# Daily RC & CR Sheet — 31 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.
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## SECTION — READING COMPREHENSION

### READING COMPREHENSION — POPULAR SCIENCE · HOW JAMS FORM FROM NOTHING (Q1–Q5)

Anyone who has crawled through a motorway queue only to find, at its head, no accident, no lane closure and no obvious cause has met the phantom jam. For decades, traffic engineers treated such stoppages as puzzling exceptions, assuming that every jam must be traced to a bottleneck or a collision. The assumption was reasonable but wrong. In 2008, a Japanese team arranged twenty-two cars on a circular track and asked the drivers to hold a steady pace. Then, with no prompting, a wave of braking appeared, travelled backwards through the line, and brought several cars to a halt.

The explanation lies in the arithmetic of reaction. When traffic is dense, each driver watches only the car ahead and adjusts speed after a slight delay. A small tap on the brakes by one driver forces the next to brake a little harder, because she has already closed the gap and must now shed the difference as well. Each successive driver overshoots by a margin, so the disturbance grows as it propagates. By the tenth or twentieth car, a flicker of hesitation has become a full stop. Meanwhile the wave itself moves against the flow of traffic, which is why jams seem to creep backwards towards drivers who have not yet reached them.

What makes the phenomenon scientifically interesting is that no individual is at fault. The jam is an emergent property: it belongs to the system of drivers, not to any one of them. This has an awkward consequence for remedies. Urging motorists to drive more carefully achieves little, since the instability arises even among careful drivers whose delays are perfectly ordinary. Widening a road may merely postpone the density at which waves begin to form.

Mathematicians have therefore looked for interventions that act on the pattern rather than on the person. In field trials, a single vehicle driven by software and holding a smooth, slightly slower speed was inserted among twenty human-driven cars. The lone vehicle refused to chase the gap ahead of it, absorbing small disturbances instead of amplifying them, and fuel consumption across the whole stream fell noticeably. The finding is counterintuitive: the way to move traffic faster is sometimes for one car to leave a larger gap and decline to hurry. Yet researchers caution that such results come from controlled settings with few vehicles, and that real roads add complexities that no ring-track can reproduce.

**1. Which of the following best states the central point of the passage?**

◯ **A.** Phantom jams are caused by careless drivers, so stricter enforcement of safe following distances is the surest way to prevent them on motorways

◯ **B.** Phantom jams emerge from ordinary driver delays acting together, so remedies must target the traffic pattern, and early trials favour smoother individual vehicles

◯ **C.** Road widening has been shown in field trials to eliminate phantom jams entirely, although software-driven vehicles may prove cheaper to deploy in practice under any kind of traffic conditions

◯ **D.** Traffic engineers were right to seek a bottleneck behind every jam, but the Japanese track experiment of 2008 was too small to confirm their assumption

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

◯ **A.** A stretch of road with no bottleneck, collision or closure cannot develop a stoppage so long as every driver reacts promptly to the car ahead of them

◯ **B.** Software-driven vehicles would remove phantom jams entirely once they make up even a small share of the vehicles that use any real motorway

◯ **C.** The speed at which a braking wave travels backwards depends chiefly on how sharply the first driver in the line applies the brakes

◯ **D.** A road can remain free-flowing at low density and still produce stoppages with no outside cause once traffic grows dense enough

**3. According to the passage, why does a small tap on the brakes grow into a full stop?**

◯ **A.** Each following driver must brake a little harder than the one ahead, so the disturbance is amplified as it passes down the line of cars

◯ **B.** Drivers farther back cannot see the lights of the first car and therefore brake late, which forces them to stop completely at the head

◯ **C.** Drivers in dense traffic deliberately slow down to widen the gap, and this habit compounds into a queue that forms at the front of the jam

◯ **D.** The wave travels forward with the flow of traffic and gathers up cars that are already moving slowly because of a bottleneck further on

**4. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the researchers' suggestion that a single smooth-driving vehicle can reduce stoppages on real roads?**

