

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) — THE ETHICS OF MEMORY AND FORGETTING

Q1-5

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

Few moral intuitions feel as secure as the conviction that we owe the dead our remembrance. Memorials, commemorations, and archives all rest on the premise that to forget is to betray, that a society which loses its past forfeits its conscience. Philosophers who defend a duty to remember argue that memory sustains identity: nations, like individuals, become morally coherent only by acknowledging what they have done and suffered. On this view, forgetting an injustice is a second injustice, an erasure that compounds the original wrong by denying its victims recognition. Yet the celebration of memory can obscure its darker uses. Grievances preserved across generations have fuelled cycles of vengeance, and the demand to remember is often a demand to keep old hatreds alive. Some thinkers therefore defend forgetting as a genuine ethical achievement rather than a failure. Amnesties, they note, have historically allowed fractured communities to resume common life; the deliberate decision not to prosecute, not to recount, can be an instrument of peace rather than of denial. To forgive, on this account, is precisely to loosen memory's grip. The tension is not easily resolved, for both remembering and forgetting can be performed well or badly. A memory that fixates and resents differs from one that understands and integrates; a forgetting that buries the truth differs from one that releases a settled grievance. What matters is less the raw fact of retention than the spirit in which the past is held. Collective memory complicates the picture further, since societies remember through institutions that select, edit, and dramatise. No archive is neutral, and every commemoration foregrounds some stories while consigning others to silence. The ethical question, then, is not whether to remember but how, and on whose behalf, the labour of memory should be undertaken, and at what cost to the future's freedom.

1. Which option best captures the central argument of the passage?
 - ☐ A. A moral duty to remember always outweighs any case for forgetting
 - ☐ B. Remembering and forgetting are each ethical or harmful depending on how they are done
 - ☐ C. Forgetting is the only reliable route to peace between communities
 - ☐ D. Collective memory is neutral because institutions preserve every story equally
2. The passage most strongly implies that an amnesty can be justified when it
 - ☐ A. permanently destroys all evidence of past wrongdoing
 - ☐ B. helps a divided community resume a shared life
 - ☐ C. guarantees that victims receive full public recognition
 - ☐ D. revives long-standing grievances against former enemies
3. The author's attitude toward the duty to remember is best described as
 - ☐ A. wholly dismissive and openly contemptuous
 - ☐ B. appreciative yet alert to its potential misuse
 - ☐ C. uncritically celebratory and unreservedly reverent
 - ☐ D. indifferent and emotionally detached throughout
4. In context, 'consigning' others to silence most nearly means
 - ☐ A. returning goods to their owner
 - ☐ B. faithfully recording every account
 - ☐ C. publicly dramatising selected events
 - ☐ D. relegating certain stories to oblivion
5. According to the passage, what makes no archive neutral?
 - ☐ A. Archives store every story without any editing
 - ☐ B. Institutions select, edit, and dramatise what they preserve
 - ☐ C. Governments legally forbid the keeping of records
 - ☐ D. Individuals refuse to contribute their own memories



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SCAN AT DESK TO COLLECT
CG-RC-20260710

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

Beneath the abyssal plains of the Pacific lie fields of polymetallic nodules, potato-sized lumps rich in cobalt, nickel, and manganese. To manufacturers of batteries and renewable technologies, these nodules promise a vast new supply of critical minerals; to marine scientists, they represent one of the least understood ecosystems on the planet. The prospect of harvesting them has revived a decades-old debate about who owns the deep ocean and who may profit from it. The seabed beyond national jurisdiction is governed by an unusual principle. Under the Law of the Sea, it is designated the 'common heritage of mankind', meaning that its resources belong to no single state and must be managed for the benefit of all, including future generations. The International Seabed Authority, established to administer this domain, licenses exploration and is charged with drafting the rules under which any commercial extraction might proceed. In theory, humanity as a whole is the beneficiary; in practice, the technology and capital required belong to a handful of wealthy states and private firms. Ecologists warn that the risks are poorly quantified. Nodules take millions of years to form and provide the only hard surface for creatures in an otherwise soft-sediment plain. Mining machines would strip the seabed, smother organisms in plumes of suspended sediment, and disturb carbon stores whose behaviour is barely mapped. Because the deep sea is slow to recover, damage could persist for centuries. Defenders of extraction counter that terrestrial mining also devastates habitats and often depends on exploitative labour. If the transition away from fossil fuels demands more metal, they ask, is it not better to source it from an uninhabited seabed than from vulnerable communities? The dilemma exposes an uncomfortable truth: no path to a cleaner future is free of ecological cost, and the ocean commons may become its next frontier.

