

ANSWER KEY — 4 JULY 2026

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
D	B	B	B	A	C	B	A	D	B
Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
C	A	C	A	D	A	C	D	C	C
Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30
D	D	B	D	C	A	D	A	A	C
Q31	Q32	Q33	Q34						
B	D	C	B						

RC PASSAGES

Q1 D

The passage surveys three theories — formalism, institutionalism, and the atmosphere theory — and finds each incomplete. Its closing line states that art 'is not simply given by the object but is partly constituted by the act of beholding.' This synthesising conclusion makes the correct option the most accurate encapsulation of the passage's overall argument, since it acknowledges that beholding and context are co-constitutive rather than secondary. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q2 B

The passage introduces Fountain immediately after explaining the formalist position, noting that Duchamp 'offered no formal elegance to admire.' This juxtaposition is deliberate: the urinal is a counter-example that reveals what formalism cannot explain — objects that gain artistic status through context and provocative intent rather than through intrinsic visual properties. The discussion of Duchamp thus functions as the passage's pivot away from formalism toward rival theories. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q3 B

The passage states that institutionalism raises 'uncomfortable implications: if gatekeepers alone decide, then aesthetic value collapses into social power.' This is the specific criticism levelled at the theory in the passage. The other options either describe a strength of institutionalism — it does account for found-object and conceptual works — or criticisms directed at different theories: formalism is criticised for ignoring context, and circularity is attributed to the atmosphere theory, not to institutionalism. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q4 B

The passage explains that an object becomes art 'when it is placed against the backdrop of art history and interpreted within a tradition of meaning-making,' giving the example that a urinal becomes art 'when situated within a discourse that allows us to ask what it means.' The 'atmosphere of theory' is therefore that enveloping discourse or conceptual frame — not a mood, a controversy, or an institutional address — that makes interpretation possible. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q5 A

The passage explicitly states that 'None of these positions is without critics' and enumerates the specific flaw of each theory: formalism ignores context, institutionalism ignores aesthetics, and the atmosphere theory risks circularity. The author presents this as an unresolved field, not a settled debate. The passage therefore supports the view that no single theory is complete, while declining to endorse any one framework as definitively superior. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q6 C

The passage culminates in the claim that the precariat's insecurity is 'not a temporary condition on the path to stability but a structural feature of how cities grow under contemporary capitalism.' This is reinforced by the final metaphor of promise and betrayal as 'twins' — co-existing rather than sequential. The passage thus argues that precarity is built into the system rather than being a problem that migrants will eventually overcome through patience or effort. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q7 B

The passage states that economists frame migration in terms of 'wage differentials and rational calculation,' while sociologists point to 'the desire to become someone different, to shed the identities that rural communities fasten onto their members through kinship, caste, and custom.' This is presented as something 'harder to quantify' — a non-economic, identity-driven motivation that distinguishes the sociological account from the economist's model of rational cost-benefit analysis. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q8 A

The passage presents de Soto's view as follows: informal workers 'are not outside the capitalist economy; they are inside it but denied its legal infrastructure.' The examples given — homes without title, businesses without licences, assets without collateral — illustrate participation in economic activity without access to the legal mechanisms that would make that participation secure and productive. De Soto's argument is therefore about legal exclusion within an otherwise inclusive economic system. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q9 D

The passage defines 'selective tolerance' by its own context: municipal governments 'permit the informal economy to function until it becomes inconvenient, then displacing it through slum demolition or vendor eviction.' The word 'selective' signals that tolerance is conditional and instrumental — granted when migrant labour is useful, withdrawn when its spatial or fiscal costs grow too large. This is a pattern of opportunistic accommodation rather than principled inclusion. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q10 B

The passage is written in measured, scholarly prose, but its word choices carry evaluative weight: the informal economy is 'a trap'; workers are 'denied' legal infrastructure; the city's promise is a 'betrayal.' These are not neutral terms. Yet the author stops short of issuing direct blame or prescriptions, maintaining an analytical register throughout. The tone is therefore one of engaged, sympathetic analysis — critical but not rhetorical or activist in pitch. Hence, option (B) is correct.