◯ **A.** On the trial track, the software-driven vehicle's own fuel consumption was higher than that of most of the human-driven cars that surrounded it during the course of the field trials

◯ **B.** Phantom jams are observed less often on tracks that carry few vehicles than on motorways, although they are known to form on both kinds of road

◯ **C.** On busy roads with frequent merging, drivers behind a slower vehicle usually overtake it, so its smoothing effect never reaches the cars further back

◯ **D.** The 2008 experiment in Japan used drivers who were asked to hold a steady pace instead of driving in whatever manner they would normally choose

**5. Which of the following situations is structurally most analogous to the phantom jam as the author describes it?**

◯ **A.** With no adverse news, each trader in a market sells a little more than the one before in response to a falling price, until becomes a rout

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◯ **B.** A factory floor falls behind schedule because one machine breaks down, and every worker downstream must wait until a technician has repaired it and normal work can resume
◯ **C.** A crowd leaving a stadium moves slowly because only one gate has been opened, so a long queue builds up behind the narrow exit
◯ **D.** A rumour reaches every house in a village because one resident invents it and deliberately repeats it to everybody that she happens to meet

**READING COMPREHENSION — PSYCHOLOGY & MIND · REMEMBERING IS REWRITING (Q6–Q10)**

The common picture of memory is that of a library: experiences are shelved, and recall consists of fetching the right volume and reading it. On this view, an old memory, once retrieved, is returned to the shelf unchanged. Neuroscience has dismantled that picture. Experiments on rats in the early 2000s showed that a consolidated fear memory, when reactivated, becomes temporarily unstable and must be stored again through a process called reconsolidation. If protein synthesis is blocked during the short window that follows retrieval, the memory fails to be re-stored and is weakened.

The implication is unsettling: remembering is not a read-only operation. Every act of recall is also an act of rewriting, in which the memory is reopened, can absorb whatever information is present at that moment, and is saved again in its updated form. Elizabeth Loftus's older studies of eyewitnesses, in which a leading question altered what people claimed to have seen, now look less like a curiosity of suggestion and more like a predictable consequence of how storage works. The mind does not keep a faithful record; it keeps the most recent version of a reconstruction.

Clinicians have been quick to see therapeutic promise. If a painful memory can be reopened, perhaps it can be re-stored with its emotional charge reduced. Small trials have paired the recall of a traumatic event with a drug that dampens stress responses, and some participants reported that the memory remained but no longer provoked the same physical alarm. Others ask whether recalling the event in a calm setting might achieve the same without drugs.

Caution is nevertheless warranted. Reconsolidation appears to be restricted to certain memories and certain conditions: very old or very strong memories seem resistant, and the window of vulnerability is narrow. Results in human beings have been less consistent than those in animals, and some failures to replicate point to details of timing that researchers do not yet control. There is also an ethical dimension. A technique able to soften the memory of abuse could in principle be used to blunt a witness's recollection of it, and the line between treatment and tampering would be drawn by whoever controls the clinic. The scientific picture is therefore neither a cure nor a threat, but a reminder that memory, like testimony, is an account given in the present about the past.

**6.** The passage is chiefly concerned with
◯ **A.** defending the library model of memory against recent experiments on rats, whose findings the author regards as unreliable for human beings, and treats reconsolidation as a passing fashion in neuroscience
◯ **B.** showing that drugs which dampen stress can erase painful memories, and urging that such treatment be adopted widely in clinics at once
◯ **C.** explaining that recall reopens and rewrites a memory, and weighing the therapeutic promise of this against scientific limits and ethical risks
◯ **D.** tracing eyewitness research from Loftus's studies to the modern clinic, in order to argue that testimony given in court is always unreliable

**7.** The author's treatment of Loftus's eyewitness studies suggests that the author regards them as
◯ **A.** refuted by the reconsolidation research, which shows that a leading question cannot change what a person afterwards remembers
◯ **B.** findings that gain a mechanism from reconsolidation and so seem less like a curiosity of suggestion and more like an expected result
◯ **C.** evidence that eyewitnesses lie deliberately when questioned, a pattern which reconsolidation research has since confirmed in the laboratory
◯ **D.** a minor episode in the history of psychology that has no bearing on how storage works, though it remains of some interest to specialists

