied.

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PASSAGE 1 (RC) — DO ANIMALS HAVE A LANGUAGE OF THEIR OWN?

Q1-5

READ CAREFULLY AND ANSWER Q1-5 BASED ONLY ON THE PASSAGE.

For most of the last century, language was widely treated as the exclusive property of human beings, the bright line separating us from every other creature on the planet. That confidence has been steadily eroding. Studies of corvids reveal crows that fashion tools, plan for the future, and hold what look very much like grudges against individuals who once wronged them. Cetacean researchers have documented dolphin signature whistles, acoustic labels that function almost like personal names, learned in infancy and used to address specific companions across open water. Vervet monkeys produce distinct alarm calls for leopards, eagles, and snakes, prompting listeners to scan the correct part of their environment. Confronted with such findings, some enthusiasts declare that animals possess language after all, and that human uniqueness is a comfortable myth. Yet the more cautious voices in the field insist on a crucial distinction. A signal that reliably triggers a response is simply not the same as a symbol that genuinely carries meaning. Human language is generative: from a finite stock of words we assemble an unlimited number of novel sentences, refer to things absent or purely imaginary, and comment on the very act of communicating. No confirmed animal system displays that open-ended, recursive productivity. What the vervet lacks is not vocabulary but syntax, the combinatorial machinery that lets meaning be built rather than merely emitted. The honest conclusion is therefore neither triumphant nor dismissive. Animals clearly command rich, structured, socially learned communication, and treating their calls as mere reflex plainly insults the evidence. But equating those systems with human language flattens a real difference that genuinely matters. The interesting question is not whether animals talk, a question framed to yield a simple yes or no, but which particular ingredients of meaning each species has assembled, and which remain, for now, distinctively ours to wonder about.

1. Which statement best captures the central argument of the passage?

- ☐ A. Human uniqueness in communication is a myth that science has now conclusively dismantled.
- ☐ B. Recent research proves that several animal species command full human-style language.
- ☐ C. Animal calls are mere reflexes that carry no communicative content whatsoever.
- ☐ D. Animal communication is genuinely rich yet still lacks the generative, symbolic quality of human language.

2. What does the passage suggest the vervet monkey's alarm-call system chiefly lacks?

- ☐ A. A large enough vocabulary of distinct warning signals
- ☐ B. The combinatorial syntax that lets new meanings be built rather than merely emitted
- ☐ C. The ability to learn its calls socially during infancy
- ☐ D. Any reliable link between a signal and a listener's response, on the facts as presently stated

3. In the passage, the word generative most nearly means the capacity to do what?

- ☐ A. Produce unlimited novel combinations from a finite set of elements
- ☐ B. Reproduce inherited signals without any variation
- ☐ C. Trigger predictable physical reactions in listeners
- ☐ D. Pass communication skills down to the next generation, on the facts as presently stated

4. The author's overall tone toward claims that animals possess language is best described as which of the following?

- ☐ A. Carefully balanced, resisting both overstatement and dismissal
- ☐ B. Enthusiastically celebratory of animal linguistic ability
- ☐ C. Sharply scornful of all animal communication research
- ☐ D. Anxious and alarmed about the implications of the evidence

5. It can be inferred that the author considers the question 'do animals talk?' unhelpful primarily because it does which of the following?

- ☐ A. Assumes wrongly that animals communicate at all
- ☐ B. Relies on studies the author believes are methodologically unsound, on the facts as presently stated
- ☐ C. Forces a yes-or-no answer that obscures which specific ingredients of meaning each species has
- ☐ D. Ignores the emotional lives of the animals being studied

PASSAGE 2 (RC) — SHARED SOVEREIGNTY: THE BARGAIN OF INDIAN FEDERALISM

Q6-10

READ CAREFULLY AND ANSWER Q6-10 BASED ONLY ON THE PASSAGE.



