

ANSWER KEY — 1 OCTOBER 2026

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
B	D	A	C	B	C	A	D	B	C
Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
D	A	C	A	D	A	C	B	D	A

READING COMPREHENSION

Q1 B Main idea - RC (Popular science) MED

The passage opens by establishing that all prior astronomy gathered electromagnetic radiation of one kind or another, and declares that gravitational waves 'changed that description root and branch'. Paragraphs two and three describe what gravitational waves are and the extraordinary precision required to detect them. The final paragraph shows what a network of detectors can achieve. Option B holds both parts together: a genuinely distinct channel and the demand for extraordinary sensitivity. Option A overstates by claiming telescopes have become secondary; the passage presents optical follow-up as the partner that completes the gravitational-wave finding. Option C treats the kilonova finding as the central subject, but the passage builds toward it as an example of the network's capability. Option D invents a claim about propagation speed; the passage explicitly states gravitational waves travel 'at the speed of light', the same as electromagnetic radiation, and raises no need for new theoretical frameworks.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option C is the natural trap: the kilonova closes with a dramatic image, so readers mistake the memorable conclusion for the main thesis. The kilonova is the payoff example, not the central claim.

Q2 D Inference - RC HARD

The third paragraph names noise sources without ranking them, and states that quantum noise sets the fundamental floor. The fourth paragraph then says explicitly: 'What the detector cannot do is tell astronomers where in the sky the event occurred', and that triangulation requires 'two or more widely separated detectors'. Together these establish option D: one instrument provides a waveform but no directional information; multiple separated instruments are needed for localisation. Option A claims thermal vibration dominates all other noise sources — a ranking the paragraph never makes; the list is presented as a collection of challenges, not a ranked hierarchy. Option B asserts that comparing arrival times degrades sky resolution, which inverts the passage's logic; the comparison is precisely the method of achieving localisation. Option C invents a claim about what the engineers anticipated at the outset; the paragraph describes current challenges without speculating about original forecasts.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option A is the list-order trap: the thermal vibration of mirrors is named first among noise sources but the passage implies no ranking. Quantum noise, named last, is presented as the fundamental limit.

Q3 A Tone and attitude - RC HARD

Tone is established by what an author concedes and what evaluative language is deployed. The author describes the engineering challenge with 'absurd' used in admiration, and the final image of gold forged in a distant galaxy carries clear wonder. At the same time the passage makes no inflated claim: the kilonova is one identified event reported factually. That is admiration paired with restraint, which is option A. Option B is refuted by the passage's structure; the detectors are functional instruments that have already produced results, and noise challenges are presented as problems careers are spent solving. Option C mistakes a measured register for an absence of position; 'root and branch', 'absurd', and the closing image of cosmic gold are evaluative. Option D is wrong because prior telescope work is never diminished — it is the partner that identifies the kilonova, and the passage celebrates the combination.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option C is the standard tone trap: a calm, factual register is misread as neutrality. Check for evaluative language — 'absurd', 'root and branch', the jewellery image — each marks a clear authorial attitude.

Q4 C Vocabulary in context - RC MED

The sentence reads: 'produced when massive objects accelerate asymmetrically.' The examples that follow — black holes spiralling toward each other, neutron stars in a death orbit, a collapsing core — describe configurations in which the mass distribution during acceleration is uneven rather than uniform in all directions. The key physics is that a perfectly symmetric system produces disturbances that cancel; only an uneven distribution allows a net wave to propagate. That is option C. Option A introduces counter-rotating interference patterns that the passage never mentions and conflates wave interference with gravitational radiation. Option B introduces a speed threshold absent from the passage, which states only that the waves travel at the speed of light. Option D describes wobbling on misaligned spin axes, an image the passage does not use; the examples describe orbital asymmetry, not spin-axis misalignment, which is a different physical situation entirely.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option D is the near miss: 'wobble' sounds physically plausible and involves asymmetry. But the passage's examples are orbital configurations — spiralling and collapsing — not gyroscopic effects.