**8.** The author's attitude towards the therapeutic uses of reconsolidation is best described as
◯ **A.** enthusiastic endorsement, based on consistent success of the technique in every human trial reported so far
◯ **B.** dismissive scepticism, based on the repeated failure of animal experiments to demonstrate the effect at all and on nothing else whatever
◯ **C.** neutral detachment, since the author declines to offer any judgment at all on the prospects of the technique
◯ **D.** guarded interest, recognising real promise while insisting on the limits of the evidence and the ethical risks

**9.** Which of the following is NOT supported by the passage?
◯ **A.** Reconsolidation has been reliably reproduced in human beings for every kind of memory, including very old and very strong ones
◯ **B.** The period during which a reactivated memory can be altered is short, and the effect appears to depend upon careful timing
◯ **C.** Some trials have combined the recall of a traumatic event with a drug that reduces the body's stress response, as a way of testing whether the memory could be softened
◯ **D.** A technique that softens the memory of abuse could in principle also be used to dull a witness's recollection of that abuse

**10.** The closing statement that 'memory, like testimony, is an account given in the present about the past' most nearly implies that
◯ **A.** memories are fabricated entirely, so that none of them can be trusted in a court of law or in a clinical setting
◯ **B.** a memory is shaped by the circumstances of its telling, so each recall is an interpretation made now and not a replay of the past
◯ **C.** testimony is more reliable than memory because witnesses are examined under oath and can be questioned by both parties
◯ **D.** reconsolidation has solved the problem of unreliable testimony by allowing clinicians to correct false memories in witnesses

## SECTION — CRITICAL REASONING

**CRITICAL REASONING — SOCIETY & CULTURE · THE LIBRARY LEDGER (Q11–Q15)**

When the municipal corporation proposed merging three of its eleven branch libraries into a central facility, its case rested o
table. Annual book issues across the three branches had fallen by forty per cent in six years, and the cost of each issue, onc
staff were counted, had more than doubled. A body entrusted with public money, the commissioner argued, cannot go on s
buildings that people have stopped using.



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The table is accurate, and the conclusion it is meant to support does not follow. A book issue is the easiest use of a library to count, which is not the same as being the most important. Footfall records kept by the same branches show that daily visits fell by only eight per cent over the period, and the reading rooms of two of the three branches are full from mid-morning. They are full of students who have no quiet table at home, pensioners who come for the newspapers, and job-seekers filling in online forms that they cannot manage on a phone. None of these people borrows a book, so none of them appears in the commissioner's table.

There is a further difficulty. Over the same six years the corporation halved the acquisitions budget of these branches, so that the shelves now hold few titles published after 2016. A library that stops buying books will see fewer books issued whether or not its neighbourhood has stopped reading; to cite the fall in issues as evidence of waning demand is to blame the readers for a decision taken at the corporation's own desk. The doubling of cost per issue is partly the same arithmetic: the denominator shrank because the stock was starved, while rent and salaries did not.

None of this shows that the three branches must be kept exactly as they are. If a proper survey, counting every kind of use, finds that the buildings serve few people, a merger would be defensible. But consolidation is hard to reverse, and a central library six kilometres away is no substitute for a room that a child can walk to. The sensible course is to measure first, and to fund the shelves before pronouncing a verdict on them.