India's Constitution is often described as quasi-federal, distributing powers between the Union and the States while tilting decisively toward the Centre in moments of stress. Yet the daily practice of governance depends far less on this formal hierarchy than on a habit of negotiation that scholars call cooperative federalism. Under this idea, the two tiers of government are not rivals competing for a fixed pool of authority but partners obliged to coordinate on shared problems that respect no boundary line, from public health to the sharing of interstate rivers. Fiscal relations expose the stakes most sharply of all. States shoulder heavy expenditure responsibilities in education, policing, and welfare, but the most buoyant sources of revenue have traditionally rested with the Union, producing a structural imbalance that transfers and grants are meant to correct. The Goods and Services Tax, introduced in 2017, is frequently held up as a working model of this cooperation. By pooling the power to tax into a single levy, the Centre and every State surrendered a measure of independent authority to a common institution, the GST Council, where decisions emerge through weighted deliberation rather than unilateral command. Admirers see in the Council a promising template for shared sovereignty, a forum where consensus substitutes for coercion. Critics counter that pooling can quietly concentrate power, since a State that has surrendered its taxing autonomy cannot easily reclaim it, and the promised compensation may prove fragile when growth disappoints. The deeper tension is not a defect to be engineered away but a permanent feature of any federal bargain. Autonomy and coordination pull in opposite directions, and every mechanism that strengthens joint action inevitably narrows unilateral room to manoeuvre. The health of Indian federalism therefore rests less on a perfect division of powers than on the enduring willingness of both tiers to keep bargaining in good faith.

6. Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?

- ☐ A. India should abandon its quasi-federal structure in favour of full State autonomy.
- ☐ B. The GST Council has permanently resolved the fiscal disputes between the Centre and the States, on the facts as presently stated, in the absence of any agreement to the contrary.
- ☐ C. Indian federalism functions through ongoing negotiation, and its central tension between autonomy and coordination is permanent.
- ☐ D. Formal constitutional hierarchy alone determines the everyday success of Indian governance.

7. According to the passage, what structural imbalance do transfers and grants exist to correct?

- ☐ A. States carry heavy spending duties while the most buoyant revenues rest with the Union
- ☐ B. The Union spends heavily while States collect most of the revenue, on the facts as presently stated
- ☐ C. Wealthier States subsidise poorer States without any central role
- ☐ D. The GST Council collects taxes that neither tier can access

8. Why do critics, as presented in the passage, worry about pooling taxing power in the GST Council?

- ☐ A. Pooling gives poorer States an unfair veto over richer ones
- ☐ B. The Council meets too rarely to make timely fiscal decisions
- ☐ C. A State that surrenders its taxing autonomy cannot easily reclaim it later
- ☐ D. The Union is legally barred from participating in the Council, on the facts as presently stated

9. As used in the passage, the phrase buoyant sources of revenue most nearly refers to revenue that is what?

- ☐ A. Difficult and costly to collect efficiently
- ☐ B. Naturally growing and expanding with the economy
- ☐ C. Legally reserved to local municipal bodies
- ☐ D. Shrinking steadily over successive years

10. Which view about the autonomy-coordination tension would the author most likely endorse?

- ☐ A. It matters only in emergencies when the Centre overrides the States
- ☐ B. It is a design flaw that a better division of powers could eliminate
- ☐ C. It proves that cooperative federalism is fundamentally unworkable in India, on the facts as presently stated
- ☐ D. It is an inherent trade-off that healthy federalism manages through continued good-faith bargaining

PASSAGE 3 (CR) — THE CASE FOR REVIVING THE INHERITANCE TAX

Q11-15

READ THE ARGUMENT AND ANSWER Q11-15.

Every democracy claims to prize equality of opportunity, yet nowhere is opportunity distributed so unequally as at birth. A child born into a fortune inherits not merely money but a lifetime of advantages that no amount of individual effort can replicate. Reformers therefore argue that a revived inheritance tax, levied on large estates as they pass between generations, is the single most defensible instrument a state possesses for narrowing this gap. The wealth being taxed was not earned by the heir; it is an unearned windfall, and taxing windfalls distorts incentives far less than taxing wages or enterprise. If society must raise revenue somewhere, it should raise it where the burden falls on luck rather than labour. Critics reply that such a tax merely provokes capital flight, that the very rich will relocate their assets to friendlier jurisdictions long before the state can collect. But this objection assumes wealth is perfectly mobile, which it is not: land, property, and family businesses are rooted in place, and coordinated international agreements are steadily closing the escape routes offshore havens once offered. A more serious worry is that heirs will be forced to liquidate productive firms to pay the levy, destroying jobs in the process. Yet this is readily addressed through instalment schemes and generous thresholds that exempt genuinely modest estates while capturing only concentrated dynastic wealth. What the tax ultimately funds matters most: proceeds channelled into schools, apprenticeships, and early-childhood support give the children of ordinary families the very head start that inherited fortune buys automatically. A society that permits vast wealth to cascade untaxed across generations is not rewarding merit; it is entrenching aristocracy under a democratic disguise. Reviving the inheritance tax will not eliminate inequality, but it restores the principle that each generation should, in some meaningful measure, earn its own standing rather than simply inherit it wholesale from the last.

11. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument for reviving the inheritance tax?

