

ANSWER KEY — 2 JULY 2026

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
B	D	C	B	B	A	D	C	A	D
Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
A	C	B	B	D	D	C	B	C	A
Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30
C	D	B	A	C	C	B	A	A	D
Q31	Q32								
A	D								

RC PASSAGES

Q1 B

The passage opens by calling every map 'an argument disguised as a description' and sustains that thesis through colonial surveys and digital maps alike, making the framing of maps as interest-laden constructs the central claim. The Mercator point is one illustration, not the thesis. The claim about digital neutrality is explicitly rejected. The impossibility of flat rendering is a premise the author uses, not the conclusion, since the author ultimately asks for visible perspective, not perfect accuracy. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q2 D

The author states the blankness 'is not innocence but erasure, a silence engineered to appear as absence,' directly linking blanks to the unmaking of pastoral and forest ways of life. That rules out honest data gaps, since the emptiness is engineered, not confessed. It rules out mere aesthetic decluttering, which ignores the political charge the author insists upon. And it rules out neutral gaps awaiting completion, because the author treats the absence as an active act, not a placeholder. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q3 C

The phrase 'editorial sovereignty' describes the algorithm's power to decide which streets, businesses, and neighbourhoods appear, so it denotes controlling authority over representation. The national-independence sense misreads a metaphor as literal statecraft. The monarch's ceremonial prestige captures pomp but not the decisive editorial control the passage stresses. Freedom from oversight is a consequence the author notes elsewhere, but the word itself names the power to include and exclude, which the controlling-authority option expresses most precisely. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q4 B

The passage says the exaggeration 'passed unremarked, because the map was read not as a claim but as the world itself,' pinning the silence on uncritical reading. The navigators-found-poles-useful option confuses the projection's purpose, angle preservation, with a supposed use of the distortion. The rarely-compared option invents a reason absent from the text. The concealment option contradicts the passage, which locates the problem in readers' trust, not in any hidden mathematics deliberately withheld by cartographers. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q5 B

The closing lines reject 'an impossible map without perspective' yet call for keeping perspective visible so readers can weigh the argument, marking a skeptical but constructive stance. The confidence-in-digital-tools option is contradicted by the author's critique of algorithmic maps. Indifference clashes with the moral urgency of words like 'erasure' and 'mute.' The nostalgia option is unsupported; the author never praises pre-modern maps and instead prescribes critical reading of all maps regardless of era. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q6 A

The passage sets up the 1968 parable and then dismantles it with historical cases of durable self-governance, so its purpose is to challenge that parable. The privatisation-defence option inverts the argument, which criticises the market-or-state dichotomy. The historical-origins option describes only the opening sentence, not the passage's aim. The inevitable-destruction option restates the very thesis the author refutes, since the author insists governed commons endure and only open-access ones collapse. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q7 D

The passage distinguishes a governed commons from an 'ungoverned void' by its 'intricate, locally crafted rules' for grazing, monitoring, and sanctions, making institutions the defining difference. Private ownership is one of the two escapes the author rejects, not the mark of a commons. Central administration is likewise a rejected prescription, not the distinguishing feature. Abundance is irrelevant; the author's cases involve scarce meadows and fisheries kept sustainable by rules, not by any inexhaustible plenty. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q8 C

The word describes the model's logic that a commons is 'doomed to ruin,' so 'inexorable' conveys something unstoppable, matching impossible to resist or prevent. The difficult-to-understand option confuses inevitability with obscurity; the passage says the logic 'seemed' clear, not opaque. Widely-accepted names the model's reception but not the meaning of the word itself. Morally-objectionable imports an ethical judgement the term does not carry, since inexorable marks the force of the conclusion, not its rightness or wrongness. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q9 A

The passage explicitly states offenders 'were sanctioned in graduated steps rather than ruinous penalties,' making escalating sanctions the correct detail. Immediate permanent expulsion contradicts the graduated, proportionate approach described. External-state fines conflict with the passage's insistence that these communities governed 'without an external sovereign.' Voluntary apology with no consequence ignores the text's emphasis on enforced, if measured, sanctions, which are central to how the communities sustained their rules over centuries. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q10 D

The author closes by warning against 'parables that flatter our appetite for tidy dichotomies' and calls the model an empirical falsehood dressed in elegance, so the author would endorse that its appeal rested on simplicity over accuracy. The worsens-cooperation option reverses the point that repeated encounters build trust. The privatisation-or-state option is the dichotomy the author rejects. The virtue option is explicitly denied by the line 'their secret was not virtue but institution.' Hence, option (D) is correct.