Q5 B Structure and purpose - RC **HARD**

The passage's architecture runs: what astronomy was, what gravitational waves are, how they are detected, and what the network makes possible. The fourth paragraph resolves the gap named in the third: a single detector cannot localise a source. It walks through multi-detector triangulation and names the payoff — a kilonova identified with a conventional telescope. That completion of the account is option B. Option A claims the paragraph revises the earlier claim about localisation; it does not revise but resolves it, by showing how a network overcomes the single-instrument limitation. Option C treats the kilonova as introducing a new chemistry topic; the mention of gold and platinum connects the physics to everyday experience but is incidental colour, not a separate subject. Option D reads the paragraph as conceding a limitation, but the paragraph is showing capability — what becomes possible — not admitting something is impossible.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option C attracts because the gold-and-platinum image is memorable. That image closes a physical argument about multi-detector capability; the cosmic chemistry is illustration, not subject matter.

Q6 C Main argument - RC (Politics & governance) **MED**

The passage opens by noting the Council's consensual record and closes by questioning what that record proves: 'A council built for consensus has not yet been tested for serious disagreement.' Option A takes the consensus record at face value, which is precisely what the passage interrogates rather than endorses. Option B identifies petroleum exclusion as the central defect, but petroleum is an example used in paragraph three to illustrate the structural-incentive argument, not the main conclusion. Option D makes a narrower legal point about non-binding recommendations, which the passage introduces as evidence for its broader argument rather than as the conclusion itself. Only option C holds together the concession of the consensus record and the identification of what it leaves unproved: the Council's behaviour under genuine disagreement.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option B is a classic part-for-whole error: a well-developed example in the third paragraph is mistaken for the conclusion, which arrives only in the fourth.

Q7 A Inference - RC **HARD**

The passage describes the Supreme Court judgment as confirming that recommendations 'are not legally binding on either Parliament or the state legislatures, while noting that both are expected to act on them', and then adds: 'What the judgment did not supply was any mechanism for the case in which one party declines to comply.' Option A states exactly this inference: the Court confirmed the expectation but left the non-compliance question open. Option B attributes objections to states with smaller service sectors and lower own-revenue collection, but the passage specifies the objecting states as those with 'large service sectors and histories of high own-revenue collection' — the opposite characteristic. Option C inverts the holding: the Court confirmed that recommendations are not binding, not that they are. Option D asserts that compensation has been fully honoured; the passage explicitly cites 'the pace of settlement of arrears' as one of the objections being raised, indicating arrears remain outstanding.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option B is a flip-the-attribute trap: readers who recall that states are objecting may miss that the passage specifies high-revenue states, not low-revenue ones, as the ones raising objections.

Q8 D Tone and attitude - RC **ELITE**

The final paragraph opens with a concession: 'The resulting tension is not a malfunction. It is the system working precisely as its architects intended.' This accepts the design rationale — it is not resignation. The paragraph then turns that concession into a pointed observation: deferral was the intended strategy, conditions have not arrived, and questions are a decade old. The final sentence identifies a specific gap rather than predicting collapse or expressing hope. That is measured acknowledgement combined with a pointed insistence on what the record does not yet demonstrate — which is option D. Option A predicts breakdown, which the paragraph never implies. Option B implies approaching resolution, but nothing in the paragraph suggests the deferred conditions are arriving. Option C claims neutrality, but 'still unresolved' and 'not yet been tested' are directed observations, not a balance of alternatives.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option A is the instinctive reading when a paragraph says conditions have not arrived: 'not yet tested' is diagnostic, not a forecast of collapse. The author acknowledges an untested condition, not an impending failure.

Q9 B Vocabulary in context - RC **MED**

The word 'harmonisation' appears in the sentence explaining why some states resist it and others promote it: states with large fuel-levy revenue want petroleum outside the GST; states that collect little from fuel want it inside. The contrast establishes that 'harmonisation' means bringing petroleum into the same GST framework that governs everything else, ending the parallel system. That is option B. Option A introduces a separate meaning of 'harmonisation' as rate-setting within GST; the paragraph is about whether petroleum is in the base at all, not about what rate it would attract if it were. Option C introduces a compensatory-payment mechanism not mentioned in this paragraph at all. Option D introduces a voting-rule change; the paragraph discusses petroleum taxation and mentions no reform of the Council's voting arithmetic in this context.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option A is seductive because GST does involve rate harmonisation. The context here is structural — whether petroleum enters the base — not about what rate it would carry once inside.

