

ANSWER KEY — 6 JULY 2026

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

RC PASSAGES

Q1 D

The passage credits animals with rich, structured, socially learned communication yet insists they lack the open-ended, recursive productivity that defines human language, and it deliberately rejects both extremes. The claim that research proves full human-style language overstates the evidence, while treating calls as meaningless reflexes insults it, and the assertion that human uniqueness has been dismantled ignores the syntactic difference the author says genuinely matters. Only the balanced reading survives this reasoning intact. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q2 B

The passage states plainly that what the vervet monkey lacks is not vocabulary but syntax, the combinatorial machinery that allows meaning to be built rather than merely emitted, which is precisely the correct answer. The other options fail because the passage credits the vervet with a working set of distinct alarm calls, describes such systems as socially learned, and affirms that signals reliably trigger listener responses, so none of those supposed deficiencies actually describes what is missing. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q3 A

The passage defines generativity by example, explaining that from a finite stock of words humans assemble an unlimited number of novel sentences and can refer to things absent or purely imaginary, which matches the answer about producing unlimited novel combinations from a finite set. Reproducing inherited signals without variation is the opposite of this creativity, triggering predictable physical reactions describes mere signalling, and passing skills to the next generation concerns transmission, not the open-ended productivity meant here. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q4 A

The author explicitly describes the honest conclusion as neither triumphant nor dismissive, faulting both enthusiasts who equate animal systems with human language and skeptics who reduce calls to reflex, which fits the carefully balanced description. An enthusiastically celebratory tone matches only the view the author rejects, sharp scorn contradicts the respect shown for the evidence, and the writing shows curiosity rather than anxiety or alarm, so the measured, even-handed stance is the sole accurate characterisation of the passage. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q5 C

The closing lines reframe the inquiry away from the simple yes-or-no framing and toward which particular ingredients of meaning each species has assembled, implying the binary question obscures those species-specific distinctions rather than illuminating them. Nothing suggests the author distrusts the studies methodologically, the passage plainly accepts that animals do communicate, and the emotional lives of animals are never the focus, so the objection is precisely that a forced yes-or-no answer hides the meaningful differences that matter. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q6 C

The passage argues that everyday governance depends on a habit of negotiation far more than on formal constitutional hierarchy, and that the pull between autonomy and coordination is a permanent feature of any federal bargain rather than a fixable defect. Claiming the GST Council has permanently resolved fiscal disputes ignores the critics and the enduring tension, urging full State autonomy contradicts the cooperative theme, and crediting formal hierarchy alone reverses the author's central point about ongoing good-faith bargaining. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q7 A

The passage notes that States shoulder heavy expenditure in education, policing and welfare while the most buoyant revenue sources traditionally rest with the Union, producing exactly the structural imbalance that transfers and grants are meant to correct. The reversed option wrongly puts heavy spending on the Union and collection on the States, the inter-State subsidy idea appears nowhere in the text, and the claim that the Council collects taxes neither tier can access misreads how the pooled levy actually functions. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q8 C

The passage records the critics' worry that pooling can quietly concentrate power because a State that has surrendered its taxing autonomy cannot easily reclaim it later, with promised compensation possibly proving fragile when growth disappoints. The suggestion that the Council meets too rarely never appears, the idea that pooling hands poorer States an unfair veto is not the stated concern, and the claim that the Union is barred from the Council contradicts the passage, which describes both tiers deliberating together within it. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q9 B

The contrast the passage draws, between a structural imbalance and the transfers meant to correct it, implies that buoyant revenues are the growing, elastic sources that expand naturally with the economy and are held by the Union, which matches the correct answer. Revenue that is costly to collect, revenue reserved to municipal bodies, and revenue shrinking year on year all describe the opposite of a buoyant, revenue-rich stream, so none captures the intended meaning of the phrase. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q10 D

The author calls the tension not a defect to be engineered away but a permanent feature of any federal bargain, concluding that federalism's health rests on both tiers' enduring willingness to keep bargaining in good faith, which is the inherent trade-off view. Treating it as a fixable design flaw is the position the author explicitly denies, declaring cooperative federalism unworkable overshoots the balanced argument, and confining the tension to emergencies ignores its everyday fiscal presence throughout the passage. Hence, option (D) is correct.

