Daily RC & CR Sheet — Answers, Skills & Examiner Notes — 30 October 2026

20 Qs · 0 Min
Answer key + skill tags + examiner notes

ANSWER KEY — 30 OCTOBER 2026

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

READING COMPREHENSION

Q1 B Main idea MED

The passage opens by rejecting the view that a translator can only 'fail gracefully'. It then argues that a poem is 'a score as much as a statement', so translation is 'a series of choices' rather than a transfer. The third paragraph explains why retranslation never stops, and the fourth insists that 'a translation that flattens an ambiguity or invents a flourish can be judged wrong'. Option B holds all three moves together: performance, retranslation and a surviving standard of fidelity. Option A restates the quip the author sets out to correct. Option C introduces progress, which the author never claims; each version is merely a different reading. Option D contradicts the fourth paragraph, where fidelity to 'the poem's effect' is called a standard that can be applied.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option A is the trap: the opening paragraph spends time on the 'traitor' quip, and a hurried reader mistakes the view being corrected for the thesis.

Q2 D Inference HARD

The fourth paragraph says the standard of judgment is 'fidelity to the poem's effect rather than to its dictionary'. The second paragraph adds that line breaks, rhymes, pauses and echoes 'instruct the reader how to perform' the poem. It follows that a version faithful to every dictionary meaning could still flatten these effects and be judged unfaithful. Option D states exactly this. Option A reverses the author's priority by making the dictionary the objective standard. Option B claims that translation fails because words never match, but the author never denies that words can be rendered; the difficulty lies with associations and effects. Option C ignores the third paragraph, which says later versions differ because each is a reading made under its own pressures, whatever its literal accuracy.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option A is attractive because 'dictionary accuracy' sounds objective; the author names the dictionary only to say it is not the measure.

Q3 A Tone / author attitude HARD

The author says the traitor view 'has the merit of modesty', which shows courtesy, but adds that it 'rests on a picture of poetry that few poets would recognise'. The passage then spends three paragraphs correcting that picture with an account of poems as scores and of retranslation as a sign of life. That combination, concession followed by patient revision, is measured and corrective, so option A is right. Option B misreads the opening concession as sneering, but no sentence mocks or belittles critics. Option C imports regret that the author rejects when she calls retranslation 'how an old work stays alive'. Option D fails because the author plainly takes a side: she argues for a view and names standards of judgment.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option D tempts careful readers because the first paragraph is calm and reports the quip fairly; the verdict arrives only from the second paragraph onward.

Q4 C Vocabulary in context EASY

The fourth paragraph begins by guarding against a misreading of the earlier argument. Having said that translation is a series of choices and that every age reads differently, the author warns that this freedom is not a permission slip: 'a translation that flattens an ambiguity or invents a flourish can be judged wrong'. 'Licenses' therefore means gives permission for, and the sentence says that nothing in the argument gives permission to work carelessly. Option C captures this sense. Option A takes 'licenses' as a legal document, which does not fit a sentence about attitude. Option B takes it as formal registration, which has no support in the passage. Option D reverses the sense by suggesting compulsion, whereas the verb expresses permission.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option A is the trap for readers who hear 'licence' only as a legal paper; the sentence is about permission, not paperwork.

Q5 A Structure / purpose ELITE

The last paragraph first rejects the smuggler image, in which the translator moves an unchanged object past guards 'hoping [they] will not notice what has changed'. It then offers the musician, who 'owes the composer her seriousness and the audience her own voice'. The image therefore replaces secrecy with a double obligation: faithfulness to the source and a legitimate personal voice. That matches option A. Option B picks up the word 'score' but the passage says nothing about training. Option C contradicts the second paragraph,

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where the poem is a score precisely because it can be performed by readers in translation. Option D imports a ranking of arts; the author treats the translator's role as serious and creative, not as inferior.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option D is the attractive wrong choice because 'handed an old score' suggests dependence; a careful reader notices the musician also owes the audience 'her own voice'.

Q6 C Main idea MED

The passage describes the shifting baseline (first paragraph), shows it operating among fishers (second), offers historical ecology as a remedy while admitting its limits (third), and ends by noting that even a recovered baseline does not settle what to restore, so 'the standard ... should be chosen openly and argued for'. Option C covers each step. Option A turns an unconscious drift into deliberate understatement, but the passage states that 'neither group was lying'. Option B overstates the case for records, which are 'patchy and sometimes boastful', and the fourth paragraph says the past 'must not' be simply recreated. Option D reverses the evidence, since historical sources show that loss was larger than modern data suggested.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option B appeals because the third paragraph praises historical records; the fourth paragraph, however, rejects a simple return to the distant past.

