Daily RC & CR Sheet — 30 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 — ARTS & CULTURE · WHAT THE TRANSLATOR CARRIES ACROSS (Q1–Q5)

A poem in translation is often described as a loss. The familiar Italian quip that the translator is a traitor, traduttore, traditore, assumes that a poem is a fixed object which must arrive intact or not at all, and that every departure from the original is a small act of theft. By this measure the translator can only fail, and the best she can hope for is to fail gracefully. Such a view has the merit of modesty, but it rests on a picture of poetry that few poets would recognise.

Consider what a poem actually is before it is translated. It is a score as much as a statement: its line breaks, its rhymes, its pauses and its echoes of earlier poems all instruct the reader how to perform it. She hears, behind every word, the other poems it answers and the speech of the street it borrows. The translator, working into another language, cannot carry these associations over, because they do not exist there. What she can do is decide which of the poem's many effects she will treat as essential and rebuild those from the materials available to her. Translation is therefore less a transfer than a series of choices, each of which closes off another.

This explains why great poems are retranslated every generation without any translation being declared final. Each version is a reading made under particular pressures: a taste for plain speech, a distrust of ornament, a wish to make a distant culture sound as ordinary as one's own. Far from being a defect, this is how an old work stays alive; a text that no longer needed interpreting would be a text no one was reading.

None of this licenses carelessness. A translation that flattens an ambiguity or invents a flourish can be judged wrong, just as a performance can be judged wrong, and the standard is fidelity to the poem's effect rather than to its dictionary. The translator does not smuggle the poem across a border like contraband, hoping the guards will not notice what has changed. She stands closer to a musician handed an old score, who owes the composer her seriousness and the audience her own voice.

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

◯ **A.** Translation inevitably betrays a poem, so serious readers of poetry should avoid translated versions and rely on the original language alone
◯ **B.** Translation is an interpretive performance of a poem's effects, so repeated retranslation is natural and fidelity remains a real, judgeable standard
◯ **C.** Each generation's translation improves on the one before, so the most recent version of a classic poem is always the most faithful one
◯ **D.** Translators are free to impose their own taste on a poem, because fidelity to the original cannot be meaningfully judged by any reader

2. It can be inferred from the passage that a translator who reproduces every dictionary meaning of a poem's words

◯ **A.** would necessarily produce the best available translation, since the dictionary is the only objective standard that any critic can apply without exception
◯ **B.** must have failed, because no word in one language can ever carry the same dictionary meaning as a word in another language
◯ **C.** would satisfy readers of every generation, since literal accuracy removes the pressures of taste that make later versions differ
◯ **D.** could still be judged unfaithful if the version loses the effects, such as rhythm and ambiguity, that the poem produced in its original readers

3. The tone of the author towards those who regard translation as betrayal is best described as

◯ **A.** measured and corrective, granting the worry its modesty but patiently revising the picture of poetry on which it rests
◯ **B.** scornful and dismissive, treating the worry about translation as a childish prejudice unworthy of serious literary argument
◯ **C.** wistful and regretful, accepting that something irreplaceable is always lost and mourning the distance from the original
◯ **D.** detached and neutral, setting out rival views of translation without showing any preference for either side of the debate

4. As used in the passage, the phrase 'None of this licenses carelessness' most nearly means that

◯ **A.** no part of the argument grants translators an official document that entitles them to publish their versions of a poem
◯ **B.** every part of the argument obliges translators to register their changes formally before presenting the version to readers
◯ **C.** nothing in the argument gives translators permission to work casually or to ignore the demands of the original poem
◯ **D.** none of the argument compels translators to abandon accuracy in favour of the tastes of their own generation of readers

5. The author's image of the translator as a musician handed an old score serves chiefly to

◯ **A.** replace the picture of covert smuggling with one of shared responsibility, in which duty to the source and a voice of one's own both count
◯ **B.** show that translators, like musicians, need long formal training before they can be trusted with a great work of poetry
◯ **C.** suggest that a poem, like a piece of music, cannot be understood at all by anyone who does not read the original language
◯ **D.** argue that translation is a lesser art than composition, since the translator always works from material created by someone else without exception

READING COMPREHENSION — ENVIRONMENT & NATURE · THE SEA WE REMEMBER (Q6–Q10)

In 1995 the fisheries scientist Daniel Pauly noticed a quiet flaw in how his profession measured decline. Each generation of researchers, he observed, takes as normal the state of the ecosystem it first encountered, and compares later change against that. A young biologist who begins work on a coastal lagoon when cod are already scarce records the scarcity as the natural condition. Pauly called this drift the shifting baseline, and argued that it makes serious degradation appear in the record as a series of small, unremarkable changes.

