

ANSWER KEY — 15 JULY 2026

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

RC PASSAGES

Q1 B

In context the passage says the watch 'has become less a tool than a talisman — a wearable statement about how its owner wishes to move through the world.' A talisman here is a cherished object carrying personal, symbolic meaning, not a precise instrument or a disposable accessory. Option A stresses measuring accuracy, which the passage explicitly says is not the watch's appeal. Option C ('outdated, kept out of habit') and option D ('meant to be discarded') both contradict the admiring, meaning-laden sense in which the word is used. Only the reading of a personally significant, symbolic object fits. Hence, (B) is correct.

Q2 D

The passage repeatedly stresses that the mechanical watch keeps poor time and so cannot be prized for accuracy; instead it endures because it offers craftsmanship, permanence and meaning in a throwaway, screen-saturated age. That is the central claim. Option A is wrong because the text says the watch keeps worse time than a phone. Option B overstates matters; the smartwatch has not replaced the mechanical watch, which is 'flourishing'. Option C is too narrow, since the author expressly says the watch was 'not rescued by nostalgia alone'. The best summary is that it endures for meaning and permanence, not accuracy. Hence, (D) is correct.

Q3 A

The passage argues that by 'flooding wrists with notifications, step counts and glowing screens, the smartwatch made the mechanical watch feel calmer by contrast.' The author thus sees the smartwatch's constant alerts as something that heightens the quiet appeal of the mechanical watch. Option B contradicts the text, which says mechanical watches are flourishing, not obsolete. Option C is unsupported; buyers are drawn to the watch's silence, not to notifications. Option D wrongly attributes to the author an endorsement of the smartwatch. The correct inference is that the notifications make the mechanical watch more appealing by contrast. Hence, (A) is correct.

Q4 C

The author writes warmly of craftsmanship, permanence and 'meaning', and closes by praising what the watch offers over the screen, yet the tone stays measured rather than gushing. This is best captured as appreciative and quietly persuaded. Option A ('dismissive and mocking') is the opposite of the admiring tone. Option B ('anxious, alarmed') mistakes the calm reflection for worry. Option D ('indifferent, neutral') ignores the clear, if restrained, sympathy the author shows toward the revival. The attitude is appreciative and quietly persuaded. Hence, (C) is correct.

Q5 B

The author's explanation is that people buy mechanical watches for meaning, craftsmanship and permanence rather than for status. Evidence that most buyers purchase them purely to display wealth, and not for any meaning, would directly undercut that account and substitute a status motive. Option A (record profits) is consistent with the author's story and does not weaken it. Option C (needs servicing) is a neutral fact about maintenance. Option D (smartwatch sales also grow) does not contradict the claim that mechanical watches endure for meaning. Only the survey about wealth-display motives weakens the explanation. Hence, (B) is correct.

Q6 D

The passage defines fermentation, explains the chemistry of yeasts and bacteria, describes its role in preservation and nutrition, and reflects on its long history, all in an explanatory rather than argumentative spirit. Its primary concern is thus to explain what fermentation is and why it has long mattered to humans. Option A overstates the health claims, which the author calls tentative. Option B is wrong because the passage gives no home-preparation instructions. Option C invents a comparison with refrigeration that the text never makes. The best description of the purpose is explanatory. Hence, (D) is correct.

Q7 A

The passage calls fermentation 'everyday alchemy' and immediately explains it as 'the work of microorganisms', i.e., something that looks magical but is in fact ordinary chemistry. So 'alchemy' here means a seemingly magical transformation that actually rests on real chemistry. Option B (fraud) misreads the admiring tone. Option C (religious ritual) and option D (a modern industrial invention) both contradict the text, which treats fermentation as an ancient, natural, microbial process. The intended sense is a magical-seeming but genuinely chemical transformation. Hence, (A) is correct.

Q8 C

The passage states that lactic acid 'lowers the food's pH, creating an environment hostile to the microbes that cause spoilage', making fermentation a method of preservation. It follows that lactic acid helps preserve food by making conditions unfavourable to spoilage microbes. Option A is wrong because the acid is beneficial, not something to be removed. Option B contradicts the text, which says the acid does 'more than flavour'. Option D confuses lactic acid with the alcohol and carbon dioxide that yeast produces in baking. The supported inference concerns preservation. Hence, (C) is correct.

Q9 B

On gut health the author notes the links are drawn only 'tentatively' and warns that 'the evidence is still emerging, and enthusiasm has sometimes outrun proof.' This signals genuine interest tempered by caution, best described as cautiously interested but measured. Option A ('completely convinced and enthusiastic') ignores the express caveats. Option C ('hostile and dismissive') is too negative for a writer who finds the science fascinating. Option D ('confused and self-contradictory') misreads a balanced stance as incoherence. The tone is cautious interest. Hence, (B) is correct.

