

ANSWER KEY — 8 JULY 2026

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
B	A	A	A	C	B	C	A	D	D
Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
B	D	C	C	B	C	B	D	A	B
Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30
C	A	D	D	D	D	B	C	A	B
Q31	Q32	Q33	Q34	Q35	Q36	Q37	Q38		
D	C	B	A	B	D	A	C		

RC PASSAGES

Q1 B

The passage argues throughout that what a poem withholds is as meaningful as what it states, calling silence one of language's most disciplined forms. It rejects mechanical paraphrase as a betrayal and warns against treating ambiguity as an end in itself. The central thread is that deliberate restraint, mastered by the poet, carries genuine meaning. The correct option captures this balance, while the others distort or contradict the author's carefully qualified position on restraint and reading. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q2 A

The analogy appears where the author claims no exhaustive paraphrase can be faithful, because a line's power depends on the unsaid. Just as annotating every musical rest would be absurd and destructive, translating every poetic image into plain prose makes something essential evaporate. The comparison illustrates the loss involved, leaving only information behind. It does not rank music above poetry, nor forbid all annotation; it dramatises why over-explanation defeats the purpose of deliberate restraint. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q3 A

In the final paragraph the author distinguishes the resonant line, which withholds deliberately, from the vague line, which merely fails, even though both appear reticent. Restraint is called a craft earned by mastering surrounding words, whereas vagueness is an evasion. From this, one infers the author would see a deliberately vague poem as a failure disguised as reticence rather than a genuine accomplishment. The other options ignore the sharp contrast the author draws between control and mere failure. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q4 A

The word appears when the author notes that both the vague line and the resonant line may appear reticent, yet differ in intention. Since the resonant line withholds deliberately and the vague one fails to say much, reticent here signals a quality of holding back or reserve in expression. The surrounding contrast between saying and leaving unsaid confirms this reading. The other options reverse the meaning or introduce ideas of clumsiness or coldness the passage never attaches to the term. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q5 C

The author critiques those who treat interpretation as mechanical decoding, yet immediately cautions that this should not license lazy mysticism treating ambiguity as an end. The closing sentence urges readers to hold both truths at once, honouring what words say while heeding what they omit. This double refusal marks a balanced stance rather than an extreme one. The distractors each seize one rejected pole, whether total dismissal, exhaustive paraphrase, or meaninglessness, none of which the author endorses. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q6 B

Throughout, the passage treats tree rings as a chronicle of years, with wide and narrow bands recording weather, and describes how overlapping patterns from living trees, logs, and old beams are matched into a calendar spanning thousands of years. The closing paragraph frames this as evidence of slow climate change. The main concern is thus how rings preserve a readable climatic record. The distractors fix on incidental details, such as beams or growth rates, that serve the argument but are not its focus. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q7 C

The zip image appears where the author explains that trees sharing a region share weather, so their ring patterns overlap and can be matched. Just as a zip's teeth interlock to form a continuous closure, overlapping sequences from living trees, fallen logs, and salvaged beams combine into an unbroken calendar. The comparison stresses continuity and joining, not speed, fragility, or competition. Those distractors borrow scattered words from elsewhere in the passage but miss the specific point the metaphor is making about linkage. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q8 A

The passage states directly that a wide ring speaks of rain and warmth, while a pinched, crowded one records drought, frost, or the shadow of a taller neighbour. From this contrast one infers that a narrow ring marks a difficult year rather than a bountiful one. The passage also stresses trees grow without intention, so the ring is not a planned response, and it treats rings as faithful evidence, not researcher error. Only the option naming hardship fits the stated relationship. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q9 D

The word appears when the author describes reading a trunk ring by ring, each band a single year lived and survived, and later calls the rings a diary faithfully kept. This framing presents the rings as an ongoing record of successive years, which is exactly what a chronicle is. The surrounding language of diary, record, and calendar confirms the meaning. The distractors suggesting fiction, forgettable brevity, or future prediction contradict the passage's insistence that the rings faithfully preserve real past years. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q10 D

The final paragraph speaks of a quiet humility, urging us to slow to the pace of wood and accept that some truths accumulate too gradually for a lifetime to perceive. It calls the trees indifferent and their grammar patient and unglamorous, admiring their silent testimony. This measured, contemplative language conveys a reflective, humble tone. It is not alarmist, dismissive, or mocking; the author expresses respect and patience toward a slow natural record rather than urgency, doubt, or ridicule. Hence, option (D) is correct.