CR PASSAGES**Q11 C**

The productivity argument claims that output is maintained despite one fewer working day. This only holds if there is sufficient inefficiency currently being wasted that eliminating it can recover a full day worth of productive time. The argument does not assume universal employee preference, government subsidies, or the replicability of pilots — it simply assumes meaningful slack exists in the system and can be recovered. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q12 A

The critics argue that the four-day model raises costs for certain industries and firm sizes. Evidence that small manufacturers experienced rising production costs directly corroborates this economic concern and strengthens the case against universal adoption. The other options either support the pro-four-day side or concern unrelated metrics such as life satisfaction or sick-day reduction, neither of which addresses the central generalisability critique raised by sceptical economists. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q13 C

The flaw the passage points to is that proponents treat fewer hours as equivalent to reduced workload, but if the same volume of work must be completed in four days, stress is merely compressed rather than relieved. This is a false equivalence between time reduction and burden reduction. The other options introduce ideas not present in the passage, such as interpersonal conflict or anecdote-versus-science debates. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q14 A

The passage explicitly states that certain industries cannot reorganise coverage into four days without raising costs, and that smaller businesses may be strained by wage neutrality. It also acknowledges real well-being benefits in some contexts. Together these points support the inference that the model is heterogeneous in its applicability. The other options go well beyond what the passage establishes — no timeline, researcher bias claim, or value ranking is made. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q15 D

The policy-maker objection is that voluntary pilots introduce selection bias, making results unreliable for universal policy. If mandatory national trials produced consistent results, the selection bias critique is directly addressed because the effect holds even when participation is not self-selected. Employee pay-cut willingness and Asian government study proposals do not address generalisability. The monitoring point actually reinforces the sceptic concern rather than undermining the argument for caution. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q16 A

Supporters claim that judicial oversight makes facial recognition no more invasive than a warrant-authorised search. This argument only holds if judicial oversight is genuinely effective at preventing abuse. If oversight mechanisms are inadequate or poorly enforced, the analogy to warrant-based searches collapses. The other options address consent, disclosure, and comparative accuracy — none of which is the premise on which the civil liberties claim specifically rests. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q17 C

The discrimination argument depends on the assumption that a biased algorithmic match leads directly to harmful police action. If departments are required to cross-verify results using independent means before acting, the downstream harm from a false positive is significantly reduced, weakening the chain from algorithmic bias to discriminatory outcome. Private company origin, legal challenges, and long-standing knowledge of the accuracy gap do not interrupt this causal chain. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q18 D

The passage explicitly frames the core tension as an asymmetry: a relatively small number of solved cases represent the concrete benefit, while the chilling effect on expressive freedoms is a diffuse harm spread across an entire population that is difficult to quantify. This mismatch in how benefits and costs are distributed is the passage's central analytical point. The other options, while plausible in general, are not the tension the passage identifies. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q19 C

The passage's final sentence states that governance frameworks that have not grappled with the identified asymmetry cannot be said to have resolved it. This directly supports the conclusion that current frameworks are insufficient. A blanket ban is not advocated — the passage calls for governance, not prohibition. Public opinion trends and deliberate agency choice are not established by the passage and go beyond its stated claims. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q20 C

The chilling-effect argument claims that the mere presence of continuous identification technology deters lawful behaviour among innocent people. Direct evidence that protest attendance fell after facial recognition cameras were installed would constitute empirical confirmation that the technology suppresses constitutionally protected activity among non-offending citizens, strongly strengthening this argument. Training costs, voluntary corporate moratoriums, and court rulings on camera networks do not address whether ordinary citizens actually self-censor. Hence, option (C) is correct.

SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK & CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q21 D

The Right to Equality is codified in Articles 14 to 18 of the Indian Constitution. Article 14 guarantees equality before law and equal protection of laws to every person. Article 15 prohibits discrimination on specified grounds. Article 16 ensures equality of opportunity in public employment. Article 17 abolishes untouchability and declares its practice an offence. Article 18 abolishes titles that create artificial distinctions. Together these five articles form the constitutional pillar of the equality doctrine in India. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q22 D

The First Battle of Panipat, fought on 21 April 1526, saw Babur defeat Ibrahim Lodi, the last Sultan of the Lodi dynasty. Babur's decisive advantages were field artillery and the Tulughma flanking manoeuvre — tactics unfamiliar to Lodi's forces. The victory ended the Delhi Sultanate era and founded the Mughal Empire, which went on to dominate the Indian subcontinent for over three centuries. The Battle of Plassey (1757) was between the British and Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah, a completely different era. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q23 B

Dr B.R. Ambedkar, the principal drafter of the Constitution, described Article 32 — the Right to Constitutional Remedies — as the 'heart and soul of the Constitution.' This article gives every citizen the right to move the Supreme Court directly for enforcement of fundamental rights. The Supreme Court may issue five types of writs: habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari, and quo warranto. Without Article 32, the other fundamental rights would remain unenforceable, making this provision the most critical guardian of all rights. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q24 D