Q10 C Structure and purpose - RC **HARD**

Petroleum exclusion is introduced in the third paragraph as one of several assumptions that 'have since proved optimistic'. It is an example, not a conclusion. The purpose is to show how structural incentives within the tax architecture make it rational for some states to resist reform indefinitely: states that benefit from the parallel system have a durable reason to preserve it. This reinforces the governing argument about perpetually deferred questions. Option C names this illustrative function. Option A reads petroleum as evidence of an unrealistic rate-setting process; but the compliance failure and the petroleum exclusion are two separate items in the list, and the paragraph's logic is about incentives for states, not accuracy of rate projections. Option B asserts a vote-counting argument the passage never makes about petroleum specifically. Option D turns an illustrative example into an advocacy claim; the passage never calls petroleum inclusion urgent or identifies its exclusion as the primary cause of compensation disputes.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option D is the 'conclusion misattributed' trap: petroleum exclusion illustrates the argument about perpetually deferred questions; the passage never itself advocates for petroleum inclusion as the priority.

CRITICAL REASONING

Q11 D Main conclusion - CR (Society & culture) **MED**

The final paragraph states the conclusion: '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.' The third-category solution is offered not as a vindication of platforms but as 'an acknowledgement that the binary... was drawn for a different economy'. The conclusion is that the contractor label misrepresents the relationship by presenting engineered compliance as freedom. That is option D. Option A demands reclassification as full employers; the passage explicitly calls the third-category response 'coherent', stopping well short of that demand. Option B asserts genuine welfare surplus; the passage contradicts this by noting risk has been transferred to the worker while the productivity generating value has not. Option C applies a physical-presence test the passage never invokes; the argument is about economic dependence and algorithmic control.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option A is the overreach trap: the passage criticises the contractor label but endorses the intermediate third category, which falls well short of full employer reclassification across the board.

Q12 A Necessary assumption - CR **HARD**

The second paragraph's claim is that each apparent freedom is 'designed to produce the decision the platform prefers'. For this to hold, the design of the algorithm and pricing structures must be a deliberate platform choice, not an emergent market outcome beyond its control. Option A states exactly this. Negate it — suppose the incentive structures are emergent properties that no platform chooses or controls — and the claim that freedom is being engineered away loses its foundation entirely. Option B adds a commercial viability requirement the argument does not need; the case is about misclassification, not whether reclassification would be financially sustainable. Option C describes a view that would weaken rather than support the argument; workers who genuinely prefer the arrangement challenge the claim that their freedom is illusory. Option D asserts equivalence between the third category and full employment, which the passage explicitly rejects by noting the third category attracts 'some but not all' rights.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option C looks like something the argument needs (showing workers are harmed), but genuine preference would actually weaken the case by suggesting the freedoms are real rather than illusory.

Q13 C Weaken - CR **HARD**

The second paragraph identifies two specific mechanisms making apparent freedoms illusory: algorithmic penalties for declining assignments, and surge-pricing windows calibrated to make certain hours effectively compulsory. Option C removes both: penalties for declining have been removed following regulatory pressure, and surge-pricing access no longer depends on prior acceptance rates. With both mechanisms gone, the foundation of the argument — that every apparent freedom is engineered to produce the platform's preferred outcome — loses its factual basis. Option A describes simultaneous multi-platform working, which is consistent with the contractor classification but does not address whether the calibration mechanisms the passage describes are still in place. Option B supplies survey evidence about preferences; subjective satisfaction does not establish that the structural mechanisms are absent. Option D reports ongoing constitutional challenges; the argument concerns the adequacy of the classification, not the constitutional durability of any reform.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option B is a credibility trap: a worker might genuinely prefer a coercive arrangement, so expressed preference does not establish that the structural mechanisms described in paragraph two are absent.