Q7 A Inference HARD

The third paragraph reports that historical evidence 'has often shown that the loss was larger than modern data suggested, and that targets once thought ambitious were in fact timid'. The second paragraph adds that a target based on the young fishers' testimony would restore 'a reef that was already a ruin'. Together these imply that a target built on present data can seem demanding while remaining far below the past abundance, which is option A. Option B contradicts the description of such sources as 'patchy and sometimes boastful'. Option C is contradicted by the statement that neither group of fishers 'was lying'. Option D conflicts with the final paragraph, which says that the thousand-year baseline 'may no longer be reachable'.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option C is the trap: the generational gap in testimony invites a moral explanation, but the author calls both groups honest.

Q8 D Tone / author attitude HARD

In the third paragraph the author praises the method for offering 'a baseline that was not set by the very decline it is meant to measure', which is appreciation. Yet the same paragraph says that such sources 'are patchy and sometimes boastful', and the fourth begins 'A deeper difficulty remains'. Appreciation joined to caution is exactly option D. Option A fails because the author says 'none is simple' and lists limits. Option B fails because the author values what the sources offer and cites their findings. Option C fails because the method occupies a full paragraph and receives a clear judgment, and the passage's last lines build on it. The word 'cautious' in the answer is earned by the phrases 'patchy' and 'cannot be read without caution', while 'appreciative' is earned by the praise for an independent baseline.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option A tempts because the third paragraph ends on a strong finding; the following paragraph supplies the qualification.

Q9 B Vocabulary in context MED

The sentence contrasts a standard 'chosen openly and argued for' with one 'inherited by default from whatever our own youth happened to contain'. The second half of the passage makes the point: a choice 'made unconsciously cannot even be examined'. 'By default' therefore means automatically, with no deliberate decision, and option B states this. Option A uses the financial sense of default, which is irrelevant to a discussion of ecological baselines. Option C suggests a formal legal succession, but the standard passes silently with each person's own experience. Option D proposes random assignment; the baseline is not random but determined by what each observer first saw, so it is systematic rather than chance.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option A is the trap for readers who know only the financial meaning of 'default'.

Q10 C Structure / purpose ELITE

The third paragraph presents historical ecology as the remedy; the fourth begins 'A deeper difficulty remains'. It points out that even a perfectly recovered baseline does not settle 'what to restore', because a thousand-year-old ecosystem may be unreachable. The paragraph then draws the lesson that the standard must be 'chosen openly and argued for'. Its function is therefore to complicate the remedy and redirect the argument to deliberate choice, as option C says. Option A is wrong because Pauly's observation is accepted and used, not retracted. Option B misdescribes the paragraph, which contains no reference to the Gulf fishers. Option D invents a species-specific plan; the paragraph proposes no new method, only a better way to choose a standard.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option A attracts hasty readers because 'a deeper difficulty' sounds like a reversal; it deepens the argument rather than withdrawing it.

CRITICAL REASONING

Q11 D Main conclusion MED

The passage lays out a recommendation and the evidence for it. The sentence beginning 'Therefore the state should stop treating vacancies as the root of delay and should reform its adjournment practice first' marks the main conclusion, and the closing remark that judges become judgments 'only when hearings are reliably held' supports it. Option D restates that conclusion. Option A reverses the stance, because the author says 'Judges are of course needed'. Option B turns a statistic into a motive; the passage says the adjournments are granted when a party has not filed a document, not that judges are unwilling. Option C introduces cost as the objection to appointments, whereas the cost the author raises concerns the reform being cheap.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option A is the trap: the argument downplays judges as a remedy, but never claims their number is adequate.

Q12 B Assumption (necessary) ELITE

The argument says new judges will not help because hearings are wasted by adjournments. For this to work, the adjournments must be a separate cause of delay. If the adjournments were themselves produced by overloaded judges, such as courts listing forty hearings so that most cannot be taken up, then more judges would reduce them and the argument would fail. Negating option B therefore destroys the argument, so it is necessary. Option A is too strong, since the argument needs only that most adjournments, not every suit, are involved. Option C compares costs across all states, which the argument does not require. Option D adds a motive for delay, but the argument works whether the delays are deliberate or careless.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option D is attractive because it supplies a villain; the argument is unaffected whether parties are devious or simply unprepared.

