Daily RC & CR Sheet — 29 October 2026

20 Qs · 35 Min
+1 / −0.25

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. Free daily practice — clatgurukul.com/daily · Pass this sheet to a friend.

SECTION — READING COMPREHENSION

READING COMPREHENSION — LAW & SOCIETY · THE REASONABLE PERSON AND HER SHADOW (Q1–Q5)

Few figures in the law work as hard as the reasonable person. She drives, contracts and reacts to danger with ordinary care. English judges once gave her a masculine disguise and a seat on the Clapham omnibus, but her function has stayed constant: she is the yardstick by which negligence is measured, because the law cannot read minds and must therefore judge conduct against a standard that anyone can, in principle, be asked to meet.

The attraction of the standard lies in its objectivity. A defendant who pleads that he is naturally clumsy, or simply did not think, is not excused, for if every individual were measured against his own limitations, the duty of care would shrink to whatever each person happened to bring to the encounter. Equality before the law is thus purchased at the price of a certain indifference to temperament. It also gives predictability, since courts need not conduct a biography of every litigant.

Critics, however, have long suspected that the reasonable person is less neutral than advertised. A figure invented by judges is likely to resemble judges, and for much of legal history that meant propertied, educated men with settled routines. Feminist scholars pointed out that behaviour treated as unreasonable in a woman, such as fear on an empty road, might look entirely sensible once the statistics of assault are consulted. Provocation doctrine, built around the sudden rage of a man who has been insulted, struggled for years to accommodate a sustained abuse that ended in a slow-burning response. In each case the objection was not that a standard exists but that its content had been quietly fixed by the experience of one group.

Courts have answered unevenly. Some have adjusted the standard to the actor: a child is measured against children of like age and a professional against the skill of her calling, since reasonableness cannot sensibly ignore competence that has been voluntarily claimed. Others have resisted individualising further, fearing that a standard tailored to each defendant ceases to be a standard at all. The tension is real, for the law needs the reasonable person to be general enough to bind everyone and particular enough to be fair to someone. Perhaps the most honest view is that she is neither a discovery nor a fiction but a continuing negotiation, her features redrawn whenever a society learns whose experience it had left out.

1. Which of the following best expresses the central argument of the passage?

◯ **A.** The reasonable person is a judicial fiction that ought to be abandoned, because it cannot accommodate differences of gender, age or skill
◯ **B.** The reasonable person is an indispensable yet contested standard, whose content must be redrawn as overlooked experience is recognised
◯ **C.** Courts have consistently individualised the standard of care, so that every defendant is now judged against his own capacities and temperament
◯ **D.** The objectivity of the reasonable person secures equality before the law, so criticism of its content rests on a basic misunderstanding

2. Which of the following can be most reasonably inferred from the passage?

◯ **A.** A child who carelessly injures another should be held to the standard of an adult, since the law admits no adjustment for age or experience
◯ **B.** Insurers and employers are the only parties who benefit from the predictability that the objective standard of care is said to provide
◯ **C.** The law of provocation was abandoned once courts accepted that fear on an empty road might be perfectly sensible for a woman
◯ **D.** A professional who claims a skill she does not possess cannot rely on her personal inexperience to escape the standard of her calling

3. The author's attitude towards the reasonable person standard is best described as

◯ **A.** Appreciative of its function while alert to the partiality of its content, and hopeful that it can be improved
◯ **B.** Dismissive of its premises and sceptical that any objective standard of conduct could ever be made fair to individuals
◯ **C.** Neutrally descriptive throughout, avoiding any judgement on either the defenders or the critics of the standard of care
◯ **D.** Alarmed at its erosion and anxious that individualised standards will destroy the predictability on which courts depend

4. In the passage, the phrase 'less neutral than advertised' uses the word 'advertised' to mean

◯ **A.** sold through commercial publicity and display
◯ **B.** estimated by means of careful measurement
◯ **C.** commonly represented or claimed in public
◯ **D.** described in a hostile or mocking manner

5. The author mentions the law of provocation primarily in order to

◯ **A.** show how a standard drawn from one group's experience struggled to accommodate another's experience of the same event
◯ **B.** prove that criminal law, unlike the law of negligence, cannot rely on any objective standard of reasonable conduct
◯ **C.** argue that sudden rage is never a reasonable response and should therefore never be allowed to reduce a person's liability
◯ **D.** illustrate that courts deliberately designed the doctrine to favour women who suffer sustained abuse in their own homes

READING COMPREHENSION — HISTORY · COUNTING THE EMPIRE (Q6–Q10)

When the colonial state began to count its subjects, it believed it was merely recording what already existed. The decennial census, which assumed its modern form in 1881, asked Indians to state their religion, occupation, age and caste. Yet a question is never wholly innocent. To ask a person for a single caste name presupposes that one such name exists, that it is fixed, and that it can be p
scale of standing against all others.

