

**Daily Reading Comprehension & Critical Reasoning**

Rotated-genre RC passages and real-argument Critical Reasoning — CLAT-2026 grade. Read each passage and answer from the passage only.  
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**SECTION — READING COMPREHENSION**

**READING COMPREHENSION — POPULAR SCIENCE · LISTENING TO THE GEOMETRY OF SPACE (Q1-Q5)**

For most of the history of astronomy, the sky was something to be watched. Telescopes gathered light; radio dishes caught electromagnetic waves; X-ray satellites mapped energetic clouds. Every instrument was a receiver for radiation of one kind or another, and the universe was studied in terms of what it chose to emit. The opening of the gravitational-wave window changed that description root and branch.

Gravitational waves are not emitted by hot gas or energetic particles. They are ripples in spacetime itself, produced when massive objects accelerate asymmetrically: two black holes spiralling toward each other, two neutron stars locked in a death orbit, a massive core collapsing and bouncing inside a supernova. The geometry of space, ordinarily so stiff it can be treated as fixed, flexes and stretches, and the disturbance propagates outward at the speed of light. By the time those ripples reach Earth after crossing a billion light-years, they compress and expand every length on the planet by less than one part in a thousand billion billion. The measurement that detects them must be, by any previous standard, absurd.

That measurement is made by laser interferometry. Two tunnels several kilometres long are arranged at right angles. A laser beam is split and sent down each arm, reflected back, and recombined. Because a gravitational wave squeezes one arm while it stretches the other, the returning beams arrive fractionally out of phase, and the detector reads a brightness change so small that the instrument must contend with the thermal vibration of its own mirrors, the pressure of sunlight on its test masses, and the footsteps of people kilometres away. Quantum noise sets a floor, and teams of engineers spend careers approaching it.

What the detector cannot do is tell astronomers where in the sky the event occurred. A single instrument reads a passing signal; only when two or more widely separated detectors record the same wave and a computer compares their arrival times can a region of sky be triangulated. Add a third detector on a different continent and the region shrinks enough to point a conventional telescope, and there the optical counterpart is found: a kilonova, a brief blue flash in a galaxy a hundred million light-years away, where two neutron stars have merged and forged the gold and platinum that ended up in every piece of jewellery on Earth.

**1. Which of the following best expresses the central claim of the passage?**

- ☐ A. Laser interferometry has made old telescopes secondary, reducing all prior electromagnetic work to a support role in modern astronomy.
- ☐ B. Gravitational waves form a channel apart from light and need extreme skill to catch signals from across the cosmos.
- ☐ C. The kilonova that tied neutron-star mergers to gold and platinum is the most important find that this new field has yet made.
- ☐ D. Gravitational waves move at a speed apart from light and so call for a wholly new set of physical laws to explain them.

**2. Which of the following can most reasonably be inferred from the third paragraph?**

- ☐ A. Heat in the mirrors is the main noise source, so teams put most effort into cooling above all other fixes.
- ☐ B. A second device makes sky maps worse, since using two clocks to compare arrival times adds errors not found in a solo reading.
- ☐ C. Quantum noise was always set to fall below heat-based sources, so mirror vibration was the key long-run problem from the start.
- ☐ D. One detector gives the wave shape but no direction; the source can only be found with timing data from two or more sites.

**3. The author's attitude towards gravitational-wave astronomy is best described as**

- ☐ A. The author shows admiration for the craft and an eye for the science, yet stays within what the text can support.
- ☐ B. The author doubts that tools hurt by heat and footsteps can give good science at the tiny signal levels the method needs.
- ☐ C. The author is fully neutral, giving a plain account with no sign of any view on the value of this science over older methods.
- ☐ D. The author finds the kilonova so huge a find that all prior work with optical scopes is now rendered useless and out of date.