CR PASSAGES

Q11 B

The argument moves from forced cooperation to emergent solidarity, so it must assume that cooperating on shared tasks actually lessens the social distance between people who differ. Without that bridging premise, throwing strangers together could just as easily harden divisions. The other statements concern volunteering rates, employer preferences, or cost, none of which the solidarity conclusion depends on. Identifying the unstated link between shared work and reduced division is what an assumption question rewards here. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q12 D

Supporters lean on countries where service coincides with high civic trust, implying the service produced that trust. If polarisation was already low before those programmes started, the correlation is explained away and the causal claim collapses. Enjoyment reported by conscripts, employer degree preferences, or funding needs do not directly attack the inference that service creates solidarity. The strongest weakener removes the causal reading of the very evidence the advocates rely upon. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q13 C

The critics frame compulsion as reducing free individuals to tools of the state, which rests on a principle that people should not be coerced into serving ends they never chose. That principle captures the moral objection precisely. Maximising economic output or funding trust-building programmes are unrelated policy goals, and freedom from all discipline overstates the objection, since critics oppose coercion, not order itself. Matching the objection to its underlying principle is the task here. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q14 C

The defenders argue that compulsion is necessary because voluntary schemes attract only the already-willing. Evidence that voluntary programmes enrolled almost none from the most divided groups directly supports the claim that only mandatory service reaches those who most need bridging, strengthening the case for compulsion. Resentment among some conscripts cuts the other way, cohesive nations lacking service undercuts the plan, and labour shortages address a different point entirely. This choice reinforces the necessity claim. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q15 B

The final paragraph states the disagreement turns not on the value of solidarity, which both sides accept, but on whether compulsion is the right tool. That directly licenses the inference that both camps treat solidarity as worthwhile. Supporters do not concede voluntary service works identically, critics do not dismiss solidarity as an illusion, and no formal employer endorsement is described. A sound inference stays within what the text actually supports, and only this option does. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q16 C

The company reasons that ancient herbivores kept the tundra cold, so reviving them will restore that effect. This depends on assuming the engineered hybrids would actually reshape the landscape as the original animals did. If they behaved differently, the climate benefit would not follow. Funding from public fascination, the ranking of carbon dangers, and elephant cold tolerance are separate matters. The chain from restored herbivores to stabilised permafrost rests squarely on the behavioural-equivalence assumption identified here. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q17 B

The climate case assumes that restoring herbivores addresses the cause of permafrost thaw. If the tundra is warming mainly for reasons unrelated to lost grazers, then reintroducing animals would not fix the problem, gutting the intervention's rationale. Celebrity investors, cold-tolerant zoo elephants, and preserved skeletons say nothing about whether herbivores control the thaw. The most damaging objection severs the assumed causal link between missing herbivores and the warming the project claims to reverse. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q18 D

The sceptics argue the huge sums would crowd out predictable rescues achievable far more cheaply. That objection rests on a principle that limited conservation money ought to be directed where it most reliably preserves species. A blanket ban on revival, a claim that spectacle always wins, or a demand to outlaw laboratories all go beyond the cost point actually raised. The principle about reliable, cost-effective allocation of scarce funds matches the third objection cleanly. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q19 A

The company answers the cost objection by claiming its methods will become cheap and that early investment matures transformative technologies. Evidence that comparable biotechnologies did fall sharply in cost after early spending directly supports that prediction, blunting the charge of wastefulness. Tourist appeal, difficult-to-protect habitats, and genomic similarity address other issues and do not defend the claim about future affordability. The strengthener confirms the pattern the company invokes to justify its spending. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q20 B

The closing lines state that both sides share a commitment to fighting biodiversity loss and differ only over strategy. That directly supports inferring both regard halting such loss as worthwhile. The sceptics do not deny the problem, the company does not concede its climate claims are false, and no unanimous opposition among biologists is described. A defensible inference stays tethered to the text, and only the shared-commitment reading is actually stated in the passage. Hence, option (B) is correct.

SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK & CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q21 C

Article 14 of the Indian Constitution guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. It ensures that the state shall not deny to any person these rights, forming the cornerstone of the Right to Equality under Part III. Article 19 deals with freedoms, Article 21 with life and liberty, and Article 32 with constitutional remedies, but the specific guarantee of equality before law is contained in Article 14. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q22 A

The Kesavananda Bharati case of 1973 established the Basic Structure Doctrine, holding that Parliament can amend the Constitution but cannot alter its basic structure. This landmark 13-judge bench decision limited the amending power under Article 368. Maneka Gandhi expanded Article 21, Golaknath earlier held fundamental rights unamendable, and A.K. Gopalan dealt with preventive detention. However, the doctrine that certain essential features are unamendable originated specifically in the Kesavananda Bharati judgment. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q23 D

Canberra is the capital city of Australia, purpose-built as a planned city and chosen as a compromise between the rival cities of Sydney and Melbourne. It houses Parliament House and the seat of the federal government. Many people wrongly assume Sydney or Melbourne is the capital because they are larger and more famous, but the actual national capital, designed by architect Walter Burley Griffin, is Canberra, located in the Australian Capital Territory. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q24 D

The word ephemeral means lasting for a very short time, fleeting, or short-lived. Its closest synonym among the options is transient, which also describes something temporary or passing. Permanent is an antonym because it means lasting forever, while enormous refers to size and colourful to appearance, neither of which relates to duration. In vocabulary-in-context questions, matching the core sense of brief duration correctly identifies transient as the answer. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q25 D