Q13 A Weaken (counter-example) HARD

The author's positive proposal is that limiting adjournments, 'enforced by costs', would shorten the life of a suit. A case in which a neighbouring state did exactly that and saw no fall in pending cases per judge directly undermines the proposal that reform will work. That is option A. Option B concerns the high court, which has no bearing on district-court backlog. Option C reports a preference of litigants, which says nothing about whether the reform would reduce delay. Option D mentions criminal priority, but the statistics in the passage already cover hearings that fail to proceed, and the argument is unaffected by how the daily list is ordered. Notice that the weakener must attack the claim that limiting adjournments will shorten suits, so only a case in which the reform was tried and did not help can count against the author.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option D is the attractive wrong choice because priority for criminal matters sounds like a reason for lost hearings; it does not touch the reform's effect.

Q14 C Strengthen (internal comparison) HARD

The argument predicts that when hearings are reliably held, judges convert into judgments. The best support is an internal comparison showing that courts which limited adjournments disposed of more cases per judge than similar courts which did not, because it tests the proposed reform with the judge numbers held roughly constant. That is option C. Option A reports a request by lawyers, not an effect on disposal. Option B reports a repeated recommendation, which shows only persistence, and the author treats the recommendation as mistaken. Option D shows that filings are rising, which if anything makes the unchanged pendency ratio less surprising and gives no support to the reform. Reading the options against this test, only the one that compares reformed courts with similar unreformed courts isolates the effect the author predicts.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option D tempts because a rising caseload 'explains the backlog'; but it supports a different cause and does nothing for the proposed remedy.

Q15 D Flaw in reasoning HARD

The argument reasons that because the number of cases pending per judge 'did not fall' despite a one-third rise in judges, more judges cannot help. But pendency per judge depends on filings as well as disposals. If new suits grew by a third or more over the decade, the added judges may have prevented the backlog from worsening, so unchanged pendency would not show they were useless. Option D states this flaw. Option A is untrue to the passage, which says 'nearly all the new posts' were filled. Option B alleges a missing detail, but the ratio is given. Option C attributes to the author a claim about scrutiny that the passage never makes. Reading the passage closely, the author reports only the number of posts, the pendency ratio and the pattern of adjournments, so the real weakness lies in what the ratio leaves out.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option A looks like a flaw until one rereads the second paragraph, which says nearly all the new posts were filled.

Q16 A Main conclusion MED

The passage ends: 'The claim of the ministers that incentives have succeeded is therefore premature.' The argument supports this by showing that the decline in recorded fires is exactly what would be observed whether or not farmers changed. Hence the conclusion is that the fall does not establish real success, option A. Option B turns a possibility into a verdict, but the third paragraph states that 'None of this proves that the scheme failed'. Option C praises penalties, which the author never does. Option D overstates the monsoon, which is offered as one possible contributor, and the word 'entirely' goes beyond the passage. The question asks for the conclusion, not a supporting detail, so the statement that is argued for, rather than merely used, must be chosen; only the closing claim about the ministers fits that role.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option B is the trap: the evening-burning explanation is vivid, but the author only says it cannot be ruled out.

Q17 C Assumption (necessary) HARD

The author uses the fact that monitors 'recorded no matching improvement in air quality' to suggest that burning did not really fall. That inference requires that Pandara's smoke affects those cities' air to a noticeable degree. If it did not, a genuine fall in burning would leave the monitors unchanged, and the observation would say nothing. Option C states the needed link. Option A is not required, since the argument mentions rain only as a possible cause. Option B contradicts the author's suggestion that some farmers burn after dark while still claiming payment. Option D compares the instruments, but the monitors need not be better at detecting fires; they measure smoke, which is a different thing.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option B is attractive because payment is central to the story, but the argument actually presumes some claimants may have burned at night.

Q18 B Weaken (independent evidence) HARD

The author's doubt is that the fall in recorded fires may reflect a change in timing rather than in burning. Independent ground surveys that include night-time visits and show fewer burn scars cut through that doubt, because they measure burning directly and do not rely on the satellites that farmers can evade. That weakens the argument, as option B does. Option A, a pre-scheme fall, would if anything support the author by suggesting that the scheme was not the cause. Option C concerns the speed of payment and has no bearing on whether burning fell. Option D suggests farmers might burn anyway, which makes the author's worry more plausible, not less.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option A looks like a weakener because it mentions an earlier fall, but it undercuts the ministers' claim, which is the claim the author attacks.