**4. In the second paragraph, 'asymmetrically' is used to indicate that gravitational waves are produced when massive objects**

- ☐ A. They spin in reverse to each other, making a space wave that spreads outward as detectable loops of varying amplitude.
- ☐ B. They crash above a set speed limit, giving off far more force than two equal objects in a neat head-on contact would.
- ☐ C. They speed up in a way that is not the same in every direction, so the space wave spreads rather than cancelling out.
- ☐ D. They turn on axes that are out of line, making a roll that shakes local space in a cycle that a well-placed tool far away can read.

**5. The final paragraph, which describes the discovery of a kilonova, functions primarily to**

- ☐ A. It takes back the single-detector claim, showing a sensitive enough instrument can now locate an event in the sky alone.
- ☐ B. It shows what linked detectors achieve, completing the account of how gravitational-wave science connects to optical astronomy.
- ☐ C. It shifts to the cosmic root of gold as a topic apart from the wave physics laid out in the three paragraphs before it.
- ☐ D. It admits that wave tools alone can not say what elements a merger made; only a second kind of scope can give that detail.

**READING COMPREHENSION — POLITICS & GOVERNANCE · THE COUNCIL THAT CANNOT COMPEL (Q6-Q10)**

Since its creation in 2017, the Goods and Services Tax Council has served as the principal arena in which the Union and the states negotiate the tax treatment of almost every commodity and service exchanged within the country. Its decisions bind no one in a formal legal sense: the constitutional text gives the Council recommendatory authority and requires that its meetings produce agreement by weighted majority, with the Centre holding one-third of the votes and the states together holding the remainder. In practice its recommendations have almost always been implemented, and observers have described the body as evidence that cooperative federalism in India is more than a constitutional aspiration.

Recent years have tested that characterisation. Several states, particularly those with large service sectors and histories of high-revenue collection, have raised objections to compensation arrangements, to the pace of settlement of arrears, and to what to describe as an asymmetry in agenda-setting power. A legal challenge brought by one state to the Supreme Court produced a result that complicated the existing picture: the Court confirmed that the Council's recommendations are not legally binding



Parliament or the state legislatures, while noting that both are expected to act on them. What the judgment did not supply was any mechanism for the case in which one party declines to comply.

The architecture of the tax itself creates additional pressure. The revenue-neutral rate announced at the Council's inception was calculated on assumptions about compliance levels, about the treatment of petroleum products, and about the growth trajectory of the broader economy. Several of those assumptions have since proved optimistic. The exclusion of petroleum from the GST base, agreed as a transitional arrangement, has remained in place across successive years, sustaining a parallel tax system that allows states whose budgets depend heavily on fuel levies to resist harmonisation. States that collect little from fuel have the strongest incentive to bring petroleum inside the GST structure; states that collect the most have the strongest incentive to keep it outside.

The resulting tension is not a malfunction. It is the system working precisely as its architects intended, deferring the hardest choices until political conditions permitted their resolution. The difficulty is that some of those conditions have not arrived, and the questions deferred at the outset are now a decade old and still unresolved. A council built for consensus has not yet been tested for serious disagreement.

**6. Which of the following best states the main argument of the passage?**

- ☐ A. The Council shows that joint Centre-state rule is a solid fact, its long run of agreed votes proving ties are better than critics say.
- ☐ B. The fuel carve-out is the one true design flaw, and fixing it would clear up most of the tension that has built since 2017.
- ☐ C. The Council put off its hardest calls, and now those calls can no longer wait, leaving a body built for calm untested in crisis.
- ☐ D. As no ruling binds anyone, any state can refuse to follow the Council without facing any tool that forces it to fall in line.

**7. Which of the following is most strongly supported by the second paragraph?**

- ☐ A. The Court said both sides ought to act on Council calls but gave no tool to use if either side refuses.
- ☐ B. The louder critics are states with small service bases, who say they bear a bigger share of the switch costs than larger states.
- ☐ C. The ruling gave the Council's views real force by saying any step away from them needs a fresh vote in Parliament first.
- ☐ D. The centre has paid every cent it owes, and rows about arrears are merely a dispute over how to read the original deal.