- ☐ A. Many wealthy families already make voluntary charitable donations during their own lifetimes.
- ☐ B. Studies show taxing unearned windfalls dampens work and investment far less than taxing ordinary income does.
- ☐ C. Inheritance taxes existed in several countries before being repealed decades ago.
- ☐ D. Some heirs choose to reinvest inherited fortunes into new commercial ventures.



12. The author's response to the capital-flight objection relies on which assumption?

- ☐ A. No jurisdiction anywhere offers lower tax rates on inherited estates.
- ☐ B. Wealthy individuals feel a moral duty to keep their assets within the nation, on the facts as presently stated.
- ☐ C. Significant categories of wealth cannot be relocated as easily as critics of the tax suppose.
- ☐ D. Governments can seize assets faster than owners can transfer them abroad.

13. Which of the following most weakens the argument as presented?

- ☐ A. In practice, revenues from such taxes are diverted to general spending rather than to opportunity-building programmes.
- ☐ B. A small number of heirs inherit estates that fall below the exemption threshold.
- ☐ C. Some ordinary families also pass modest savings to their children.
- ☐ D. Inheritance taxes are administratively complex for revenue authorities to enforce, on the facts as presently stated, in the absence of any agreement to the contrary.

14. The author concludes that untaxed inherited wealth entrenches aristocracy under a democratic disguise.

This conclusion depends on treating which idea as decisive?

- ☐ A. Wealthy heirs invariably contribute less to society than self-made individuals.
- ☐ B. Aristocracies of the past were always more unequal than modern democracies.
- ☐ C. Every democratic state has an explicit constitutional ban on hereditary privilege, on the facts as presently stated.
- ☐ D. Standing acquired purely by birth rather than effort is incompatible with genuine equality of opportunity.

15. Which argument is most closely parallel in its reasoning to the author's defence of taxing inheritance?

- ☐ A. Lottery winnings should be taxed heavily because they reward luck rather than productive effort.
- ☐ B. Fuel should be taxed heavily because burning it pollutes the shared environment.
- ☐ C. Imports should be taxed to protect domestic industries from foreign competition.
- ☐ D. Property should be taxed annually because owners benefit from public services nearby.

PASSAGE 4 (CR) — SHOULD PRIVATE TUTORING BE CAPPED?

Q16–20

READ THE ARGUMENT AND ANSWER Q16–20.

In cities across the country, a shadow education system has quietly hardened into a permanent fixture: private tutoring, coaching centres, and cram schools that now run parallel to ordinary schooling. Advocates of regulation argue that this industry has grown so large and so expensive that it now actively undermines fairness, and that governments should cap its hours, its fees, or both. Their case begins with equity. When affluent families spend heavily on private coaching, their children gain a decisive edge in competitive examinations, so the very tests meant to reward talent increasingly reward the ability to pay. Capping tutoring, the argument runs, would loosen the grip of wealth on academic outcomes and let genuine aptitude count for more. A second strand concerns wellbeing: adolescents shuttled between school and coaching until late at night suffer measurable harm to sleep, health, and mental balance, and a legal ceiling on tutoring hours would restore something of a normal childhood. Opponents counter that regulation tramples on parental choice, since parents have every right to invest in their own children's futures as they see fit, and that a cap merely pushes tutoring underground, where it becomes costlier and wholly unmonitored. There is force in this reply, yet it overlooks how one family's private advantage compels every other family to follow, generating an exhausting arms race that benefits no one once everybody is enrolled. If all families are spending more merely to stay level, a coordinated cap could leave every child no worse off academically while sparing them the cost and the stress. The deeper question is whether education is a private good to be purchased or a public arena that must be kept fair. Those who would regulate tutoring insist that when private spending distorts a shared competition, the state has not merely a right but a duty to intervene.

16. Which of the following, if true, most weakens the equity argument for capping private tutoring?

- ☐ A. Wealthy families spend more on tutoring than poorer families can afford to, on the facts as presently stated.
- ☐ B. Children from low-income families gain the largest exam improvements from modest, affordable tutoring.
- ☐ C. Competitive examinations have existed for many decades in most countries.
- ☐ D. Some coaching centres advertise aggressively to attract anxious parents.

17. The author's rebuttal to the parental-choice objection depends on which assumption?

- ☐ A. The state always understands a child's interests better than the parents do, on the facts as presently stated.
- ☐ B. Parents are generally poor judges of what their own children truly need.
- ☐ C. One family's spending on tutoring pressures other families into spending they would otherwise avoid.
- ☐ D. Most parents would prefer not to educate their children at all.