Q14 A Strengthen - CR **MED**

The argument's central claim is that each apparent freedom is 'designed to produce the decision the platform prefers'. Option A supplies direct evidence of deliberate design: internal documents produced in litigation show that the decline-rate thresholds were set with the specific intent of producing the behaviour described as voluntary. This takes the core claim from a structural inference to a documented statement of purpose. Option B reports costs of reclassification; this speaks to whether the change is desirable, not to whether the current classification misrepresents the relationship. Option C reports worker-retention figures for the third-category arrangement; this speaks to the effects of reform, not to the accuracy of the original label. Option D concerns tax-law reclassification, which uses a different legal test and therefore provides weaker support than direct evidence about algorithmic design intent.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option D looks strong because official bodies have effectively sided with the argument — but a tax-law classification test is distinct from the employment-law question at the heart of the case.

Q15 D Parallel reasoning - CR ELITE

The second paragraph's structure is: the worker appears to have genuine freedom across several margins; but each margin is configured by the platform to produce the platform's preferred outcome; therefore the apparent freedom is nominal. Option D exactly mirrors this: the franchisee appears to be independent because it owns premises and hires staff; but the franchisor's operational rules govern what the franchisee does; therefore the independence is a label rather than a reality. Option A describes freedom that is real but contingent on accepting price increases — the freedom exists but is costly to exercise — rather than freedom that is engineered to disappear in the platform's favour. Option B concerns informed consent and financial literacy; the platform argument is not about whether workers understand the terms but about whether the terms create genuine choice. Option C describes an inability to refuse rooted in material need rather than calibrated algorithmic nudge — a harder constraint, not the same mechanism.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option C is the near miss because it involves apparent freedom collapsing in practice. But the mechanism differs: material impossibility of refusal versus deliberate algorithmic calibration that steers without commanding.

Q16 A Main conclusion - CR (Health policy) MED

The third paragraph establishes the central tension: stewardship requires antibiotics be used as rarely as possible, but commercial recovery requires sales volume. The final paragraph shows that public solutions have not been adopted because of political obstruction, so the incompatibility persists. Option A states this conclusion: economic incentives are structurally incompatible with the restricted use that resistance management requires. Option B singles out livestock as the dominant driver; the passage presents livestock as one pathway and never weighs it against clinical overuse. Option C claims the policy proposals are sufficient; the passage presents them as endorsed but politically blocked, not as inherently sufficient at scale. Option D identifies political opposition as the 'sole' reason for the forty-year gap; the passage presents the commercial incentive problem and the political obstruction as linked failures, not as a single cause with a single fix.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option D is the scope trap: political obstruction is real in the passage but is presented as the second failure, not the only one. The commercial incompatibility is the prior structural problem.

Q17 C Necessary assumption - CR HARD

The commercial-disincentive argument rests on the claim that volume-based recovery makes firms unwilling to develop drugs designed for restricted use. This is only a sound inference if volume prospects actually drive development decisions — that is, if a firm would be more willing to develop a widely-prescribed drug than one it would be asked to use sparingly. That is option C stated directly. Negate C — suppose volume prospects play no role — and the incompatibility between stewardship and commercial recovery disappears, and the argument collapses. Option A concerns the identity of resistant species; the commercial-incentive argument is independent of which organisms are involved. Option B overstates what the argument needs; it does not require investment to reach zero, only that it remains insufficient because of the structural mismatch. Option D raises fiscal capacity, which is relevant to whether the solutions would work, not to whether the diagnosis of the commercial problem is correct.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option D confuses the diagnosis (why the market fails) with the cure (whether governments can fund an alternative). The assumption tests the causal logic of the diagnosis, not the feasibility of the proposed remedy.

Q18 B Weaken - CR ELITE

The argument claims the commercial incentive structure prevents firms developing antibiotics, and that public funding solutions have not been adopted because of political resistance. Option B reports that pharmaceutical companies have already committed significant resources to antibiotic programmes structured around volume-independent payments negotiated directly with health systems, without legislative intervention. If accurate, both pillars of the argument are undercut simultaneously: the commercial incompatibility has been bridged through direct negotiation, and political obstruction has been bypassed. The argument's prediction — that nothing will be developed without legislative action — is shown to be already failing. Option A addresses the forty-year gap without touching the commercial-incentive argument, which already acknowledges that safety failures occur. Option C concerns the epidemiological settings where resistance arises and is irrelevant to whether firms will invest in new drugs. Option D addresses the efficacy of stewardship rebound, not the question of whether firms can be induced to develop new antibiotics.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option C is an epidemiology distractor: it sounds relevant to resistance but addresses a completely different causal mechanism — transmission dynamics versus development incentives.