**8. The tone of the final paragraph is best described as**

- ☐ A. The tone is grim, implying the Council's failure to compel will break it apart and restore India's old split tax system.
- ☐ B. The tone is quietly hopeful, suggesting the moment to address old delays is near and the Council will cope.
- ☐ C. The tone is flat and neutral, giving the case for and against the Council's worth with equal weight and no personal lean.
- ☐ D. The tone is careful but pointed, giving the design its due while pressing that a real test of conflict has not yet come.

**9. In the third paragraph, 'harmonisation' refers to the process of**

- ☐ A. Setting one rate for all goods, so no state can gain an edge by pricing things just below what the Council has agreed.
- ☐ B. Putting fuel inside the GST so it follows the same rules as all other goods, not a second tax system running on its own.
- ☐ C. Paying high-fuel states enough to give up their right to tax oil and join the single national system under the Council's rules.
- ☐ D. Changing the vote count so big states get more say rather than the centre holding one third of all votes alone.

**10. The author introduces the argument about petroleum exclusion primarily in order to**

- ☐ A. To show the figures used to set the first neutral rate were right, backing the Council's early plan with real data.
- ☐ B. To show that high-fuel-revenue states put their own cash first rather than the wider goal of a joined-up tax base.
- ☐ C. To show how a built-in money conflict has kept one of the Council's early deferrals alive through every round of talks.
- ☐ D. To show why Centre-state ties got worse, arguing the fuel deal made a grudge that has eaten at the Council ever since.

## SECTION — CRITICAL REASONING

### CRITICAL REASONING — SOCIETY & CULTURE · THE CONTRACTOR WHO CANNOT NEGOTIATE (Q11–Q15)

The argument for classifying ride-hailing and delivery workers as independent contractors rather than employees has been made in boardrooms and before legislatures in substantially the same form for a decade. The worker, it is said, sets her own hours, accepts or declines assignments as she chooses, and uses her own equipment. These are the hallmarks of the self-employed, and the relationship between the platform and the worker is therefore a commercial arrangement between two market participants, not an employment contract. The company coordinates; it does not direct.

What this account omits is the structure of the choice. A worker may decline any individual job, but the algorithm that allocates jobs notices declining rates and reduces how many jobs it offers. The worker may set her own hours, but surge pricing and access to high-demand windows are calibrated to make certain hours effectively compulsory if acceptable earnings are to be reached. The equipment may be her own, but the platform specifies what kind of equipment qualifies, at what condition threshold, and at what age. Every margin on which the worker appears to be free has been designed to produce the decision the platform prefers without the platform issuing a visible instruction.

The consequences of the classification are not symmetrical. Employees are entitled to minimum wage guarantees, to protection against arbitrary termination, to social insurance contributions from their employer, and to collective bargaining rights. Contractors receive none of these, and the party best placed to pay them, the platform whose revenue depends entirely on the labour performed, is legally relieved of the obligation to do so. The risk of irregular income, of illness without sick pay, and of sudden withdrawal of access has been transferred to the worker; the productivity that generates the platform's value has not.

Classification is not a description of fact but a rule about consequences. The question is not whether the worker decides when to log on but whether the relationship, taken as a whole, creates the kind of dependence that employment law was designed to address. Several jurisdictions have answered that question by creating a third category, a dependent contractor or a worker, that attracts some but not all employment rights.

**11. Which of the following best states the main conclusion of the argument?**

- ☐ A. The law should force platforms to give gig workers portable benefits, ending the motive to call them freelance workers.
- ☐ B. Gig workers earn more per hour than staff, and the extra pay covers absent benefits, leaving their total deal roughly the same.
- ☐ C. The pressure that pushed firms to use the freelance tag is fading, so pay and terms will improve by themselves over time.
- ☐ D. Platforms call workers freelance mainly to avoid paying benefits, a choice that helps the firm far more than the worker.

**12. The argument depends on which of the following assumptions?**

- ☐ A. The way the law draws the line between staff and freelance fits how platform work is set up in the real world.



- ☐ B. Platforms would accept the staff tag if it came to one flat levy rather than the full list of rights under current law.
- ☐ C. Workers who like to pick their own hours would take staff status if the platform promised a set minimum number of shifts a week.
- ☐ D. Regulators already have enough staff to check how every platform labels its workers and can reclassify them with no new laws.