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Pre-colonial social life offered less tidy material. Identities of varna and jati overlapped with those of sect, region, guild and kin; a weaver might be known by craft in one setting and by lineage in another. Claims to status were negotiable, and communities rose or fell in local esteem through marriage, patronage or military service. The census, by contrast, demanded a single entry in a single column, and what could not be entered could not be counted.

The most ambitious attempt at order came with Herbert Risley, who directed the census of 1901 and wished to rank castes by their social precedence. Thousands of petitions followed. Groups placed low pleaded for elevation, citing scripture, ancestry and custom, and some organised themselves into associations to press their case. In this way, historians such as Bernard Cohn and, more sharply, Nicholas Dirks have argued, the colonial state did not merely observe caste but gave it a new bureaucratic rigidity.

The thesis can be overstated. Caste hierarchy plainly existed long before 1881, and Indian elites, had classified people for centuries. Colonial officials relied heavily on Indian informants, whose own prejudices entered the tables. Susan Bayly and others therefore prefer a quieter claim: that colonial administration, by fixing the categories in print and attaching rights and recruitment to them, hardened what had been fluid and made caste a currency in a new political marketplace.

On this view the census was neither a mirror nor a mould but something like a lens that concentrated light already present. What emerged was a society more legible to its rulers and, in time, more conscious of itself as a set of competing interests. The lasting irony is that the instrument built to describe Indian society became one of the forces that reshaped it, and later generations of citizens inherited categories that no one had ever chosen.

6. Which of the following best summarises the main point of the passage?

◯ **A.** The colonial census was an accurate and neutral record of a caste system that had remained unchanged since antiquity in every region

◯ **B.** Caste was an invention of colonial administrators, who created it from nothing in order to divide and govern Indian society more easily

◯ **C.** The census did not invent caste but, by fixing and ranking fluid categories, hardened them and changed how groups saw themselves

◯ **D.** Indian informants, rather than colonial officials, were chiefly responsible for the rigid classification found in the printed census tables

7. The petitions that followed the census of 1901 can best be taken to suggest that

◯ **A.** Risley's ranking had been accepted without protest by every group, high or low, within the society that it claimed to describe

◯ **B.** communities regarded the official placement of their caste as having consequences worth contesting through organised effort

◯ **C.** scriptural and ancestral claims were entirely absent from pre-colonial disputes over status, which had rested on force alone

◯ **D.** the census was abandoned after 1901 because it provoked more disputes than the colonial administration could possibly resolve

8. With which of the following statements would the author most likely agree?

◯ **A.** Because hierarchies of caste existed before 1881, the census had no significant effect on the way communities viewed themselves

◯ **B.** Because the census altered social perceptions, the hierarchies of caste must have been wholly absent from India before 1881

◯ **C.** Because Indian informants supplied much of the data, the colonial state bears no responsibility for the rigidity of the categories

◯ **D.** Even if classification predated the census, printing the categories and attaching entitlements to them altered their social effect

9. In the passage, the phrase 'a currency in a new political marketplace' uses 'currency' to mean

◯ **A.** a medium carrying recognised value that can be exchanged for advantage

◯ **B.** a form of money issued by the state treasury and accepted for payment

◯ **C.** a belief that has recently become popular among educated people in society

◯ **D.** a unit used for measuring the output of a regional economy over a year

10. The fourth paragraph functions primarily to

◯ **A.** reject the arguments of Cohn and Dirks entirely and replace them with an opposite claim about the origins of caste

◯ **B.** introduce fresh evidence that the census of 1901 was never actually carried out in the manner that Risley wished

◯ **C.** summarise the argument so far before the author proceeds to a conclusion about the permanence of colonial categories

◯ **D.** qualify the preceding paragraph's strong thesis by noting earlier indigenous classification and the role of informants

SECTION — CRITICAL REASONING

CRITICAL REASONING — POLITICAL ECONOMY · THE BUFFER STOCK DIVIDEND (Q11–Q15)

Between 2012 and 2016 the price of pulses in the state of Marwara swung wildly, sometimes by forty per cent within a season, and consumers and farmers alike suffered. In 2017 the state government created a public buffer stock of pulses, purchasing from farmers when market prices fell below a floor and releasing the stock through ration shops when prices spiked. In the five years since, the seasonal variation in pulse prices has fallen to under twelve per cent. Commentators who dismiss the scheme as an expensive indulgence should confront this figure.

The benefits go beyond calmer prices. Farmers who once hesitated to plant pulses because a glut could ruin their returns now know that the state will buy at the floor, and the area under pulses has risen by a fifth. Households, in turn, spend a steadier share of their income on food. Traders have fewer reasons to hoard in expectation of a spike, since the state's released stock is certain to cap any rise. The scheme therefore corrects a market failure at three points of the chain: production, consumption and trade.