Q10 A

The passage claims fermentation 'can break down compounds that block the absorption of minerals' and make foods more nutritious. Controlled studies showing that fermented grains release significantly more absorbable iron than unfermented grains would provide direct empirical support for exactly that nutritional claim. Option B (people enjoy the flavour) speaks to taste, not nutrition. Option C (long history of eating) shows tradition, not nutritional benefit. Option D (alcohol by-product) is unrelated to nutrient absorption. The iron-absorption study most strengthens the nutrition claim. Hence, (A) is correct.

CR PASSAGES

Q11 C

The abolition argument ends: 'since homework in primary school does not improve achievement, carries genuine costs, and can be replaced by better alternatives, schools should stop assigning it altogether.' The main conclusion is that primary schools should stop assigning homework to young pupils. Options A (conflict at home) and D (disadvantaged children suffer) are premises supporting that conclusion, not the conclusion itself. Option B (older students benefit) is a conceded point, again not the conclusion. The conclusion is the recommendation to abolish primary homework. Hence, (C) is correct.

Q12 B

The argument claims the aims of homework, such as discipline, independent study and curiosity, can be met better by reading, play and good teaching. That inference works only if those alternatives can in fact develop the very same qualities homework is meant to build; otherwise abolition would sacrifice something the alternatives cannot supply. Option A (parents willing to supervise) is not needed and even cuts against homework. Option C (teachers opposed) is irrelevant to whether alternatives work. Option D (children dislike homework) concerns preference, not the substitutability of skills. The needed assumption is that the alternatives build the same qualities. Hence, (B) is correct.

Q13 D

A key premise is that homework does not improve achievement in primary school. A large, well-designed study finding that light primary homework significantly boosts later achievement would directly contradict that premise and so weaken the case for abolition most powerfully. Option A (parents find it stressful) actually supports abolition. Option B (older students benefit) is already conceded and does not bear on primary pupils. Option C (schools assign little homework) is neutral about whether homework works. The study showing real achievement gains is the strongest weakener. Hence, (D) is correct.

Q14 A

The parent generalises from one neighbour's child to a universal claim that 'homework clearly works.' A single, possibly atypical case cannot establish a general causal rule, so the reasoning draws a broad conclusion from an unrepresentative example (a hasty generalisation). Option B (unread study) misdescribes the error, since the parent cites experience, not a study. Option C (assuming schools identical) is not the flaw at issue. Option D (confusing cause with consequence) names a different fallacy that does not fit. The flaw is over-generalising from one example. Hence, (A) is correct.

Q15 C

A central premise is that abolishing homework will not harm academic results. Evidence that countries which abolished primary homework saw no measurable decline in later academic results would confirm that premise and thus strengthen the abolition argument. Option A (teachers enjoy setting homework) is irrelevant to outcomes. Option B (homework is traditional) is an appeal to custom that does not support abolition. Option D (parents value homework as occupation) tends to cut against abolition. The cross-country evidence of no decline most strengthens the case. Hence, (C) is correct.

Q16 B

The advocates reason from premises about falling launch costs and spillover innovation to a recommendation. Their conclusion is that the government should support the growth of the space-tourism industry. Option A (serves the wealthy few) is actually a point the opponents press, not the advocates' conclusion. Option C (launches release pollutants) is an opponents' premise about environmental cost. Option D (private firms keep profits) is raised by opponents on fairness. The advocates' conclusion is the call for public support of the industry. Hence, (B) is correct.

Q17 D

The advocates argue that money spent perfecting rockets for tourists is really an investment in cheaper access to space for everyone. That inference holds only if technology developed for tourist flights genuinely transfers to broader public uses such as satellites and probes. Option A (tourism stays elite) is not something the advocates need. Option B (unlimited government funds) overstates and is not assumed. Option C (public enjoys watching launches) is irrelevant to the economic case. The load-bearing assumption is the transfer of technology to public uses. Hence, (D) is correct.

Q18 A

The advocates' case depends on tourist-rocket technology transferring to satellites, probes and networks. If that technology cannot in fact be adapted for satellites or scientific probes, the central premise collapses and the argument for public backing fails. Option B (growing ticket sales) is neutral or even supportive of the industry's viability. Option C (scientists admire launches) is irrelevant to the transfer claim. Option D (tourism is popular with adventurers) does not address whether the technology has broader uses. The non-transferability point most weakens the case. Hence, (A) is correct.