**13. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument?**

- ☐ A. Most gig workers log under fifteen hours a week to top up pay from a main job, not as their sole income.
- ☐ B. Top platforms have raised fares a lot to stop drivers leaving, showing the market can lift working terms even with no new rules.
- ☐ C. Studies find most gig workers like their deal better than a standard job and would pick it again if offered a direct staff role.
- ☐ D. Some platforms now offer portable benefit plans on a trial basis, proving the freelance model does not have to come with no safety net.

**14. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument?**

- ☐ A. In one place that passed a portable-benefit law, employer payments to gig workers rose by forty per cent in the first year.
- ☐ B. An economist warns that portable benefits would push up costs enough to drive several platforms out of the market for good.
- ☐ C. A poll found over half of gig workers would take lower per-job pay in exchange for the platform covering health and pension.
- ☐ D. A court in a comparable market held platform workers were staff in law, triggering all normal benefit rights for every driver.

**15. The reasoning in the second paragraph is most closely paralleled by which of the following?**

- ☐ A. It mixes up having a reason to mislabel workers with being able to do so, leaving out market forces that limit the practice.
- ☐ B. It jumps too fast, assuming a motive found in ride-hailing applies the same way across all kinds of platform work.
- ☐ C. It makes a false cause error, taking the link between freelance labels and no benefits as proof of a deliberate sole motive.
- ☐ D. It spots the right motive but leaves out the point that many workers want to stay freelance rather than become staff.

#### CRITICAL REASONING — HEALTH POLICY · THE PRESCRIPTION THAT EMPTIES THE ARMOURY (Q16–Q20)

The report from the global surveillance programme runs to three hundred pages but its core finding fits in a sentence: the bacteria most responsible for hospital-acquired infections are, in the countries that consume the most antibiotics, becoming resistant to the agents most commonly used against them at a rate that has accelerated every decade since systematic measurement began. The phrase usually offered to capture this is a crisis, and by the ordinary meaning of the word it qualifies: resistance threatens to return routine surgery to the mortality risk it carried before the penicillin era, and no replacement drug class has reached clinical use in forty years.

The mechanics of resistance are not in dispute. Every time an antibiotic is used, some fraction of the bacteria it encounters survive by chance. Those survivors reproduce, and in subsequent generations the trait that allowed survival spreads. Use antibiotics frequently and at sub-therapeutic doses and the process accelerates. Use them in animals destined for human consumption, where selection pressure is intense and withdrawal periods often inadequate, and resistant strains acquire a route into the human gut that bypasses the clinic entirely.

What is in dispute is the appropriate institutional response. The difficulty is economic before it is scientific. An antibiotic is a drug whose value to society rests on its being used as rarely as possible, which makes it commercially unattractive for any firm that must recover research costs through sales volume. The incentive structure that produces other pharmaceutical innovation points directly away from the one outcome that antimicrobial stewardship requires. Several proposals attempt to separate payment from volume: a subscription model in which a health system pays an annual fee for access regardless of how much is drawn, or a market-entry reward that pays a lump sum on regulatory approval. Both have been tested in small jurisdictions and both have been endorsed by expert panels.

Neither has been adopted at scale. The reason is not technical but political: large-scale public funding of drug development is represented in most high-income legislative settings as a subsidy to an industry that has already extracted substantial rents from publicly funded science. The economic argument for the subscription model and the market-entry reward is sound and has been made by bodies with no financial interest in the outcome. The political argument against it is durable regardless.

**16. Which of the following best states the main conclusion of the argument?**

- ☐ A. Rules that cut antibiotic scripts in clinics outside hospitals are the best single tool to slow the growth of drug resistance.
- ☐ B. Drug firms will not invest in new antibiotics unless the state commits to buy enough doses to cut commercial risk.
- ☐ C. Resistance grows faster from antibiotics used on farms than from those given to patients, so farm rules matter more than script controls.
- ☐ D. The root cause of resistance is poor hand-washing and hygiene in wards, not too many scripts, making clean-hospital rules more urgent.