6. Which statement best expresses the passage's central concern?

- ☐ A. Polymetallic nodules regenerate quickly once the seabed is disturbed
- ☐ B. Terrestrial mining is entirely harmless compared with seabed extraction
- ☐ C. The International Seabed Authority has already banned all commercial mining
- ☐ D. Deep-sea mining offers vital metals but carries grave, poorly understood ecological risks

7. The contrast between theory and practice in the passage implies that

- ☐ A. private firms are barred from all exploration licences
- ☐ B. every nation has equal capacity to mine the seabed
- ☐ C. the seabed's resources legally belong to coastal states
- ☐ D. shared ownership may still benefit only a few powerful actors

8. The author's stance toward deep-sea mining is best characterised as

- ☐ A. enthusiastically promotional of rapid extraction, on the facts as presently stated
- ☐ B. cautious, weighing competing claims without endorsing either
- ☐ C. dismissive of every environmental concern raised
- ☐ D. resigned to the impossibility of any solution

9. In context, the phrase 'common heritage of mankind' most nearly conveys that the seabed's resources

- ☐ A. belong to all, not to one state
- ☐ B. are owned outright by the mining firm
- ☐ C. should remain permanently untouched forever
- ☐ D. hold no value for modern industry

10. According to the passage, why is nodule mining especially difficult to reverse?

- ☐ A. Nodules take millions of years to form
- ☐ B. Nodules regrow within a single decade
- ☐ C. The seabed recovers almost immediately afterward
- ☐ D. Nodules contain no useful metals at all

PASSAGE 3 (CR) — THE CASE FOR A WEALTH TAX ON BILLIONAIRES

Q11-15

READ THE ARGUMENT AND ANSWER Q11-15.

Proponents of a wealth tax on billionaires argue that such a levy is the fairest and most effective way to reduce spiralling inequality. The reasoning runs as follows. Over the past three decades, the share of national wealth held by the richest one percent has climbed steeply, while wages for ordinary workers have stagnated. Because extreme fortunes are largely inherited or accumulated through passive returns on existing assets, they do not reflect proportionate contributions to society. A modest annual charge of two percent on net worth above one billion would therefore correct an imbalance that the market, left alone, only deepens. Supporters add that the revenue raised could fund schools, hospitals and public transport, services that disproportionately benefit the poor. They note that ordinary citizens already pay tax on their homes and cars, so taxing the assets of the ultra-rich merely extends an accepted principle. Moreover, they contend that billionaires derive enormous advantage from public infrastructure, an educated workforce and a stable legal order, and so owe a larger share for its upkeep. Critics of the tax warn that the wealthy will simply move their money abroad, but proponents reply that coordinated international enforcement and exit charges can blunt such flight. They also dismiss the objection that a wealth tax discourages investment, insisting that the sums involved are trivial relative to the fortunes concerned and would scarcely alter the behaviour of people who already possess more than they could ever spend. From all this the advocates conclude that a wealth tax is not only just but practical, and that any democracy serious about fairness should adopt one without delay. The persistence of billion-dollar fortunes beside widespread deprivation, they insist, is a political choice rather than an economic necessity, and one that a determined government can readily reverse through this single reform.

11. The advocates' claim that the wealth tax is practical depends on which unstated assumption?

- ☐ A. No billionaire would ever support paying a wealth tax voluntarily.
- ☐ B. All billionaires inherited their entire fortunes without any personal effort.
- ☐ C. Public services can only ever be funded by taxing the ultra-rich.
- ☐ D. Coordinated enforcement can realistically prevent large-scale capital flight abroad.



12. Which finding, if true, would most strengthen the argument for the wealth tax?

- ☐ A. Property taxes on ordinary homes have existed for many centuries already, on the facts as presently stated.
- ☐ B. Some billionaires have publicly promised to give away their fortunes.
- ☐ C. Countries that adopted coordinated wealth taxes saw negligible capital flight and higher revenue.
- ☐ D. A few economists still dispute how inequality should best be measured.