Q19 D Strengthen (direct evidence of the alternative) ELITE

The author's case is that farmers may have merely shifted the hour of burning. Direct evidence of a rise in night-time fires alongside a fall in daytime fires would show exactly that shift, and so strengthens the argument. This is option D. Option A, ordinary rainfall, removes one alternative explanation, the monsoon, so it tends to support the ministers. Option B shows that the payment gave a reason to stop burning, and so makes a genuine change in practice more likely, which also helps the ministers. Option C says the satellites miss nothing, which would make the detection problem imaginary and thus weakens the argument. Always check which side of the argument a new fact helps: a fact that lowers the chance of the author's alternative explanation helps the ministers, not the author.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option A is attractive since it looks like it supports caution, but ruling out the monsoon removes one of the author's own doubts.

Q20 B Parallel reasoning ELITE

The original argument has a distinctive shape: a policy is credited with a fall in a figure; that figure is produced by a channel which the policy gives people a reason to manipulate; independent data fail to show a matching improvement; so the claim of success is premature, not disproved. Option B reproduces each step, including the cautious conclusion. Option A concludes that the bonus caused the rise, which reverses the pattern by claiming certainty about causation. Option C concerns a short tenure and denies credit outright, rather than withholding judgment. Option D moves from a doubtful measurement to the claim that the campaign failed, which is the very overreach the author avoids.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option D is the trap: it has a self-reporting measure like the original, but it jumps from doubt to failure while the original stays at 'premature'.

RAPID FIRE — ANSWERS

1. Which Article guarantees the right to life and personal liberty? — **Article 21**

2. Which Article guarantees the right to constitutional remedies? — **Article 32**

3. Which Article provides for the Election Commission of India? — **Article 324**

4. Who presides over a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament? — **The Speaker of the Lok Sabha**

5. Which Article provides for the Finance Commission? — **Article 280**

6. What is the maximum gap permitted between two sessions of Parliament? — **Six months**

7. Which writ is issued to quash an order of a lower court or tribunal? — **Certiorari**

8. Which writ commands a public official to perform a public duty? — **Mandamus**

9. Which Article prohibits human trafficking and forced labour? — **Article 23**

10. Who appoints the Chief Justice of India? — **The President of India**

11. What does the term 'mens rea' mean? — **Guilty mind**

12. What does 'amicus curiae' mean? — **Friend of the court**

13. What does 'locus standi' mean? — **The right to bring a case before a court**

14. Which 1978 case held that the procedure under Article 21 must be just, fair and reasonable? — **Maneka Gandhi v Union of India**

15. The Vishaka guidelines of 1997 concern which issue? — **Sexual harassment at the workplace**

16. Which 1971 international convention protects wetlands? — **The Ramsar Convention**

17. Which 1987 protocol seeks to protect the ozone layer? — **The Montreal Protocol**

18. Which 2015 agreement aims to hold warming well below 2 degrees Celsius? — **The Paris Agreement**

19. What does COP stand for in climate negotiations? — **Conference of the Parties**

20. Which Indian Act of 1972 protects wild animals and plants? — **The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**

21. Which body, set up in 2010, hears environmental cases in India? — **The National Green Tribunal**

22. Which greenhouse gas is released in large quantities by paddy fields and cattle? — **Methane**

23. Which 1992 Rio convention deals with the conservation of species and ecosystems? — **The Convention on Biological Diversity**

24. Which figure of speech is in 'The wind whispered through the trees'? — **Personification**

25. Which figure of speech is in 'He was as brave as a lion'? — **Simile**

26. Which figure of speech is in 'Time is a thief'? — **Metaphor**

27. Which figure of speech combines contradictory terms, as in 'deafening silence'? — **Oxymoron**

28. Who wrote 'The God of Small Things'? — **Arundhati Roy**

29. Who wrote 'The Discovery of India'? — **Jawaharlal Nehru**

30. Who wrote 'Gitanjali'? — **Rabindranath Tagore**

31. What is the one word for 'fear of open or crowded spaces'? — **Agoraphobia**

32. What is the antonym of 'prolific'? — **Barren**