**17. The argument depends on which of the following assumptions?**

- ☐ A. Cutting scripts in rich countries alone will be enough to turn round global resistance without any matching action in poorer parts of the world.
- ☐ B. Drug firms already have enough market push to invest in new antibiotics and need no state purchase deal.
- ☐ C. The genes that make bugs resist old drugs have not moved to new classes still being tested, so new drugs will work on launch.
- ☐ D. Patients who take an unneeded antibiotic course do not raise population resistance because the course is too short to select resistant strains.

**18. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument?**

- ☐ A. A wide review found clinic script rules cut antibiotic use by thirty per cent with no rise in bad infection rates.
- ☐ B. A long study found that resistance to the newest class of antibiotics rose fastest in the countries that cut scripts the most severely.
- ☐ C. Farm use of antibiotics in big food-producing countries is larger than all human clinical use worldwide, capping what script rules can achieve.
- ☐ D. A model says that unless new antibiotics get approval in five years, death rates from common bugs will climb back to pre-antibiotic-era levels.

**19. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument?**

- ☐ A. A pooled review found hospital script rules cut cases of *C. difficile* in half, showing that limiting use also cuts harm to unrelated patients.
- ☐ B. A trial found a short antibiotic course beat a long one for lung infections, supporting shorter total treatment.
- ☐ C. A global poll found doctors tell bugs from viruses correctly eight times in ten without any lab test to back them up.
- ☐ D. A natural test found a ban on buying antibiotics over the counter cut the rate of resistant bugs in the community over ten years.



**20. The argument about commercial incentives in the third paragraph is most closely paralleled by which of the following?**

- ☐ A. It uses cutting scripts as both cause and fix, with no word on what the real driver of resistance is in the first place.
- ☐ B. It takes for granted that too many scripts is the main cause, not poor hygiene or farm use, with no backing given.
- ☐ C. It draws a false parallel to vaccine doubt, since the two problems arise by different paths and call for different fixes.
- ☐ D. It attributes to drug firms a position on purchase deals no company has stated, attacking a target that does not exist.

## RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL

85 quick questions · not negatively marked

1. 'Spacetime' means? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are gravitational waves, in one line? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What does a gravitational wave do as it passes through matter? \_\_\_\_\_
4. 'Interferometry' means? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why are a gravitational-wave detector's arms at right angles? \_\_\_\_\_
6. 'Quantum noise' in a detector? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is a 'kilonova'? \_\_\_\_\_
8. 'Neutron star' is? \_\_\_\_\_
9. 'Triangulate' a source means? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Why cannot a single gravitational-wave detector locate a source in the sky? \_\_\_\_\_
11. 'Supernova' means? \_\_\_\_\_
12. 'Out of phase', for two light beams? \_\_\_\_\_
13. 'Propagate' means? \_\_\_\_\_
14. 'Test masses' in a gravitational-wave detector? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What heavy elements do neutron-star mergers produce per the passage? \_\_\_\_\_
16. What is the 'GST Council'? \_\_\_\_\_
17. How are votes distributed in the GST Council? \_\_\_\_\_
18. 'Recommendatory authority' means? \_\_\_\_\_
19. 'Weighted majority' means? \_\_\_\_\_
20. 'Cooperative federalism' means? \_\_\_\_\_
21. 'Revenue-neutral rate' means? \_\_\_\_\_
22. 'Fiscal federalism' means? \_\_\_\_\_
23. 'Arrears' means? \_\_\_\_\_
24. 'Own revenue' of a state government? \_\_\_\_\_
25. 'Compliance', in taxation? \_\_\_\_\_
26. What does 'transitional arrangement' usually mean in a tax reform context? \_\_\_\_\_
27. 'Devolution', in fiscal terms? \_\_\_\_\_
28. 'Agenda-setting power' means? \_\_\_\_\_
29. What does 'deferring a question' mean in a negotiation? \_\_\_\_\_
30. What does 'harmonisation' of petroleum into GST mean? \_\_\_\_\_
31. 'Independent contractor' vs 'employee' — key legal difference? \_\_\_\_\_
32. 'Surge pricing' means? \_\_\_\_\_
33. 'Algorithmic management' means? \_\_\_\_\_
34. 'Collective bargaining rights' means? \_\_\_\_\_
35. 'Social insurance' contributions from an employer? \_\_\_\_\_
36. 'Arbitrary termination' means? \_\_\_\_\_
37. 'Gig economy' in one line? \_\_\_\_\_
38. What does 'dependent contractor' or 'worker' category mean? \_\_\_\_\_
39. The phrase 'the company coordinates; it does not direct' argues what? \_\_\_\_\_
40. 'Zero-hours contract' means? \_\_\_\_\_
41. 'Franchisor' vs 'franchisee'? \_\_\_\_\_
42. 'Antimicrobial resistance' (AMR) means? \_\_\_\_\_
43. 'Antibiotic stewardship' means? \_\_\_\_\_
44. 'Sub-therapeutic dose' means? \_\_\_\_\_
45. 'Selection pressure' means? \_\_\_\_\_
46. 'Hospital-acquired infection' means? \_\_\_\_\_
47. What is the 'penicillin era' and why does it matter here? \_\_\_\_\_
48. 'Market-entry reward' for a drug? \_\_\_\_\_
49. 'Subscription model' for a pharmaceutical? \_\_\_\_\_
50. 'Clinical pipeline' means? \_\_\_\_\_
51. 'Volume-independent payment' means? \_\_\_\_\_
52. 'Last-resort antibiotic' means? \_\_\_\_\_
53. What do economists mean when they say an industry has 'extracted rents'? \_\_\_\_\_
54. 'Risk-adjusted return' means? \_\_\_\_\_
55. What is a 'drug class'? \_\_\_\_\_
56. What is a 'necessary assumption' in critical reasoning? \_\_\_\_\_
57. The 'negation test' for an assumption? \_\_\_\_\_
58. What does 'if true' signal in a CR question stem? \_\_\_\_\_
59. What makes a 'weaken' option work? \_\_\_\_\_
60. What makes a 'strengthen' option work? \_\_\_\_\_
61. What does 'parallel reasoning' test? \_\_\_\_\_
62. 'Conclusion' vs 'premise' in an argument? \_\_\_\_\_
63. 'Causal argument' means? \_\_\_\_\_
64. 'Correlation vs causation' in CR? \_\_\_\_\_
65. 'Scope shift' in a CR distractor? \_\_\_\_\_
66. What is an 'alternative cause' weaken? \_\_\_\_\_
67. 'Ad hominem' argument? \_\_\_\_\_
68. 'Circular reasoning' means? \_\_\_\_\_
69. What does an 'inference' question in RC ask for? \_\_\_\_\_
70. What do 'tone' questions ask you to identify? \_\_\_\_\_
71. What does 'main idea' mean vs 'specific detail'? \_\_\_\_\_
72. What does 'structural function' of a paragraph mean? \_\_\_\_\_
73. 'Vocab in context' questions require what approach? \_\_\_\_\_
74. What is a 'straw-man' fallacy? \_\_\_\_\_
75. What is a 'false dichotomy' fallacy? \_\_\_\_\_
76. What is 'overgeneralisation' as an argument flaw? \_\_\_\_\_
77. What does 'deferred resolution' mean as a political strategy? \_\_\_\_\_
78. What is an 'incentive structure' in economics? \_\_\_\_\_
79. What is 'asymmetric risk' in an employment context? \_\_\_\_\_
80. 'Market participant' means? \_\_\_\_\_
81. 'Self-defeating policy' means? \_\_\_\_\_
82. An argument that shows one action will lead to increasingly bad outcomes is called a \_\_\_\_\_
83. The conclusion of an argument can always be identified by the word \_\_\_\_\_
84. A passage that ends by predicting a trend in the subject area uses which rhetorical mode? \_\_\_\_\_
85. An argument containing two premises that contradict each \_\_\_\_\_