The syndrome is not confined to scientists. Interviews with fishers in the Gulf of California, for instance, found that the old name a dozen species of large fish once common near their villages, while the youngest could name only a handful and reg

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rest as folklore. Neither group was lying, and neither was ignorant. A conservation target built on the testimony of the young would aim at restoring a reef that was already a ruin.

Remedies exist, though none is simple. Historical ecology draws on ships' logs, customs records, menus, and even photographs of fishermen posing with their catch to reconstruct what earlier seas contained. Such sources are patchy and sometimes boastful, and they cannot be read without caution. But they offer something no contemporary survey can: a baseline that was not set by the very decline it is meant to measure. Where such evidence has been gathered, it has often shown that the loss was larger than modern data suggested, and that targets once thought ambitious were in fact timid.

A deeper difficulty remains. Even a perfectly recovered baseline does not settle what to restore, since an ecosystem of a thousand years ago, before intensive human use, may no longer be reachable under changed climates and altered rivers. The lesson of the shifting baseline is therefore not that the past must be recreated, but that the standard by which we judge the present should be chosen openly and argued for, instead of being inherited by default from whatever our own youth happened to contain. A choice made knowingly can be defended or revised; one made unconsciously cannot even be examined.

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

◯ **A.** Fisheries scientists have knowingly understated the scale of decline, so the oral testimony of elderly fishers should replace the scientific record entirely

◯ **B.** Historical records are more reliable than modern surveys, and conservation should always aim to restore ecosystems to their state a thousand years ago

◯ **C.** Because each generation takes the ecosystem it first met as normal, decline is understated; historical evidence helps, but the target to restore must still be chosen openly

◯ **D.** Ecosystem decline is largely an illusion created by the nostalgia of older observers, who remember abundance that was never actually as great as claimed

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

◯ **A.** A recovery target drawn from present-day data may look demanding yet still fall well short of what earlier seas actually contained

◯ **B.** Historical sources such as ships' logs and menus are entirely free of exaggeration, and so can safely replace every modern survey method

◯ **C.** Younger fishers are less honest than older ones, which is why their accounts of local fish species differ so sharply from the older accounts

◯ **D.** Conservation targets should be set to match the ecosystem as it stood a thousand years ago, before intensive human use began anywhere

8. The author's attitude towards historical ecology as a remedy is best described as

◯ **A.** uncritically enthusiastic, regarding historical sources as a complete cure that removes every difficulty in setting conservation targets

◯ **B.** openly sceptical, holding that records such as menus and photographs are too unreliable to have any place in scientific work

◯ **C.** indifferent, mentioning the method only in passing and offering no judgment on its value to those who study ecosystems

◯ **D.** appreciative but cautious, valuing its independence from the decline while warning that its sources are patchy and its goals unsettled

9. In the final sentence of the passage, the phrase 'inherited by default' most nearly suggests a standard that is

◯ **A.** lost through a failure to repay what was formally owed to earlier generations

◯ **B.** accepted automatically, without anyone having actively chosen or examined it

◯ **C.** passed on by law from older researchers to younger ones in a formal succession

◯ **D.** assigned randomly by chance to whichever researcher happens to begin work first

10. Which of the following best describes the function of the final paragraph?

◯ **A.** It withdraws the claim of the opening paragraph by conceding that Pauly's account of the shifting baseline was mistaken in its main respects in every case without exception

◯ **B.** It repeats the examples from the Gulf of California to show that the oldest fishers were the most reliable guides to restoration

◯ **C.** It complicates the proposed remedy by showing that a recovered baseline does not itself fix the goal, and so turns the argument towards explicit, defended choice

◯ **D.** It introduces a new species-specific plan which replaces historical ecology as the author's chosen method for setting recovery targets

SECTION — CRITICAL REASONING

CRITICAL REASONING — LAW & RIGHTS · MORE JUDGES, SAME QUEUE (Q11–Q15)

Every few years, a commission on judicial delay recommends the same remedy: appoint more judges. The logic seems irresistible. A district court in the state of Karvana has one judge for every seventy thousand residents, against a recommended one for every twenty thousand, and its civil docket has swollen to more than four lakh pending suits. Fill the vacancies, the argument runs, and the backlog will shrink. Nobody disputes that the courts are short of judges; the question is whether judges are the shortage that matters.

The record of Karvana suggests otherwise. Between 2008 and 2018 the state raised the sanctioned strength of its district judiciary by a third and filled nearly all the new posts. Over the same decade, the number of cases pending per judge did not fall; it rose slightly. An analysis of the court registers explains why. The average civil suit in Karvana is adjourned eleven times before judgment, and in nine out of ten cases the adjournment is granted at the request of a party who has not filed a document on time. A new judge inherits the same practice as the old one. Her court, like theirs, is scheduled for forty hearings a day, of which perhaps eight proceed.