CR PASSAGES

Q11 A

The board's ultimate claim, signalled by 'therefore concludes,' is that the charge is the only remaining policy that can fix core traffic and fund transit. The statement about a one-fifth drop is cited evidence, not the conclusion. The observation about affluent motorists supports the rebuttal to the regressiveness objection. The failure of past measures is a premise establishing that gentler options are exhausted. Only the option naming the charge as the sole remaining effective policy captures the argument's endpoint rather than a supporting step. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q12 C

For the charge to cut traffic, a meaningful number of drivers must respond by shifting rather than paying and continuing as before; if none changed behaviour, congestion would persist. That is the load-bearing assumption. Popularity is irrelevant to whether the policy works. City-wide car ownership need not fall for core peak traffic to ease. The argument never claims private cars cause all ambulance delays, only that they dominate peak congestion, so that stronger claim is not required. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q13 B

The argument assumes drivers will shift modes in response to the charge. If most peak-hour vehicles are delivery and trade traffic that cannot switch and would just pay, the charge fails to cut volumes, directly undermining the core mechanism. The neighbouring city's road-widening is about a different policy sequence and does not bear on this charge's effect. Mere resentment does not show drivers will keep driving. Occasional metro crowding is minor and does not defeat the claim that alternatives exist for almost every trip. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q14 B

The argument turns on drivers responding to the charge by shifting rather than paying. Evidence that, in comparable cities, most peak-hour motorists actually switched confirms the mechanism will work here, strengthening the case. Weekend tourism is irrelevant to peak-hour commuter behaviour. The chairperson's longstanding views speak to motive, not to whether the policy succeeds. National car sales concern purchasing, not whether core commuters change their peak-hour travel, so it neither supports nor undermines the specific claim. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q15 D

The board answers the regressiveness charge on two fronts: it says metro and bus alternatives exist for almost every trip, and it claims the typical affected motorist is affluent, not poor. That is rebuttal by challenging the objection's factual basis. It does not concede and abandon the plan; it presses on. It engages the argument rather than attacking the critics' character. And it identifies no internal contradiction in the critics' view, so the self-contradiction description misdescribes the method used. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q16 D

The commentator's final claim, marked by 'concludes,' is the prescription that schools should make coding compulsory without delay. The point about high-paying tech jobs is a premise about economic reward. The reading analogy is used to answer an objection, not to state the conclusion. The remark about transitional difficulties is a reply to a feasibility worry. Only the recommendation that every school system require coding for all students expresses the argument's overall conclusion rather than a supporting consideration. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q17 C

The case rests on preparing students for 'the economy of the future,' which presupposes that the coding skills taught will still be valuable when those students enter the workforce. If they were obsolete by then, the payoff vanishes. The argument does not assume every student becomes a programmer; the commentator explicitly denies that. It draws an analogy between reading and coding as literacies but does not assume identical methods or ages. Whether anyone tried it before is irrelevant to the argument's logic. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q18 B

A central pillar is the claim that coding cultivates general problem solving that transfers to every other discipline. Evidence that no such transfer occurs removes a major stated benefit, weakening the argument. A few adults enjoying an old elective says nothing about universal benefit. Firm-run training programmes do not show school coding is unnecessary or harmful. The turnover of specific languages is compatible with computational thinking remaining useful, so it does not undercut the broader case the way the failed-transfer finding does. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q19 C

The argument claims universal coding would broaden opportunity and build transferable skills. Direct evidence that compulsory coding produced measurable, lasting advantages for students of all backgrounds confirms both the opportunity and skill-transfer claims, strengthening the case. Self-taught founders illustrate an optional, self-selecting path, the very opposite of compulsory schooling. Cheaper textbooks touch cost, not the core benefits asserted. Parents finding computers confusing is unrelated to whether teaching children to code yields the claimed advantages, so it lends no support. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q20 A

The argument leans heavily on the reading analogy to license the claim that coding is the new universal literacy, but an analogy shows similarity, not that coding is genuinely as foundational as reading; the vulnerability is treating the comparison as proof. There is no correlation-to-causation move here. The commentator argues for, not against, the policy, so the difficulty-based rejection does not fit. No cited outside authority is relied upon, so the misplaced-expertise criticism does not describe the actual reasoning. Hence, option (A) is correct.

SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK & CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q21 C

The idiom 'to bury the hatchet' originates from the practice of literally burying weapons to signal the end of hostilities, and it now figuratively means to settle differences and become reconciled after a dispute. It has nothing to do with hiding valuables, giving up a task, or concealing secrets, which are unrelated literal or invented readings. Because idioms carry a fixed metaphorical sense not derived from their individual words, only 'make peace and end a quarrel' captures the accepted meaning. Hence that option is correct. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q22 D

In *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala*, the Supreme Court held that Parliament's power to amend the Constitution does not extend to altering or destroying its basic structure or essential features. This landmark ruling gave rise to the basic structure doctrine, a cornerstone of Indian constitutional law. The right to privacy was later affirmed in *Puttaswamy*, the doctrine of pleasure concerns tenure of certain offices, and the rule against bias is a natural-justice principle. Therefore the case is chiefly remembered for the basic structure doctrine. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q23 B

A good opening sentence introduces the general subject without depending on any earlier statement for its meaning. 'Rivers have shaped human civilisation since the earliest times' presents a broad topic idea that can stand alone and invites the paragraph to develop. The other options begin with connective devices such as 'this', 'as a result', and 'such', which refer back to information not yet provided, so they can only appear after an opening idea. Because only the first sentence is self-contained and general, it is the best opener. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q24 A

In *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India*, the Supreme Court broadened Article 21 by holding that the procedure depriving a person of life or personal liberty must be just, fair and reasonable, not merely any procedure established by law. It also linked Articles 14, 19 and 21 as a connected scheme. Article 19 does not deal with property in the manner suggested, and Article 32 concerns constitutional remedies, not citizenship. Therefore the case is best known for expanding Article 21 on life and personal liberty. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q25 C

The expression 'a blessing in disguise' describes a situation or event that initially appears unfortunate or harmful but ultimately turns out to be beneficial. The disguise refers to the misleading bad appearance that conceals an eventual good outcome. It does not mean a secret gift, a hidden danger, or a broken promise, which distort the metaphor. Since idioms convey a settled figurative meaning, the correct interpretation is 'something good that seems bad at first', making that option the accurate reading of the phrase. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q26 C

An assumption is something taken for granted that must be true for the statement to make sense. Claiming the book will guarantee top marks presupposes that the book by itself is capable of substantially improving a student's results; otherwise the promise would be baseless. The comparison with tuition cost is never suggested, and the claim would be pointless if all students already owned the book or if marks did not matter. Therefore the necessary underlying assumption is that the book alone can meaningfully improve results. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q27 B

The relationship in the first pair is that an author is the creator of a book, the finished work they produce. Following the same logic, a composer is the person who creates a piece of music, so the corresponding created work is a symphony. An orchestra is a group that performs music rather than the work created, an audience listens to it, and a stage is merely where it is performed. Since only 'symphony' is the creative output analogous to a book, it correctly completes the analogy. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q28 A

An inference is a conclusion drawn from given facts that is likely, though not absolutely certain. Streets being completely wet in the morning most reasonably suggests that rain fell overnight, since rainfall is the ordinary cause of widespread wetness. A festival, a vehicle ban, or new construction would not naturally explain uniform wetness across the streets. Because rain provides the simplest and most probable explanation directly connected to the observed condition, 'it probably rained overnight' is the most reasonable inference among the choices offered. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q29 A

The idiom 'once in a blue moon' refers to an event that happens extremely infrequently, drawing on the rare occurrence of an additional full moon within a calendar period. It signals rarity rather than frequency. It does not mean strictly at night, nor every month, which would imply commonness, nor a sudden unexpected event. As the fixed figurative sense communicates scarcity of occurrence, 'very rarely' is the accurate meaning, making that option correct while the others misread the intended rarity of the phrase. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q30 D

A concluding sentence should summarise or round off the paragraph's main idea, often signalled by a linking word such as 'thus'. 'Thus, regular reading enriches both the mind and the imagination' draws a general benefit-based conclusion suitable for ending a discussion on reading's advantages. Defining reading, noting a preferred time, or listing genres introduce fresh or basic details rather than closing the argument. Because only the first sentence gathers the theme into a final summarising statement, it is the best concluding sentence for such a paragraph. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q31 A

The doctrine of separation of powers, associated with the philosopher Montesquieu, distributes governmental authority among three distinct organs: the legislature which makes laws, the executive which implements them, and the judiciary which interprets them. Keeping these functions separate prevents the concentration of power and protects liberty. The division into centre, state and local bodies describes federalism, the armed services are not organs of civil government, and majority and opposition describe parliamentary composition. Therefore the correct threefold division is legislature, executive and judiciary. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q32 D

The idiom 'to let the cat out of the bag' means to disclose a secret, often accidentally or prematurely, so that information meant to be hidden becomes known. It derives from an old marketplace trick and now carries this settled figurative sense. It is not about freeing an animal, beginning a quarrel, or squandering a chance, which are literal or unrelated readings. Because the phrase specifically denotes the unintended revelation of a secret, 'reveal a secret unintentionally' is the correct meaning among the options. Hence, option (D) is correct.