Critics reply that the programme costs the exchequer several hundred crore rupees a year in storage and procurement. That is true, but the cost must be set against the losses from unstable prices, which fall most heavily on the poorest and which no private actor has any incentive to insure against. A government that spends on flood barriers is not accused of waste in years without floods. Price stability is likewise a public good whose value is clearest in its absence, and a scheme should not be judged by the calm it produces as though calm were free.

The lesson for other states is plain. Wherever the prices of staples swing sharply, a buffer stock of the most volatile among them should be established, with a clear floor price and a transparent rule for release. The Marwara experience shows that such a mechanism steadies prices, expands supply and protects the vulnerable. States that delay are choosing continued volatility, and they wi one but themselves to blame when the next spike arrives and the poorest households once again pay for it first.

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11. Which of the following is the main conclusion of the argument?

◯ **A.** Marwara's pulse prices were more volatile between 2012 and 2016 than the prices of staples in any other state in the country
◯ **B.** Critics who object to the cost of the scheme are mistaken, because price stability resembles protection against floods in its value
◯ **C.** The area under pulses in Marwara has risen by a fifth because farmers now know the state will buy their produce at the floor
◯ **D.** States where staple prices swing sharply should create buffer stocks with a clear floor price and a transparent release rule

12. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

◯ **A.** The fall in price variation in Marwara was caused by the buffer stock and not by factors that would have operated without it
◯ **B.** Every other state faces pulse price swings as severe as those Marwara experienced and has the same capacity to store grain safely
◯ **C.** Private traders in Marwara were the sole cause of the price swings that the state experienced in the years between 2012 and 2016
◯ **D.** Pulses are the only staple whose prices can be steadied by a buffer stock operated under a floor price and a release rule

13. Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

◯ **A.** The cost of storing pulses in Marwara has risen steadily since 2017, because the stock must be held for longer than was expected
◯ **B.** Several commentators in other states have described the Marwara scheme as an expensive indulgence in their newspaper columns
◯ **C.** In 2017 the Centre began releasing imported pulses nationwide, and swings fell similarly in states with no buffer stock
◯ **D.** Most of the households in Marwara that buy pulses through ration shops belong to the poorest income groups in the state

14. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

◯ **A.** Pulse consumption per household in Marwara has remained broadly stable since the buffer stock was created in the year 2017
◯ **B.** A neighbouring state with similar rainfall and trade policy but no buffer stock still saw price swings of forty per cent after 2017
◯ **C.** Several traders in Marwara said before 2017 that they would reduce their hoarding if the state agreed to stabilise prices
◯ **D.** The buffer stock in Marwara has never been exhausted, and its holdings are audited every year by an independent public agency

15. The reasoning in the argument is most vulnerable to criticism on the ground that it

◯ **A.** attacks the motives of the critics instead of answering their objection that the scheme costs the exchequer a great deal of money
◯ **B.** treats a change that followed the scheme as proof that the scheme produced it, and extends the finding from one state to all
◯ **C.** relies on the authority of commentators whose expertise in agricultural markets has not been established by any evidence
◯ **D.** assumes that because a measure is costly it must be wasteful, ignoring the cost of leaving price swings uncorrected

CRITICAL REASONING — SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY POLICY · THE PATENT COUNT ILLUSION (Q16–Q20)

In 2019 the republic of Veldra, anxious to be seen as an innovation economy, halved the fee for filing a patent application and offered a tax credit to firms for every application lodged. The response was gratifying. Within four years annual patent filings had tripled, and ministers pointed to the figure in international forums as proof that the policy had unlocked a hidden reservoir of inventiveness. Yet the same four years tell a less flattering story. The number of Veldran patents licensed to other firms was unchanged, the share of patents cited by later inventions slipped, and the revenue that domestic firms earned from products based on new patents grew no faster than the economy as a whole.

It would be a mistake to treat these as separate disappointments. A patent is a legal claim, and a claim costs money to file and more to maintain. When the state lowers the price of filing and rewards firms for each application, it changes what a firm should do with a marginal idea. Ideas too slight to justify the old fee become worth filing, and ideas that were once protected by secrecy or by speed to market are now fenced off with paper. Indeed, patent attorneys in Veldra report that many new filings are variations of earlier ones, lodged chiefly to claim the credit. A rise in filings under these conditions measures a change in the incentive, not a change in the inventing.

This matters because patent counts are not harmless statistics. Governments allocate research budgets, rank universities and reward officials on them. If the indicator is inflated by the very policy that is judged by it, the country will learn the wrong lesson, and will keep funding the filing of patents when it should fund the work that makes patents valuable: laboratories, testing facilities and the long, uncertain business of turning prototypes into products.