Adding judges to such a system is like widening a motorway without changing the toll booth. The bottleneck is not the number of people who can decide a case but the number of hearings wasted before it is ready to be decided. A procedural code that limited adjournments to two per party, enforced by costs, would shorten the life of a suit at no great expense to the public purse. Judges are of course needed, but the evidence shows that more of them cannot, on their own, bring the queue down.

Therefore the state should stop treating vacancies as the root of delay and should reform its adjournment practice first. C
hearings are reliably held will additional judges convert into additional judgments. Until then, each new appointment will sim

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queue of courtrooms in which the files are never ready, the lawyers are never prepared, and the litigant, who waited years for a hearing, goes home with another date.

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

◯ **A.** The number of judges in Karvana is already adequate for its population, so no further posts need to be sanctioned in the district courts

◯ **B.** Adjournments are granted in nine out of ten cases because judges in Karvana are unwilling to refuse the requests of the parties before them

◯ **C.** The commission on judicial delay should withdraw its recommendation of more judges because the cost of new appointments is too high for the state

◯ **D.** Karvana should reform its adjournment practice before relying on additional judges to reduce its backlog of pending civil suits

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

◯ **A.** Every pending civil suit in Karvana has been delayed by at least one adjournment sought by a party that failed to file a document

◯ **B.** The high rate of adjournments is not itself caused by too few judges handling too many cases in the district courts of Karvana

◯ **C.** Procedural reform is cheaper than the appointment of judges in every state where the courts are afflicted by a large backlog

◯ **D.** Parties who ask for adjournments in Karvana do so deliberately, in order to postpone the judgment that is likely to go against them

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

◯ **A.** In the neighbouring state of Dalvar, which limited adjournments to two per party in 2012, the cases pending per judge did not fall over the following six years

◯ **B.** Judges in Karvana also hear criminal matters, which take priority over civil suits on any given day when both types of case are listed

◯ **C.** The sanctioned strength of the high court in Karvana was not raised in the decade during which the district judiciary expanded by a third

◯ **D.** Litigants in Karvana report in surveys that they would rather have a hearing that proceeds than one that is merely fixed for an early date

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

◯ **A.** Karvana's lawyers have asked the bar council to publish a list of the judges who most often allow adjournments to be granted

◯ **B.** The commission on judicial delay has made the same recommendation for appointing more judges in each of its last four reports

◯ **C.** Within Karvana, the few courts that adopted strict limits on adjournments on their own initiative disposed of far more cases per judge than comparable courts

◯ **D.** The number of civil suits filed in Karvana's district courts has been rising by roughly four per cent a year since the year 2008 in every case without exception

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

◯ **A.** assumes that the commission's recommendation was followed in full, when the passage reports that only some of the new posts were filled

◯ **B.** relies on a ratio of judges to residents without stating how many residents were served by Karvana's district courts during the decade

◯ **C.** infers from the fact that most adjournments are sought by parties that judges grant such requests without making any scrutiny of the reasons

◯ **D.** infers that added judges cannot help from a decade of unchanged pendency per judge, without considering that new filings may have grown over the same decade

CRITICAL REASONING — ENVIRONMENT · PAYING NOT TO BURN (Q16–Q20)

Each October the farmers of the Sutlej plain set fire to the stubble left after the rice harvest, and the smoke settles over the cities downwind. In 2019 the state of Pandara responded with a scheme that paid every farmer a fixed sum per hectare for not burning, the payment to be made after satellite images confirmed that the field had stayed clear. Farmers had long said that they burn because clearing the straw by machine costs more than they can afford, and that the short interval between harvest and the next sowing leaves no time for anything slower. Officials were pleased with the outcome. In the first year, recorded fires in Pandara fell by 58 per cent, and ministers announced that incentives had succeeded where penalties had failed for a decade.

The announcement deserves more caution than it received. The scheme was introduced in a year of unusually late monsoon rain, which kept the straw damp and made it difficult to light. Moreover, the fall in recorded fires was measured by the same satellites that determine eligibility for payment. A farmer who knows that a fire detected between ten in the morning and four in the afternoon will cost him his payment has every reason to burn in the evening or after dark, when the passes of the satellite are rare. Sure enough, the pollution monitors of the downwind cities recorded no matching improvement in air quality during the same weeks.

None of this proves that the scheme failed. But it shows that a reported decline in fires is exactly what we should expect in two very different situations: one in which farmers have genuinely changed their practice, and one in which they have merely changed the hour of the burning. The state's own evidence cannot tell these apart. Before other states are urged to copy the model of Pandara, someone must show that the smoke has actually diminished, rather than that its detection has.

The claim of the ministers that incentives have succeeded is therefore premature. A policy whose success is certified by the very instrument that its beneficiaries have reason to evade has not been tested; it has only been announced, and announcement is cheap.