13. Which statement, if true, would most weaken the argument for the wealth tax?

- ☐ A. Wealth inequality has grown across nearly every developed economy recently.
- ☐ B. Billionaires occasionally donate large sums to hospitals and public schools, on the facts as presently stated.
- ☐ C. The richest one percent already pay some income tax today.
- ☐ D. Nations imposing wealth taxes repeatedly lost more revenue to relocation than they collected.

14. The argument's reasoning is most vulnerable to the objection that it does what?

- ☐ A. It confuses the popularity of a policy with its fairness.
- ☐ B. It relies entirely on statistics gathered from only one country.
- ☐ C. It assumes a single reform can by itself reverse deeply entrenched inequality.
- ☐ D. It defines billionaires more narrowly than most economists would accept.

15. Which statement must be true given the advocates' reasoning in the passage?

- ☐ A. The advocates think total investment would rise sharply after the tax.
- ☐ B. The advocates believe billionaires contribute nothing whatsoever to society.
- ☐ C. The advocates treat taxing existing assets as an already accepted practice.
- ☐ D. The advocates oppose every form of privately inherited family wealth.

PASSAGE 4 (CR) — LEGISLATING THE RIGHT TO DISCONNECT

Q16–20

READ THE ARGUMENT AND ANSWER Q16–20.

Campaigners for a legally enforced right to disconnect argue that employees should be free to ignore work emails, calls and messages outside their contracted hours. Their case rests on several claims. First, they observe that smartphones have erased the boundary between office and home, so that many workers now feel obliged to remain available late into the evening and at weekends. This constant connectivity, they say, breeds chronic stress, disturbed sleep and eventual burnout, all of which harm both the individual and the employer. Because unpaid after-hours labour has become normalised, campaigners argue that only legislation, not voluntary company policy, can restore a fair balance. They point to countries that have already passed such laws, noting that firms there report no fall in productivity and, in several cases, a measurable rise once rested employees return each morning. Opponents counter that a rigid rule would cripple businesses that operate across time zones, but supporters answer that the right can include sensible exemptions for genuine emergencies and for roles that plainly require flexibility. Others worry that ambitious staff will simply keep working in secret to impress managers, yet campaigners reply that a clear legal standard shifts the culture, making round-the-clock availability an exception rather than an unspoken expectation. They further contend that well-rested workers are more creative, make fewer costly mistakes and stay with their employers longer, so the reform serves commercial interests as much as human ones. From these observations the campaigners conclude that every advanced economy ought to guarantee the right to disconnect by statute, treating protection from after-hours intrusion as a basic labour standard comparable to the minimum wage or paid leave. To leave the matter to individual bargaining, they insist, merely preserves the imbalance of power that created the problem, and abandons the very workers least able to defend themselves.

16. The claim that legislation rather than company policy is required assumes which of the following?

- ☐ A. Businesses never operate across more than one national time zone.
- ☐ B. Every worker in every single role dislikes answering evening emails, on the facts as presently stated.
- ☐ C. Voluntary company policies have failed to protect workers from after-hours demands.
- ☐ D. Minimum-wage laws were introduced later than paid-leave laws were.

17. Which finding would most strengthen the claim that the reform also serves business interests?

- ☐ A. Many employees already own more than one personal smartphone.
- ☐ B. Some managers personally prefer to send their emails during the evening, on the facts as presently stated.
- ☐ C. Firms adopting the right recorded fewer costly errors and lower staff turnover afterwards.
- ☐ D. The minimum wage was first introduced over a full century ago.

18. Which statement, if true, would most weaken the campaigners' conclusion?

- ☐ A. Productivity is generally difficult to measure with complete precision.
- ☐ B. A few businesses requested exemptions for genuine overnight emergencies only.
- ☐ C. Some workers enjoy the flexibility of answering messages from home.
- ☐ D. In countries with the law, employees quietly worked the same hours anyway.

19. The argument is most open to the criticism that it commits which reasoning error?

- ☐ A. It defines after-hours contact more broadly than any court would.
- ☐ B. It ignores that some workers own more than one device.
- ☐ C. It assumes all managers secretly oppose the proposed statutory reform.
- ☐ D. It treats a correlation between the law and productivity as proven causation.