CR PASSAGES

Q11 B

The argument rests on the premise that taxing unearned windfalls distorts incentives far less than taxing wages or enterprise, so evidence confirming that inheritances dampen work and investment less than income taxes directly reinforces the central justification. Voluntary charitable giving, the historical existence of repealed inheritance taxes, and some heirs reinvesting their fortunes are all beside the point, since none speaks to the relative distortion of taxing luck rather than labour, and some even suggest the tax is unnecessary. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q12 C

The rebuttal asserts that wealth is not perfectly mobile because land, property, and family businesses are rooted in place, so it depends on assuming that a meaningful share of taxable wealth simply cannot be relocated as easily as the flight objection supposes. A supposed moral duty to keep assets at home is never claimed, the denial that any jurisdiction offers lower rates overstates the case, and out-racing owners to seize assets is a different mechanism the author never invokes. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q13 A

The argument's payoff depends on proceeds being channelled into schools, apprenticeships, and early-childhood support that equalise opportunity, so if revenue is instead diverted into general spending, that promised equalising benefit collapses and the core justification is undermined. A few heirs falling below the exemption threshold is already anticipated by generous thresholds, ordinary families passing modest savings does not touch dynastic wealth, and administrative complexity is a practical nuisance rather than a blow to the argument's central equalising logic. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q14 D

The passage frames inherited advantage as a betrayal of the equality of opportunity that democracies claim to prize, so the conclusion that untaxed wealth entrenches aristocracy holds only if standing acquired purely by birth genuinely conflicts with that ideal, which is the load-bearing normative premise. Comparing past aristocracies to modern democracies, invoking constitutional bans on hereditary privilege, and claiming heirs contribute less than self-made individuals are all sidelong assertions the argument never needs and does not actually rest upon. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q15 A

The author's core move is that windfalls owed to luck rather than labour are the least distorting things a state can tax, and the lottery example mirrors this exactly by targeting fortune instead of productive effort. Taxing fuel rests on pollution and shared environmental harm, taxing imports serves protectionism against foreign competition, and taxing property tracks ongoing benefit from nearby public services, so each of those relies on a rationale quite unlike the luck-versus-effort logic driving the inheritance argument. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q16 B

The equity argument claims that private tutoring lets affluent families buy an exam advantage, so a cap is meant to loosen the grip of wealth and aid poorer students. If, however, modest and affordable tutoring produces the largest gains for low-income children, a cap would strip away precisely their benefit, turning the equity logic against the proposal. That wealthy families spend more, that exams are longstanding, and that centres advertise aggressively leave the equity case untouched. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q17 C

The rebuttal invokes an exhausting arms race in which one family's private advantage compels every other family to follow, so it works only if one household's spending genuinely pressures others into competitive spending they would otherwise avoid. Without that compulsion there is no collective trap to justify overriding parental choice. The claims that parents misjudge their children's needs, that the state understands children better, or that parents would rather not educate them at all are never assumed by the author. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q18 C

The no-worse-off claim treats tutoring as a uniform arms race that a cap simply neutralises, leaving every child in the same relative position. But that assumes all families currently tutor equally. Households that tutor little or not at all have nothing to cut, while heavy spenders lose their edge, so a cap would actually shift relative outcomes, exposing the flawed uniformity assumption. Single-city evidence, confusing cost with quality, and appeals to expert authority are not the reasoning error at work here. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q19 B

The passage closes by framing education as a public arena that must be kept fair, insisting the state has both a right and a duty to intervene when private spending distorts a shared competition, so that principle directly underwrites the author's conclusion. Declaring individuals always free to spend as they wish contradicts the stance, banning anything that stresses adolescents wildly overshoots it, and urging governments to maximise total educational spending misreads a call for fairness as a call for more money. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q20 A

The tutoring argument is an arms race in which everyone spends more merely to stay level, so a coordinated cap could spare the cost while leaving relative positions unchanged. The advertising case mirrors this precisely, as rival firms all raise budgets yet market shares stay fixed while costs climb for everyone. Cutting prices to win customers and studying harder to earn a higher rank both involve genuine competitive gains, and subsidising a struggling industry follows an entirely unrelated logic. Hence, option (A) is correct.

SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK & CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q21 B

Article 14 of the Indian Constitution guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws to all persons within the territory of India. It embodies the principle that the state shall not deny to any person equality regardless of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. This fundamental right applies to both citizens and non-citizens and forms the cornerstone of the Right to Equality provisions contained in Articles 14 to 18. It permits reasonable classification but prohibits arbitrary and discriminatory state action. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q22 B

Article 32 of the Indian Constitution provides the Right to Constitutional Remedies, empowering individuals to directly approach the Supreme Court for the enforcement of their fundamental rights. Dr B R Ambedkar famously described this Article as the heart and soul of the Constitution. Under it, the Supreme Court can issue writs such as habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quo warranto. A similar power to issue writs is granted to the High Courts under Article 226, giving citizens robust protection against violations of their rights. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q23 A