**11. Which of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the passage?**

◯ **A.** The three branches should be merged into the central facility because their book issues have fallen sharply and their cost per issue has more than doubled

◯ **B.** The corporation's figures on book issues are inaccurate and must be collected again before any decision about the branch libraries is taken by it

◯ **C.** Libraries ought to be valued chiefly as places of study and job-seeking, and not as sources of books, as their changing use now clearly shows

◯ **D.** The case for merging the branches is unproven, because the corporation's measure ignores other uses and was itself affected by its own funding choices

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

◯ **A.** A fall in book issues is a reliable sign that the branches now provide less value to their neighbourhoods than they once did

◯ **B.** Merging libraries always reduces the cost of each book issued, whatever the location and size of the central facility concerned

◯ **C.** The number of people visiting the three branches has fallen by at least as much as the number of books they have issued

◯ **D.** Public money ought to be spent only on services which are used by a majority of the residents of the city that pays for them

**13. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's claim that the fall in issues reflects the corporation's own funding decisions?**

◯ **A.** Footfall at the three branches is highest in the month before the main competitive examinations, and lowest in the summer holidays

◯ **B.** The rent the corporation pays for the three buildings has risen faster in the last six years than the rent of the other eight branches

◯ **C.** Libraries elsewhere in the city whose acquisitions budgets were left untouched recorded falls in book issues of about the same size

◯ **D.** The commissioner's table correctly records the number of books issued at each of the three branches in every one of the six years

**14. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's claim that book issues understate the use made of the branches?**

◯ **A.** Book issues at the central library have risen by a similar proportion over the same six years in which the three branches declined

◯ **B.** A count on an ordinary weekday found that the reading rooms of the three branches held several times more people than had borrowed books that day

◯ **C.** Most of the books that were issued from the three branches during the six years were returned within the normal loan period

◯ **D.** The rent per square metre of the three branch libraries is lower than that of private reading rooms that operate in the same areas

**15. Which of the following arguments is most similar in its pattern of reasoning to the author's?**

◯ **A.** A critic rejects a plan to close a clinic by showing that the cost figures quoted in support of closure were miscalculated by the hospital's accountants and presented to the public as final

◯ **B.** A critic rejects a plan to close a stadium because it hosts few matches, by showing that it also hosts concerts, examinations and vaccination drives

◯ **C.** A critic rejects a plan to close a bus route because its ridership has fallen, by showing that the operator cut it to one bus a day just before that fall and was never restored afterwards

◯ **D.** A critic rejects a plan to close a village school for low enrolment, by showing that its register omits children who attend meals and evening classes, and that enrolment fell once teachers were not replaced

**CRITICAL REASONING — HEALTH POLICY · THE WAITING-TIME MIRACLE (Q16–Q20)**

Over two years, the district hospital at Rampur cut the median wait for a specialist consultation from nine days to three. The state health department has hailed the result as proof that the performance bonus introduced there, paid to specialists whose average waiting time falls below a fixed target, works, and it intends to extend the scheme to every district hospital in the state. A target met so conspicuously, the department's note says, is a target that has changed behaviour.

It has indeed changed behaviour, but the department has not asked which behaviour. A waiting-time average can be improved in two ways: by seeing the same patients faster, or by seeing different patients. The hospital's own registers show the second at work. Over the two years, referrals from Rampur to the medical college, ninety kilometres away, rose from about one in twelve specialist cases to one in four, and the share of consultations involving a complicated diagnosis fell by almost a third. A specialist who is paid for short waits has every reason to treat the straightforward case at once and to pass on the difficult one, which leaves the queue the moment the referral slip is written and so stops counting against him.

Nobody should be surprised. Any measure tied to money invites the people measured to learn what it covers, and what it omits. The omission here is the patient whose condition needs the specialist most. For such a patient, the three-day wait at Rampur is followed by a journey, a second queue and possibly a third, none of which appears in the figures the department celebrates. The sch
therefore be making the average patient happier while making the sickest patient slower to reach treatment.

To say so is not to condemn bonuses. A scheme that paid for the time from first contact to completed treatment, countin
patients to the end of their journey, would reward what the department says it wants. Until that is measured, spreading th

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model across the state would spread its blind spot with it. Public money is better spent on finding out what the figure conceals than on extending a scheme whose success is certified only by the number it was designed to move.