The idiom 'to bury the hatchet' means to make peace, settle differences, and end a conflict or quarrel. It originates from a Native American custom of burying weapons to signal the end of hostilities. It does not literally refer to hiding a weapon or beginning a new fight. Understanding idiomatic expressions requires knowing their figurative meaning rather than the literal sense of the words, so the correct interpretation is reconciliation. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q26 D

An atheist is a person who does not believe in the existence of God or any deity. This contrasts with a theist, who believes in God, and an agnostic, who holds that the existence of God is unknown or unknowable. A heretic is someone who holds beliefs contrary to established religious doctrine. The precise one-word substitution for disbelief in God's existence is atheist, distinguishing it clearly from related but different terms. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q27 B

The Tropic of Cancer passes through eight Indian states: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, and Mizoram. This imaginary line at approximately 23.5 degrees north latitude roughly divides India into northern and southern halves. Knowledge of this fact is common in geography sections of competitive exams. The correct count of states through which the Tropic of Cancer runs is eight, spanning central and eastern India. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q28 C

Lord Mountbatten served as the first Governor-General of independent India from 1947 to 1948, having earlier been the last Viceroy who oversaw the transfer of power. He was succeeded by C. Rajagopalachari, who became the first and only Indian Governor-General. Lord Canning was the first Viceroy under the Crown, and Warren Hastings was the first Governor-General of Bengal. The distinction of first Governor-General of free India belongs to Mountbatten. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q29 A

The Human Development Index is compiled and published by the United Nations Development Programme in its annual Human Development Report. The HDI measures average achievement in three dimensions: a long and healthy life, knowledge, and a decent standard of living. The World Bank and IMF publish other economic reports, while the World Economic Forum releases competitiveness indices. The specific responsibility for the HDI, however, rests with the UNDP. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q30 B

The correct preposition is 'since' because 2015 marks a specific point in time from which an action continuing into the present began. 'Since' is used with a point of time, whereas 'for' is used with a duration such as five years. 'From' typically needs a paired 'to', and 'by' indicates a deadline. With the present perfect continuous tense and a fixed starting year, 'since' is grammatically correct. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q31 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 42nd Constitutional Amendment in 1976. The Preamble also secures to all citizens justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. It reflects the ideals and philosophy underlying the Constitution. The full and correct description, therefore, is Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic, distinguishing India from a monarchy or union. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q32 C

Benevolent means well-meaning, kind, and charitable towards others. Its antonym is malevolent, which means having or showing a wish to do evil or harm to others. Generous, kind, and charitable are all synonyms of benevolent, not antonyms, so they do not fit. Recognising the prefix 'mal', meaning bad or ill, helps identify malevolent as the opposite of benevolent in vocabulary questions focused on contrasting meanings. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Q33 B

The Kosi river is known as the 'Sorrow of Bihar' because of its tendency to change course frequently and cause devastating floods across the northern plains of the state. Originating in the Himalayas and Nepal, it carries heavy silt and has historically shifted its channel over a wide area, displacing communities. While the Ganga, Son, and Gandak are also major rivers of the region, the notorious flooding reputation belongs specifically to the Kosi. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q34 A

Bureaucracy is the one-word substitution for a government run by officials or administrative bureaus rather than by elected representatives. Democracy refers to rule by the people, aristocracy to rule by a privileged noble class, and autocracy to rule by a single person with absolute power. The distinguishing feature of bureaucracy is administration by appointed officials following fixed procedures, making it the precise term for government by officials. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q35 B

The Governor is the constitutional head of a State in the Indian Union, appointed by the President under Article 155. While the Chief Minister is the real executive head who leads the elected government, the Governor holds the formal, ceremonial position analogous to the President at the national level. The Chief Justice heads the judiciary and the Speaker presides over the legislative assembly. Thus the nominal constitutional head of a State is the Governor. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Q36 D

The correct word is 'advice', which is the noun meaning guidance or recommendation. 'Advise' is the verb form and would be grammatically wrong after the article-like structure here. 'Advice' is an uncountable noun, so the plural 'advices' is incorrect in standard English. 'Advising' is a gerund and does not fit the sentence structure. Since a noun is needed as the object of 'gave', the correct spelling and form is advice. Hence, option (D) is correct.

Q37 A

The Dandi March of 1930, in which Mahatma Gandhi walked to the coastal village of Dandi to make salt in defiance of the British salt tax, marked the beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement. This act of deliberately breaking an unjust law galvanised mass participation across India. The Quit India Movement came in 1942 and Non-Cooperation in 1920. The salt satyagraha, however, specifically launched the Civil Disobedience Movement. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Q38 C

The Election Commission of India, established under Article 324 of the Constitution, is the independent constitutional body empowered to superintend, direct, and control elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of President and Vice-President. The Supreme Court adjudicates disputes, the Union Public Service Commission conducts civil service recruitment, and the Finance Commission recommends tax distribution. The specific authority to conduct free and fair elections lies with the Election Commission of India. Hence, option (C) is correct.