In the historic *Kesavananda Bharati versus State of Kerala* case decided in 1973, the Supreme Court of India propounded the Basic Structure Doctrine. This doctrine holds that while Parliament has wide powers to amend the Constitution under Article 368, it cannot alter or destroy its basic structure or essential features. Elements such as the supremacy of the Constitution, the rule of law, judicial review, secularism and the separation of powers are considered part of this inviolable basic structure, thereby limiting Parliament's amending power. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q24 C

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. Over the years, the Supreme Court has interpreted this Article expansively to include a wide range of rights such as the right to privacy, the right to a clean environment, the right to livelihood, and the right to live with human dignity. It is one of the most important fundamental rights and applies to both citizens and non-citizens within India. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q25 (D)

The Directive Principles of State Policy, enshrined in Part Four of the Indian Constitution, were borrowed from the Constitution of Ireland, which had itself drawn the concept from the Spanish Constitution. These principles are guidelines for the central and state governments to frame laws and policies aimed at establishing social and economic justice. Although they are not enforceable by any court, they are considered fundamental in the governance of the country. They complement the fundamental rights in achieving the goals set out in the Preamble. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q26 (D)

Under the Indian Contract Act of 1872, an agreement not enforceable by law is termed a void agreement, as defined in Section 2(g) of the Act. A void agreement has no legal effect from the very beginning and confers no rights or obligations on the parties. This is different from a voidable contract, which remains valid until one of the parties chooses to rescind it. Examples of void agreements include those made without consideration or agreements with an unlawful object or consideration. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q27 (D)

The writ of Habeas Corpus, a Latin phrase meaning to have the body, is issued by a court to secure the production of a person who has been detained, so that the legality of the detention can be examined. If the court finds that the detention is unlawful, it orders the immediate release of the person. This writ is a powerful safeguard of individual liberty against arbitrary arrest and unlawful confinement by the state or any private authority, and it can be issued by both the Supreme Court and High Courts. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q28 (D)

The Preamble to the Indian Constitution declares India to be a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic. The words Socialist and Secular were added by the Forty-Second Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976. The Preamble serves as the introductory statement that sets out the guiding purposes, principles and philosophy of the Constitution. It emphasises the objectives of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity for all citizens. Although not directly enforceable, it is regarded as a key to understanding the intent of the Constitution's framers. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q29 (D)

According to the Indian Constitution, a person must have completed thirty-five years of age to be eligible for election to the office of President of India. In addition to the age requirement, the candidate must be a citizen of India and qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha. The President is elected indirectly by an electoral college consisting of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament and the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states and certain union territories. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q30 (C)

The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution contains the list of recognised official languages of India, which currently number twenty-two. Originally the schedule included fourteen languages, and more were added through subsequent constitutional amendments. These languages are given special recognition and the government is obliged to take measures for their development. Some of the languages listed include Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Urdu, Sanskrit and Assamese. The schedule reflects India's remarkable linguistic diversity and the constitutional commitment to preserving it. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q31 (D)

The presumption of innocence, which holds that a person accused of a crime is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt, is a foundational principle of criminal law. It places the burden of proof on the prosecution, which must establish the guilt of the accused through evidence. This principle protects individuals from wrongful conviction and arbitrary punishment. It is closely associated with the right to a fair trial and is recognised as a basic tenet of justice in most democratic legal systems around the world. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q32 (B)

The Latin legal maxim Ubi Jus Ibi Remedium translates to where there is a right, there is a remedy. This principle means that whenever a person's legal right is violated, the law provides a means of redress or a remedy to enforce that right. It reflects the idea that rights and remedies go hand in hand, and that a right without a corresponding remedy would be meaningless. This maxim underpins much of civil law and forms the basis for seeking justice through the courts. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q33 (C)

The Supreme Court of India is the highest judicial authority in the country and serves as the final court of appeal. Established under Article 124 of the Constitution, it is the guardian and ultimate interpreter of the Constitution. It exercises original, appellate and advisory jurisdiction, and its decisions are binding on all other courts in India. The Supreme Court also has the power of judicial review, allowing it to strike down laws and executive actions that violate the Constitution, thereby protecting the fundamental rights of citizens. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q34 A

Public Interest Litigation, commonly known as PIL, was developed in India primarily through judicial innovation by the higher judiciary rather than through any specific legislation. Beginning in the late 1970s and early 1980s, judges such as Justice P N Bhagwati and Justice V R Krishna Iyer relaxed the traditional rule of locus standi, allowing any public-spirited person to approach the courts on behalf of those unable to do so themselves. This mechanism has been used to protect the rights of marginalised groups and to address issues of public concern. Hence, option (A) is correct.