Q19 D Strengthen - CR HARD

The argument needs evidence that sales-volume expectations directly determine development decisions. Option D supplies a documented case: a real company calculated that restricted-use stewardship guidelines would prevent cost recovery at any viable price and withdrew from the programme on that specific basis. This is direct evidence that the causal mechanism the argument asserts — commercial incentives pointing away from stewardship-compatible drugs — has operated in practice in a named firm's decision. Option A provides survey evidence that projected returns are low; consistent with the argument but weaker than a documented corporate decision traced to the specific mechanism. Option B reports subscription-model outcomes; this supports the policy solution but not the diagnosis of why the market fails. Option C reports declining resistance rates where stewardship exists; this supports the public-health case for stewardship but says nothing about why firms do not develop new drugs.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option A appears to name the mechanism (low return) but a survey of projected returns is weaker than a documented real corporate withdrawal for the precise reason the argument identifies.

Q20 A Parallel reasoning - CR ELITE

The structure in the passage is: a policy intended to achieve outcome X relies on a mechanism that, if successful, eliminates the commercial condition needed to sustain that mechanism, so the policy defeats itself. Specifically: restricted use is needed for stewardship; restricted use eliminates sales volume needed for commercial recovery; therefore firms will not develop the drug. Option A mirrors this exactly: reducing car use requires subsidising buses; recovering operating costs requires fares high enough to make driving cheaper; therefore the subsidy fails to reduce car use and defeats its own purpose. In both cases achieving the intended outcome destroys the financial condition on which the mechanism depends. Option B involves regulatory delay, a temporal failure rather than a structural self-defeat. Option C describes a capitation payment set too low — a pricing failure, not a case where the intended outcome undermines the mechanism. Option D concerns intellectual property disclosure and a reduction in future investment — a different kind of second-order effect.

Examiner's note — the trap: Options B and C each involve a policy that fails, which makes them feel parallel. The distinguishing feature is the self-defeating loop: achieving the desired outcome destroys the financial precondition for the mechanism.