20. Which conclusion must be true given the campaigners' reasoning?

- ☐ A. The campaigners think smartphones should be banned from all workplaces, on the facts as presently stated.
- ☐ B. The campaigners believe no employee should ever work any overtime.
- ☐ C. The campaigners regard freedom from after-hours contact as a fundamental labour right.
- ☐ D. The campaigners oppose granting any exemption to the proposed statute.

SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK & CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q21–38

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



- 21. Which Article of the Indian Constitution abolishes untouchability and forbids its practice in any form?**
☐ A. Article 16 ☐ B. Article 15
☐ C. Article 17 ☐ D. Article 18
- 22. The Right to Education was made a Fundamental Right through the insertion of Article 21A by which Constitutional Amendment?**
☐ A. 42nd Amendment (1976)
☐ B. 86th Amendment (2002)
☐ C. 44th Amendment (1978)
☐ D. 93rd Amendment (2005)
- 23. Which is the smallest State of India by geographical area?**
☐ A. Goa ☐ B. Sikkim
☐ C. Tripura ☐ D. Nagaland
- 24. Who was the first woman to hold the office of President of India?**
☐ A. Sonia Gandhi ☐ B. Droupadi Murmu
☐ C. Pratibha Patil ☐ D. Sushma Swaraj
- 25. Who is the current President of India, having assumed office in July 2022?**
☐ A. Pranab Mukherjee ☐ B. Ram Nath Kovind
☐ C. Pratibha Patil ☐ D. Droupadi Murmu
- 26. The International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, is located in which city?**
☐ A. New York, USA
☐ B. The Hague, Netherlands
☐ C. Geneva, Switzerland
☐ D. Washington, D.C., USA
- 27. Which writ is issued by a court to secure the release of a person who has been unlawfully detained?**
☐ A. Habeas Corpus ☐ B. Mandamus
☐ C. Quo Warranto ☐ D. Certiorari
- 28. Which mountain range forms the great natural northern barrier separating the Indian subcontinent from the Tibetan Plateau of China?**
☐ A. Vindhya Range ☐ B. Aravalli Range
☐ C. Himalayas ☐ D. Western Ghats
- 29. Who became the first Prime Minister of independent India in 1947?**
☐ A. Mahatma Gandhi
☐ B. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
☐ C. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
☐ D. Jawaharlal Nehru
- 30. Which vitamin is synthesised by the human body when the skin is exposed to sunlight?**
☐ A. Vitamin D ☐ B. Vitamin C
☐ C. Vitamin A ☐ D. Vitamin B12
- 31. In which year was the Indian National Congress founded, becoming the country's first major nationwide political organisation?**
☐ A. 1885 ☐ B. 1857
☐ C. 1905 ☐ D. 1919
- 32. Who became the youngest undisputed World Chess Champion in history after winning the title in December 2024?**
☐ A. D. Gukesh ☐ B. Magnus Carlsen
☐ C. Viswanathan Anand ☐ D. R. Praggnanandhaa
- 33. What is the capital city of Australia?**
☐ A. Perth ☐ B. Sydney
☐ C. Melbourne ☐ D. Canberra
- 34. Which Article of the Constitution provides for the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India?**
☐ A. Article 148 ☐ B. Article 76
☐ C. Article 324 ☐ D. Article 315
- 35. The Women's Reservation Bill, providing 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, was enacted in 2023 as which Constitutional Amendment?**
☐ A. 104th Amendment ☐ B. 106th Amendment
☐ C. 105th Amendment ☐ D. 103rd Amendment
- 36. Which is the largest planet in the solar system by both mass and diameter?**
☐ A. Jupiter ☐ B. Saturn
☐ C. Neptune ☐ D. Earth
- 37. Under the Indian Constitution, who formally appoints the Chief Justice of India and the other judges of the Supreme Court?**
☐ A. Parliament ☐ B. Prime Minister
☐ C. President ☐ D. Law Minister
- 38. The Fundamental Duties of citizens, added by the 42nd Amendment, are enshrined in which Article of the Constitution?**
☐ A. Article 44 ☐ B. Article 51A
☐ C. Article 39 ☐ D. Article 21