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

◯ **A.** The fall in recorded fires does not show that Pandara's incentive scheme has actually reduced stubble burning or the smoke reaching the cities downwind

◯ **B.** The incentive scheme in Pandara has failed, because farmers have shifted their burning to evening hours when satellites seldom pass overhead

◯ **C.** Penalties are a more dependable instrument than incentives for controlling stubble burning, as the ministers' own experience in Pandara demonstrates

◯ **D.** The late monsoon rain of 2019, rather than the payment scheme, was entirely responsible for the large fall in the fires re Pandara

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

◯ **A.** The monsoon rain of 2019 fell evenly across Pandara and the states around it, wetting the straw in all of those fields to the same extent

◯ **B.** Every farmer in Pandara who claimed the payment for the year had in fact refrained from burning stubble on every hectare of his land

◯ **C.** Smoke from the fields of Pandara contributes enough to the air of the downwind cities that a real fall in burning would show up in their monitors

◯ **D.** Pollution monitors in the downwind cities are a more accurate means of detecting fires than are the satellites used by the state government without exception

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

◯ **A.** Pandara's recorded fires had already fallen by a fifth in the year before the scheme began, when no incentive was offered to any farmer on every reading of it

◯ **B.** Independent ground surveys of sampled fields in Pandara, including night-time visits, found burn scars on far fewer plots than in the previous year

◯ **C.** Payments under the scheme were made to farmers within sixty days of the date on which the satellite images confirmed the clearance

◯ **D.** Many farmers in Pandara said that the payment was too small to cover the cost of clearing the straw by any method other than fire

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

◯ **A.** Rainfall in Pandara in 2019 was close to the average for the previous ten years, and the straw in most fields was dry during the burning season in every case

◯ **B.** The payment per hectare under the scheme exceeded the cost of the cheapest alternative method of clearing the straw from the fields of Pandara

◯ **C.** The satellites used by the state of Pandara are capable of detecting fires of every size at any hour, whether by day or by night

◯ **D.** An independent night-time sensor in Pandara recorded a sharp rise in fires between sunset and dawn in 2019, even as the fires seen by day declined

20. Which of the following arguments is most similar in its reasoning to the argument above?

◯ **A.** A factory says output rose after it introduced a bonus, but a seasonal peak in demand arrived in the same month; so the bonus must have been responsible for the rise in output

◯ **B.** A hospital says infections fell by half after it withheld bonuses from wards reporting them, but the figures come from the wards, and nearby clinics saw no matching fall; so its claim of success is premature

◯ **C.** A city says crime fell after a new police chief took charge, but the chief had served for only a week at the time; so the chief deserves no credit whatever for the fall

◯ **D.** A firm says its new advertising campaign raised sales, but sales are counted by the firm's own staff; so the campaign must have failed to raise sales at all

RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL

32 quick questions · not negatively marked

1. Which Article guarantees the right to life and personal liberty? _____
2. Which Article guarantees the right to constitutional remedies? _____
3. Which Article provides for the Election Commission of India? _____
4. Who presides over a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament? _____
5. Which Article provides for the Finance Commission? _____
6. What is the maximum gap permitted between two sessions of Parliament? _____
7. Which writ is issued to quash an order of a lower court or tribunal? _____
8. Which writ commands a public official to perform a public duty? _____
9. Which Article prohibits human trafficking and forced labour? _____
10. Who appoints the Chief Justice of India? _____
11. What does the term 'mens rea' mean? _____
12. What does 'amicus curiae' mean? _____
13. What does 'locus standi' mean? _____
14. Which 1978 case held that the procedure under Article 21 must be just, fair and reasonable? _____
15. The Vishaka guidelines of 1997 concern which issue? _____
16. Which 1971 international convention protects wetlands? _____
17. Which 1987 protocol seeks to protect the ozone layer? _____
18. Which 2015 agreement aims to hold warming well below 2 degrees Celsius? _____
19. What does COP stand for in climate negotiations? _____
20. Which Indian Act of 1972 protects wild animals and plants? _____
21. Which body, set up in 2010, hears environmental cases in India? _____
22. Which greenhouse gas is released in large quantities by paddy fields and cattle? _____
23. Which 1992 Rio convention deals with the conservation of species and ecosystems? _____
24. Which figure of speech is in 'The wind whispered through the trees'? _____
25. Which figure of speech is in 'He was as brave as a lion'? _____
26. Which figure of speech is in 'Time is a thief'? _____
27. Which figure of speech combines contradictory terms, as in 'deafening silence'? _____
28. Who wrote 'The God of Small Things'? _____
29. Who wrote 'The Discovery of India'? _____
30. Who wrote 'Gitanjali'? _____
31. What is the one word for 'fear of open or crowded spaces'? _____
32. What is the antonym of 'prolific'? _____

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