RAPID FIRE — ANSWERS

1. 'Spacetime' means? — **The unified four-dimensional fabric combining three dimensions of space and one of time.**
2. What are gravitational waves, in one line? — **Ripples in spacetime produced when massive objects accelerate asymmetrically.**
3. What does a gravitational wave do as it passes through matter? — **It alternately compresses one direction and stretches the perpendicular direction.**
4. 'Interferometry' means? — **Measuring tiny differences by splitting and recombining beams of light or other waves.**
5. Why are a gravitational-wave detector's arms at right angles? — **A passing wave squeezes one arm and stretches the other, making the difference detectable by comparison.**
6. 'Quantum noise' in a detector? — **Random uncertainty in measurement set by the quantum nature of light, giving a fundamental lower limit.**
7. What is a 'kilonova'? — **A transient flash produced when two neutron stars merge, forging heavy elements including gold and platinum.**
8. 'Neutron star' is? — **The ultra-dense remnant after a massive star explodes, composed almost entirely of neutrons.**
9. 'Triangulate' a source means? — **Determine its location by comparing arrival times at multiple detectors separated by known distances.**
10. Why cannot a single gravitational-wave detector locate a source in the sky? — **It records only that a wave passed, not the direction from which it came.**
11. 'Supernova' means? — **The violent explosion at the end of a massive star's life.**
12. 'Out of phase', for two light beams? — **The peaks of one align with the troughs of the other, causing partial or complete cancellation.**
13. 'Propagate' means? — **Travel or spread outward from a source.**
14. 'Test masses' in a gravitational-wave detector? — **The suspended mirrors whose relative positions are compared to detect a passing wave.**
15. What heavy elements do neutron-star mergers produce per the passage? — **Gold and platinum.**
16. What is the 'GST Council'? — **A constitutional body in which the Union and Indian states jointly decide GST rates and policy.**
17. How are votes distributed in the GST Council? — **The Centre holds one-third; all state governments together hold the remaining two-thirds.**
18. 'Recommendatory authority' means? — **Power to advise or suggest, without the decisions being legally binding on those who receive them.**
19. 'Weighted majority' means? — **A majority in which different participants' votes carry different numerical weights.**
20. 'Cooperative federalism' means? — **A model in which central and state governments work together voluntarily rather than in rigid hierarchy.**
21. 'Revenue-neutral rate' means? — **A tax rate calibrated to collect the same total revenue as the taxes it replaces.**
22. 'Fiscal federalism' means? — **The division of taxing and spending powers between different levels of government.**
23. 'Arrears' means? — **Payments that are overdue or have not yet been made when they were due.**
24. 'Own revenue' of a state government? — **Tax and non-tax revenue collected directly by the state, not transferred from the Centre.**
25. 'Compliance', in taxation? — **The extent to which taxpayers correctly report and pay what they owe.**
26. What does 'transitional arrangement' usually mean in a tax reform context? — **A temporary provision included to ease the move to a new system, expected to be phased out later.**
27. 'Devolution', in fiscal terms? — **The transfer of tax revenue or powers from the central government to state governments.**
28. 'Agenda-setting power' means? — **The ability to decide which issues get discussed and in what order at a meeting or negotiation.**
29. What does 'deferring a question' mean in a negotiation? — **Postponing it to a later round rather than resolving it now.**
30. What does 'harmonisation' of petroleum into GST mean? — **Bringing petroleum inside the unified GST framework rather than leaving it under a separate state tax system.**
31. 'Independent contractor' vs 'employee' — key legal difference? — **A contractor sells a result and controls their own method; an employee is directed in how to work.**
32. 'Surge pricing' means? — **Temporarily raising prices when demand exceeds supply, to ration the service and attract more supply.**
33. 'Algorithmic management' means? — **Using software to direct, monitor, and evaluate workers rather than a human manager.**
34. 'Collective bargaining rights' means? — **The right to negotiate wages and conditions as an organised group rather than individually.**
35. 'Social insurance' contributions from an employer? — **Mandatory payments into schemes covering retirement, unemployment, sickness, and disability.**
36. 'Arbitrary termination' means? — **Dismissal without a fair reason or proper process.**
37. 'Gig economy' in one line? — **A labour market based on short-term engagements and freelance work rather than permanent employment.**
38. What does 'dependent contractor' or 'worker' category mean? — **A legal status between employee and contractor attracting some but not all employment protections.**
39. The phrase 'the company coordinates; it does not direct' argues what? — **That the platform gives no instructions and therefore is not an employer in the legal sense.**
40. 'Zero-hours contract' means? — **A contract under which the employer guarantees no minimum hours but calls the worker as needed.**
41. 'Franchisor' vs 'franchisee'? — **The franchisor owns the brand and sets the rules; the franchisee pays to operate under them.**
42. 'Antimicrobial resistance' (AMR) means? — **The ability of bacteria or other microbes to survive and grow despite the drugs designed to kill them.**