The Kosi river earned the epithet 'Sorrow of Bihar' because of the catastrophic floods it repeatedly causes across the north Bihar plains. The river is notorious for shifting its course dramatically over centuries — it has shifted westward by roughly 120 km over the past 200 years — inundating fertile farmland and destroying settlements. It originates in Nepal and drains into the Ganga. The Damodar river was historically called the 'Sorrow of Bengal' for similar flood-related devastation in that region. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q25 C

The Preamble has been amended only once — by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976, enacted during the Emergency period under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Three words were inserted: 'Socialist,' 'Secular,' and 'Integrity.' The revised Preamble now describes India as a 'Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic' dedicated to securing 'Unity and Integrity of the Nation.' The original 1950 Preamble did not contain these three additional terms. No subsequent amendment has altered the Preamble. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q26 A

Mohiniyattam is a classical dance form native to Kerala. Its name combines 'Mohini' (the enchantress avatar of Vishnu) and 'attam' (dance), reflecting its graceful, feminine, swaying style inspired by the coconut palm. It draws themes from devotional and Puranic literature. The Sangeet Natak Akademi recognises eight classical dance forms in India. Bharatanatyam belongs to Tamil Nadu, Odissi to Odisha, and Kuchipudi to Andhra Pradesh — each rooted in its own distinct regional and temple tradition. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q27 D

INS Arihant is India's first indigenously built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), commissioned into service in 2016 after years of development under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project. Its commissioning completed India's nuclear triad — the capacity to deliver nuclear weapons from land, air, and sea — making India one of only a handful of nations to possess all three legs of the triad. INS Vikrant is India's first domestically built aircraft carrier; INS Chakra was a nuclear submarine leased from Russia. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q28 A

'Prima facie' is Latin for 'at first sight' or 'on the face of it.' In legal practice, a prima facie case is one where the available evidence, if unrebutted, is sufficient to establish a presumption of fact or to require an answer from the defendant. Courts frequently assess whether a prima facie case exists before admitting a matter to full trial. It is distinct from 'beyond reasonable doubt' (a higher criminal standard) and from 'ex officio,' which means acting by virtue of one's official position. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q29 A

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 inserted Part IX (Articles 243 to 243-O) into the Constitution, giving constitutional recognition to Panchayati Raj institutions for the first time. It mandated a three-tier system (village, intermediate, district panchayats), regular elections overseen by State Election Commissions, reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women, and the creation of Gram Sabhas. The amendment came into force on 24 April 1993, now observed as Panchayati Raj Diwas. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q30 C

Benevolent means well-wishing, kind, and charitable — disposed to doing good for others. Its direct antonym is 'malevolent,' which means wishing evil upon others; deliberately harmful or wicked. Both words share the Latin root 'volent' (wishing) but carry opposite prefixes: 'bene' (good) versus 'male' (bad). 'Indifferent' means lacking interest or concern, which is neutrality rather than opposition. 'Generous' and 'magnanimous' are near-synonyms of benevolent, not opposites. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q31 B

The idiom 'burning the midnight oil' refers to working, studying, or concentrating on a task deep into the night, well past normal bedtime. The expression originates in the pre-electricity era when oil lamps were the primary source of light; working late literally required burning lamp oil past midnight. Today the phrase is used figuratively to describe sustained late-night effort, often in academic or professional contexts. It carries a positive connotation of dedication, diligence, and perseverance. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q32 D

An insolvent is a person legally unable to pay their debts as they become due. While 'bankrupt' is often used colloquially with a similar meaning, 'insolvent' is the more precise and general legal term for the state of financial inability, whereas bankruptcy is specifically a legal status declared by a court. A 'miser' hoards money out of excessive frugality; a 'spendthrift' squanders money recklessly; a 'delinquent' has failed to do something required by law. Insolvent is the standard one-word substitution. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q33 C

Project Tiger was launched on 1 April 1973 under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, with Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand (then Uttar Pradesh) as the first designated tiger reserve. The programme was initiated in response to a dramatic decline in tiger numbers across India. It aims to maintain viable tiger populations in protected habitats. Managed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), the programme has grown to encompass over 50 tiger reserves and is widely credited with reversing the decline. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q34 B

Laconic means expressing much in few words — terse, succinct, to the point. The word derives from 'Laconia,' the region of ancient Sparta, whose inhabitants were proverbially brief and pithy in speech. A laconic reply conveys maximum information with minimum words. Its synonyms include terse, succinct, pithy, and concise; antonyms include verbose, long-winded, and prolix. In legal writing and competitive exams, the term tests vocabulary precision and awareness of its classical etymology. Hence, option (B) is correct.