18. The argument that a coordinated cap could leave every child no worse off academically while cutting cost and stress contains which flaw?

- ☐ A. It confuses the cost of tutoring with the quality of tutoring provided, on the facts as presently stated.
- ☐ B. It relies on evidence drawn from a single unrepresentative city.
- ☐ C. It assumes every family currently tutors equally, ignoring those who tutor little or not at all.
- ☐ D. It appeals to the authority of experts rather than to actual data.

19. Which principle, if accepted, most supports the author's final position on regulating tutoring?

- ☐ A. Individuals should always be free to spend their own money however they wish, on the facts as presently stated.
- ☐ B. When private spending distorts a shared public competition, the state is justified in intervening.
- ☐ C. Any activity that causes stress to adolescents should be banned outright.
- ☐ D. Governments should maximise total educational spending across all households.

20. Which situation is most parallel in its reasoning to the author's arms-race defence of a tutoring cap?

- ☐ A. Rival firms all raise advertising budgets, yet market shares stay fixed while costs climb for everyone.
- ☐ B. A company lowers prices to win customers away from a struggling competitor, on the facts as presently stated.
- ☐ C. A government subsidises a struggling industry to preserve local employment.
- ☐ D. A student studies harder than peers and consequently earns a higher rank.



Standalone questions on current affairs, static GK, vocabulary in context and idiom usage. No passage required.

21. Which Article of the Indian Constitution guarantees the Right to Equality before the law?

- ☐ A. Article 19
- ☐ B. Article 14
- ☐ C. Article 21
- ☐ D. Article 32

22. The Right to Constitutional Remedies, allowing citizens to approach the Supreme Court for enforcement of fundamental rights, is provided under which Article?

- ☐ A. Article 226
- ☐ B. Article 32
- ☐ C. Article 21
- ☐ D. Article 14

23. In the landmark Kesavananda Bharati case of 1973, the Supreme Court propounded which important constitutional doctrine?

- ☐ A. The Basic Structure Doctrine
- ☐ B. The Doctrine of Pith and Substance
- ☐ C. The Doctrine of Eclipse
- ☐ D. The Doctrine of Colourable Legislation

24. Which fundamental right in the Indian Constitution guarantees the protection of life and personal liberty?

- ☐ A. Article 22
- ☐ B. Article 20
- ☐ C. Article 21
- ☐ D. Article 25

25. The Directive Principles of State Policy in the Indian Constitution were inspired by the constitution of which country?

- ☐ A. Canada
- ☐ B. United States
- ☐ C. United Kingdom
- ☐ D. Ireland

26. Under the Indian Contract Act, an agreement not enforceable by law is described as which of the following?

- ☐ A. Executed
- ☐ B. Valid
- ☐ C. Voidable at the option of both parties
- ☐ D. Void

27. Which writ is issued by a court to produce a detained person before it to examine the legality of the detention?

- ☐ A. Certiorari
- ☐ B. Mandamus
- ☐ C. Quo Warranto
- ☐ D. Habeas Corpus

28. The Preamble to the Indian Constitution declares India to be a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular and which other type of Republic?

- ☐ A. Unitary
- ☐ B. Federal
- ☐ C. Presidential
- ☐ D. Democratic

29. The minimum age prescribed by the Indian Constitution to be eligible for election as President of India is what?

- ☐ A. Twenty-five years
- ☐ B. Thirty years
- ☐ C. Forty years
- ☐ D. Thirty-five years

30. Which schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the recognised official languages of India?

- ☐ A. The Tenth Schedule
- ☐ B. The Sixth Schedule
- ☐ C. The Eighth Schedule
- ☐ D. The Fourth Schedule

31. The principle that a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty is a fundamental feature of which branch of law?

- ☐ A. Administrative Law
- ☐ B. Contract Law
- ☐ C. Property Law
- ☐ D. Criminal Law

32. In legal terminology, the Latin maxim Ubi Jus Ibi Remedium means which of the following?

- ☐ A. Let the buyer beware
- ☐ B. Where there is a right, there is a remedy
- ☐ C. The thing speaks for itself
- ☐ D. An act does not make a person guilty unless the mind is guilty

33. Which body in India is the highest court of appeal and the guardian of the Constitution?

- ☐ A. The National Human Rights Commission
- ☐ B. The High Court
- ☐ C. The Supreme Court
- ☐ D. The Law Commission

34. The concept of Public Interest Litigation in India was primarily developed through which means?

- ☐ A. Judicial innovation by the courts
- ☐ B. A specific Act of Parliament
- ☐ C. A constitutional amendment
- ☐ D. An executive order