43. 'Antibiotic stewardship' means? — **Prescribing antibiotics only when genuinely necessary, using the narrowest effective drug to limit resistance.**
44. 'Sub-therapeutic dose' means? — **A dose too low to eliminate the infection but sufficient to impose selection pressure on bacteria.**
45. 'Selection pressure' means? — **The force that favours organisms with a particular trait, causing that trait to spread through a population.**
46. 'Hospital-acquired infection' means? — **An infection contracted during a hospital stay rather than before admission.**
47. What is the 'penicillin era' and why does it matter here? — **The period since the 1940s when antibiotics made routine surgery safe; before it, infections were frequently fatal.**
48. 'Market-entry reward' for a drug? — **A lump-sum payment to a manufacturer on regulatory approval, independent of how many units are sold.**
49. 'Subscription model' for a pharmaceutical? — **A fixed annual payment by a health system for unlimited access to a drug, regardless of volume used.**
50. 'Clinical pipeline' means? — **The set of drug candidates currently in development or under regulatory review.**
51. 'Volume-independent payment' means? — **Payment that does not change with how much of a product is bought or used.**
52. 'Last-resort antibiotic' means? — **A drug held in reserve for infections resistant to all other available antibiotics.**
53. What do economists mean when they say an industry has 'extracted rents'? — **That it has earned returns above the competitive level, often from privileged access to public resources.**
54. 'Risk-adjusted return' means? — **The financial return on an investment after accounting for the probability that it fails.**
55. What is a 'drug class'? — **A group of drugs with the same mechanism of action or broadly similar chemical structure.**
56. What is a 'necessary assumption' in critical reasoning? — **An unstated premise without which the argument's conclusion cannot be reached; it fails the negation test.**
57. The 'negation test' for an assumption? — **Deny the assumption and check whether the conclusion collapses; if it does, the assumption is necessary.**
58. What does 'if true' signal in a CR question stem? — **Accept the option as a fact and assess only whether it strengthens or weakens the argument.**
59. What makes a 'weaken' option work? — **It provides information that reduces the likelihood that the conclusion follows from the premises.**
60. What makes a 'strengthen' option work? — **It provides information that increases the probability that the conclusion follows from the premises.**
61. What does 'parallel reasoning' test? — **Whether a different argument shares the same logical structure, regardless of its subject matter.**
62. 'Conclusion' vs 'premise' in an argument? — **The conclusion is what is argued for; premises are the reasons offered to support it.**
63. 'Causal argument' means? — **One that claims one event or condition causes or explains another.**
64. 'Correlation vs causation' in CR? — **Two things happening together does not mean one causes the other; a third factor may explain both.**
65. 'Scope shift' in a CR distractor? — **The option introduces a group, situation, or concept slightly different from the one in the argument.**
66. What is an 'alternative cause' weaken? — **An option that provides a different explanation for the evidence, breaking the causal link in the argument.**
67. 'Ad hominem' argument? — **Attacking the speaker rather than the reasoning or evidence they offer.**
68. 'Circular reasoning' means? — **Using the conclusion itself as a premise, so the argument assumes what it is trying to prove.**
69. What does an 'inference' question in RC ask for? — **A conclusion that follows logically from the passage without being stated explicitly.**
70. What do 'tone' questions ask you to identify? — **The author's attitude or stance toward the subject, as shown by word choice and evaluative language.**
71. What does 'main idea' mean vs 'specific detail'? — **Main idea is the central claim of the whole passage; a detail supports it in just one paragraph.**
72. What does 'structural function' of a paragraph mean? — **The role it plays in the argument — introducing, illustrating, conceding, concluding, and so on.**
73. 'Vocab in context' questions require what approach? — **Re-read the surrounding sentence and substitute a meaning that preserves the passage's logic.**
74. What is a 'straw-man' fallacy? — **Misrepresenting an opponent's position in a weaker form in order to refute the distorted version.**
75. What is a 'false dichotomy' fallacy? — **Presenting only two options as if no others exist, when a third possibility is available.**
76. What is 'overgeneralisation' as an argument flaw? — **Drawing a universal conclusion from a sample that is too small or unrepresentative.**
77. What does 'deferred resolution' mean as a political strategy? — **Postponing a hard decision until conditions make it easier, risking that those conditions never arrive.**
78. What is an 'incentive structure' in economics? — **The set of rewards and penalties that shape the choices rational actors will make.**
79. What is 'asymmetric risk' in an employment context? — **One party bears disproportionate exposure to losses while the other retains most of the gains.**
80. 'Market participant' means? — **Any person or entity that buys or sells in a market, usually on equal legal footing with others.**
81. 'Self-defeating policy' means? — **A policy whose success destroys the condition needed for the mechanism to keep working.**
82. An argument that shows one action will lead to increasingly bad outcomes is called a ___ — **Slippery slope argument**
83. The conclusion of an argument can always be identified by the word ___ — **'Therefore' or 'Thus' or 'Hence' (conclusion indicators)**
84. A passage that ends by predicting a trend in the subject area uses which rhetorical mode? — **Projection / Predictive conclusion**
85. An argument containing two premises that contradict each other has a ___ — **Self-defeating (internally inconsistent) structure**