Q19 C

The advocates claim that rockets refined for tourists will make reaching orbit cheaper for everyone. Evidence that reusable rockets first built for tourist flights have already cut satellite launch costs sharply provides real-world confirmation of exactly that spillover, strengthening the argument. Option A (citizens dislike funding it) works against the advocates. Option B (launches remain expensive) undercuts the cost-saving claim. Option D (one billionaire funds most ventures) is neutral about public benefit. The demonstrated fall in satellite launch costs most strengthens the case. Hence, (C) is correct.

Q20 D

The opponents' point is that spending on space tourism diverts money from hospitals and schools, i.e., the funds are a trade-off. If public funds for space tourism came from a source that by law cannot be spent on hospitals or schools, then that spending would not actually come at the expense of those services, and the diversion argument would collapse. Option A (even more expensive) reinforces the opponents. Option B (services already fully funded) is a weaker, contestable response. Option C (citizens find it exciting) does not address the funding trade-off. The ring-fenced-source point most weakens the reasoning. Hence, (D) is correct.

SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK & CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q21 A

The yen is the official currency of Japan, denoted by the symbol ¥. A common trap is confusing the East-Asian currencies: the won is used in South Korea and North Korea, the yuan (renminbi) is the currency of China, and the ringgit is the currency of Malaysia. Matching each currency to its country is a frequent static-GK question, so keep the pairs distinct. Only the yen belongs to Japan. Hence, (A) is correct.

Q22 C

'Ephemeral' means lasting for a very short time — from the Greek for 'lasting only a day' — so its closest synonym is 'fleeting'. In a synonym question you must match the core sense, here brevity of duration. 'Eternal' and 'sturdy' suggest permanence or strength, the opposite idea, while 'colourful' is unrelated to how long something lasts. The word most nearly similar in meaning to ephemeral is fleeting. Hence, (C) is correct.

Q23 B

The writ of habeas corpus, meaning 'you shall have the body', is issued to secure the release of a person who has been unlawfully or illegally detained. Mandamus commands a public authority to perform its duty, certiorari quashes an illegal order of a lower body, and quo warranto challenges a person's right to hold a public office. The writ against unlawful detention is habeas corpus. Hence, (B) is correct.

Q24 D

The idiom 'to bite the bullet' means to face a painful or difficult situation with courage and acceptance, doing something unpleasant that cannot be avoided. The phrase is said to date from battlefield surgery before anaesthesia, when a patient bit on a bullet to endure pain. It does not refer to eating quickly, losing one's temper, or speaking rudely. The correct meaning is to face a difficult situation bravely. Hence, (D) is correct.

Q25 A

Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa at about 5,895 metres, is a dormant volcano located in north-eastern Tanzania, near the Kenyan border. Because it rises close to that border, Kenya is a tempting distractor, but the peak itself lies wholly within Tanzania; Nigeria and Ethiopia are elsewhere on the continent. It is also the world's tallest free-standing mountain. Kilimanjaro is in Tanzania. Hence, (A) is correct.

Q26 C

'Benevolent' means kind, generous and well-meaning, so in an antonym question its opposite is 'malicious', meaning intending harm or ill will. Watch the trap: 'generous' is a near-synonym of benevolent, not its opposite, and is placed to catch a hasty reader. 'Cheerful' and 'cautious' describe unrelated qualities of mood and care. The word most nearly opposite in meaning to benevolent is malicious. Hence, (C) is correct.

Q27 B

The basic structure doctrine, which holds that Parliament cannot amend the essential features of the Constitution, was propounded by the Supreme Court in *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala* (1973). *Golaknath* dealt with the amendability of fundamental rights, *Minerva Mills* later reinforced the doctrine, and *Maneka Gandhi* concerned Article 21. The doctrine originated in the *Kesavananda Bharati* case. Hence, (B) is correct.

Q28 D

The Nobel Prizes are awarded in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Peace, all established by Alfred Nobel's 1895 will; Economic Sciences was added in 1969 by the Sveriges Riksbank. There is no Nobel Prize in Mathematics — that discipline's top honours are the Fields Medal and Abel Prize. Physics, Literature and Peace are all recognised categories, so the field in which no Nobel Prize is awarded is Mathematics. Hence, (D) is correct.

Q29 A

'A blessing in disguise' describes a good thing that at first appears bad or unlucky, but which later proves beneficial — the good outcome is hidden, or 'in disguise', at the start. It has nothing to do with a hidden secret, an insincere gift, or a costume worn for a celebration, which are literal misreadings of the word 'disguise'. The correct meaning is a good thing that at first seems bad or unlucky. Hence, (A) is correct.

Q30 C

The World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations specialised agency for international public health, was established in 1948 and has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Distinguish the UN duty-stations: New York hosts the UN headquarters, Paris hosts UNESCO, and Vienna hosts bodies such as the IAEA, but the WHO is based in Geneva. Its head is called the Director-General. Hence, (C) is correct.