**16. Which of the following best expresses the author's main conclusion?**

◯ **A.** The Rampur result does not show that the bonus improves care, and extending the scheme before measuring outcomes for referred patients would be unwise

◯ **B.** Performance bonuses for specialists should be abolished in every district hospital, because they teach doctors to avoid the patients who are hardest to treat

◯ **C.** The fall in the median waiting time at Rampur is a statistical error which the hospital's own registers have already corrected for the department

◯ **D.** The medical college ninety kilometres from Rampur should be given the resources it needs to treat all of the complicated cases that the district hospitals refer

**17. The department's reasoning assumes which of the following?**

◯ **A.** Specialists at Rampur would have refused to treat complicated cases at all in the absence of any bonus being offered for short waits

◯ **B.** Patients at Rampur care more about a short wait than about the quality of the treatment that the specialist eventually provides

◯ **C.** The fall in the median wait reflects better service to the patients who needed it and not merely a change in whom the specialists see

◯ **D.** Referrals to the medical college are made only for the convenience of the specialist and are never in the interest of the patient

**18. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's argument that the scheme may make the sickest patients slower to reach treatment?**

◯ **A.** Specialists at Rampur report that the bonus has made them far more conscious than before of how long their patients are waiting

◯ **B.** The medical college operates a fast track for referred cases, so a patient referred from Rampur is treated sooner than one who earlier waited at Rampur

◯ **C.** The median, unlike the mean, is unaffected by a small number of patients who experience very long waits in the data collected

◯ **D.** Other states that have introduced waiting-time bonuses have not yet published any figures on the proportion of patients they refer onwards

**19. The department's reasoning is most vulnerable to which of the following criticisms?**

◯ **A.** It relies on the median waiting time, which conceals the very long waits experienced by a small number of the patients involved

◯ **B.** It assumes that what is true of one district hospital must also be true of every other hospital in a large and varied state

◯ **C.** It appeals to the opinion of the specialists who receive the bonus instead of offering evidence of any kind for its conclusion

◯ **D.** It treats an improvement in the measured quantity as if it were an improvement in the goal which the measure is meant to represent

**20. Which of the following principles, if accepted, would most help to justify the author's reasoning?**

◯ **A.** A target should be adopted only after the people whose work it measures have agreed beforehand to its terms and to the rewards attached

◯ **B.** Financial incentives are justified in a hospital only when they are paid to every member of the staff and not to specialists alone

◯ **C.** A target is a trustworthy guide to quality only if it cannot be met by changing which people are served instead of how well they are served

◯ **D.** A public service should be judged chiefly by the experience of its average user and not by that of its most vulnerable user

## RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL

32 quick questions · not negatively marked

1. Plural of 'criterion'? _____
2. Synonym of 'ephemeral'? _____
3. Antonym of 'candid'? _____
4. 'Neither of the two boys ___ present.' (is/are) _____
5. One word: a person who loves books _____
6. Meaning of 'ubiquitous'? _____
7. Idiom: 'to burn the midnight oil'? _____
8. Correct spelling: accomodate or accommodate? _____
9. Affect or effect: which is usually the noun? _____
10. Meaning of 'obfuscate'? _____
11. Synonym of 'magnanimous'? _____
12. Idiom: 'a red herring'? _____
13. 'He insisted ___ paying the bill.' (preposition) _____
14. '___ people attended today.' (Fewer/Less) _____
15. One word: fear of enclosed spaces _____
16. Meaning of 'perfunctory'? _____
17. Antonym of 'verbose'? _____
18. Meaning of 'to eke out'? _____
19. 'The school ___ spoke to us.' (principal/principle) _____
20. Meaning of 'laconic'? _____
21. Idiom: 'to bite the bullet'? _____
22. Synonym of 'intransigent'? _____
23. Legal Latin: 'sub judice'? _____
24. Legal Latin: 'amicus curiae'? _____
25. 'Each of the students ___ a book.' (has/have) _____
26. Meaning of 'equivocal'? _____
27. Antonym of 'benevolent'? _____
28. Prefix 'anti-' means? _____
29. Legal Latin: 'ad hoc'? _____
30. Legal Latin: 'per se'? _____
31. Meaning of 'sanguine'? _____
32. Difference: 'mitigate' means? _____

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