The proper test of a science policy is therefore whether more useful things are being made, sold and built upon. By that test the Veldran fee cut has not worked, and the celebrated tripling should be set aside as a measure of success.

16. Which of the following is the main conclusion of the argument?

◯ **A.** The tripling of patent filings should not be treated as a measure of the success of the policy that Veldra adopted in 2019
◯ **B.** Veldra introduced its cut in filing fees in order to mislead international observers about the true inventiveness of its economy
◯ **C.** Governments should stop supporting patents altogether and should devote their research budgets only to laboratories and testing facilities
◯ **D.** Patent attorneys in Veldra are chiefly to blame for the rise in filings, since they lodged variations of earlier applications

17. Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

◯ **A.** No firm in Veldra would have filed a patent application in the absence of the reduced fee and the tax credit for each one
◯ **B.** Patent attorneys in Veldra have no financial interest in the number of applications that firms choose to lodge each year
◯ **C.** Licensing, citations and product revenue are better signs of useful invention than the raw count of applications filed
◯ **D.** Secrecy and speed to market are more effective ways of protecting inventions than any form of patent could possibly be

18. Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

◯ **A.** Veldra's neighbours also reduced their patent fees, and their annual filings rose by a comparable proportion over the same period
◯ **B.** Licensing and citations typically lag filings by about a decade, so four years of data cannot yet show the yield of extra filings
◯ **C.** Patent attorneys in Veldra charge more for drafting variations of earlier filings than for preparing applications for original inventions
◯ **D.** Ministers in Veldra have repeated the figure for tripled filings in international forums as evidence of the success of the policy

19. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

◯ **A.** Several universities in Veldra increased the number of research students they admitted in the years that followed the policy
◯ **B.** The government of Veldra has announced that it will review the tax credit after the presentation of the next national budget
◯ **C.** Some of the patents filed after 2019 have since been licensed to foreign firms in return for substantial fees each year
◯ **D.** Of filings made after 2019, a far larger share was abandoned before examination or citation than among earlier filings

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20. Which of the following most closely parallels the reasoning in the argument?

◯ **A.** A school lengthens its lunch break and attendance rises, so the headteacher concludes that longer breaks cause better attendance and recommends them to other schools

◯ **B.** A town builds a bypass and traffic in its centre falls, so the council concludes that the bypass reduced congestion and proposes to build another one nearby

◯ **C.** A city pays a bounty for each pest killed; reported kills rise while crop damage stays flat, so the city concludes the count reflects the bounty, not the pests

◯ **D.** A teacher notices that test scores rose in the term after homework was introduced, and concludes that homework improves results, though other things also changed

RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL

32 quick questions · not negatively marked

1. Which Article of the Constitution guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws?
2. Which Article inserted by the 86th Amendment makes education a fundamental right for children aged 6 to 14?
3. Which Article empowers Parliament to amend the Constitution?
4. Which case established that Parliament cannot alter the 'basic structure' of the Constitution?
5. Which Article did Dr Ambedkar call the 'heart and soul' of the Constitution?
6. Which Article abolishes untouchability?
7. Which Schedule of the Constitution contains the anti-defection law?
8. Which Part of the Constitution contains the Fundamental Duties, under Article 51A?
9. Who is the ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha?
10. What is the minimum age for membership of the Lok Sabha?
11. Which writ literally means 'you may have the body'?
12. Which tort case laid down the 'neighbour principle' of negligence?
13. Which English case laid down the rule of strict liability for escape of dangerous things from land?
14. What does the maxim 'res ipsa loquitur' mean?
15. What does the Latin term 'ultra vires' mean?
16. What does 'sub judice' mean?
17. What does 'actus reus' denote in criminal law?
18. Which section of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 defines murder?
19. Who was the Governor-General responsible for the Permanent Settlement of Bengal in 1793?
20. Which Governor-General is associated with the Doctrine of Lapse?
21. In which year was the Battle of Plassey fought?
22. Which session of the Indian National Congress declared Purna Swaraj as its goal, in 1929?
23. In which year did Gandhi lead the Dandi March?
24. Which ancient text on statecraft is attributed to Kautilya?
25. Who founded the Mauryan Empire?
26. Which Census year saw the first synchronous all-India census, from which the decennial series continues?
27. Choose the correct word: the head of a school is the principal or the principle?
28. What is the one word for 'a person who knows everything'?
29. What does the idiom 'a Pyrrhic victory' mean?
30. What is the antonym of 'benevolent'?
31. What does the idiom 'to burn the midnight oil' mean?
32. Which Article allows the President to impose President's Rule on failure of constitutional machinery in a State?

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