Daily RC & CR Sheet — 1 November 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 — LITERARY FICTION · THE FERRYMAN'S LEDGER (Q1–Q5)

Every evening Haridas entered the day's crossings in a ledger whose columns nobody had ever asked to see. The ferry at Sonpur carried perhaps forty people a day across a river that had, over his thirty years on it, moved half a mile to the east, so that the landing he had inherited from his father now stood in the middle of a field and the crossing took twice as long. He recorded names where he knew them, and "woman with goat" or "boy, unwell" where he did not. The district office, which paid his small stipend, wanted only a monthly tally of heads.

The new clerk, a young man named Pillai who wore his shoes on the boat as though the river might be contagious, found the ledger absurd. "You are keeping a diary that no one will read," he said, "when the form asks for a single number." Haridas turned a page and said nothing. He had learned long ago that an explanation, offered to people who have not yet needed it, tends to sound like complaint.

In the monsoon the river rose in a single night and took the lower fields. When the survey team arrived to assess compensation, there was no record of who had farmed which plot, the old land papers having been pulped by damp years before. The villagers argued, each of them certain, none of them able to prove anything. It was Pillai, sent down to the boat to fetch a lantern, who noticed the ledger on its shelf and spent that evening reading by its light how, in the third week of every June for twelve years, "Bhola's mother, with seedlings" had crossed to the east bank.

In the morning he set the ledger before the survey officer, open, and stood a little behind Haridas, as though the old man were the author of something rather more than a list. Haridas looked at the page and then, for some time, at the water, which was brown and unhurried and gave no sign of what it had taken.

"It was only so I would remember who was aboard," he said at last.

Pillai, who had come to the district expecting to be bored, found that he could not meet the ferryman's eye. That afternoon, stepping onto the boat, he took off his shoes.

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

◯ **A.** Official record systems fail rural communities because clerks prefer single figures to the detailed accounts that ferrymen such as Haridas keep for themselves

◯ **B.** A habit of patient record-keeping, dismissed as pointless in ordinary times, becomes vital evidence in a crisis and changes a sceptic's regard for its keeper

◯ **C.** Natural disasters expose the weakness of village institutions, which can then be repaired only by outsiders such as Pillai who hold formal authority over records

◯ **D.** Long experience of a changing river gives old workers a knowledge of local conditions that younger officials trained only in forms are unable to acquire quickly

2. Pillai's act of taking off his shoes at the end of the passage most plausibly signifies that

◯ **A.** he now accepts that the district office is wrong to demand only a tally of heads and intends to report the ferryman's methods to his superiors

◯ **B.** he has grown afraid of the river after the flood and wishes to show deference to its power before crossing it again in the afternoon light

◯ **C.** Haridas has asked him to follow the custom of the boat, which every passenger observes irrespective of his rank, opinion or office in the district

◯ **D.** his earlier disdain for the river and its ferryman has given way to respect, shown through the very gesture he had once withheld

3. The narrator's attitude towards Haridas is best described as

◯ **A.** quietly respectful, conveyed through understatement rather than open praise

◯ **B.** affectionately amused, treating his silences and habits as harmless eccentricities

◯ **C.** critically detached, noting that he failed to explain the worth of his own work

◯ **D.** wistfully nostalgic, mourning a vanishing way of life along a retreating river

4. As used in the second paragraph, the word "complaint" in "tends to sound like complaint" most nearly means

◯ **A.** a formal charge laid before an authority

◯ **B.** a minor physical ailment of the body

◯ **C.** an expression of grievance

◯ **D.** an objection recorded by a court

5. The third paragraph functions in the passage chiefly to

◯ **A.** contrast the flood's destructive force with the ferryman's patience, thereby presenting the river as the principal antagonist of the story as a whole

◯ **B.** supply the event that converts the ledger from private habit into public evidence, thereby answering the clerk's objection in the second paragraph

◯ **C.** explain why the district office had allowed its land records to decay, thereby criticising the manner in which rural administration is conducted in the region

◯ **D.** introduce the survey team as a rival authority to the ferryman, thereby preparing a conflict between them that the closing paragraph then resolves in his favour

READING COMPREHENSION — POLITICS & GOVERNANCE · THE QUIET WORK OF COMMITTEES (Q6–Q10)

Critics of legislatures tend to measure them by the drama of the floor: the walkouts, the adjournments, the hours lost to sl
that measure Parliament's recent record looks poor. But the floor is the least revealing place from which to observe how

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legislature actually reshapes law. Most of the detailed scrutiny of a bill, in India as elsewhere, happens in committees, where it is not televised and where members, shielded from the cameras, are readier to concede a point to the other side.

The case for committees is partly one of competence. A bill on insolvency or data protection contains hundreds of provisions whose effects only specialists can trace. A committee can summon the regulator, the industry and the aggrieved, and question them for weeks rather than minutes. It is also partly a case of temperament. The party whip, which on the floor converts every vote into a test of loyalty, loosens in a committee room, where a member may argue from the evidence without being taken to defy the leadership.

Yet the committee system has rested less on rules than on convention. Referral of a bill is not mandatory; it is a discretion exercised by the presiding officers, and in some sessions only a small fraction of bills have been referred while others have been passed within days of introduction. Recommendations, moreover, are merely advisory. A government that finds a report inconvenient may accept the parts that cost it nothing and ignore the rest, and since reports are rarely debated, the ignoring seldom exacts a political price.

It would nonetheless be a mistake to conclude that committees are decorative. Where governments have accepted amendments, they have often been technical ones that the minister's own officials privately welcomed, which suggests that committees work best as a channel for expertise the executive already half wants. What they cannot do, in the absence of a rule requiring referral, is constrain a government determined to legislate in haste. The remedy lies not in making committees louder but in making referral the default, with the burden on the government to justify any departure from it.

6. Which of the following best summarises the central argument of the passage?

◯ **A.** Parliament's weak record on the floor shows that it has lost its lawmaking role, which committees can restore only if their reports are made binding on every minister

◯ **B.** Committees are largely decorative because the executive accepts only the amendments that cost it nothing, so the real remedy lies in televising their proceedings to the public

◯ **C.** Party whips distort the behaviour of members on the floor of the House, and the committee system should therefore be enlarged to take over every stage of lawmaking

◯ **D.** Committees do scrutiny that the floor cannot, but as referral and acceptance are discretionary their value rests on goodwill, so referral should become the default

7. It can be inferred from the passage that a committee's amendment is most likely to be accepted when

◯ **A.** it is technical in character and meets a need that the government's own officials already recognise

◯ **B.** it is moved by a member of the ruling party and its merits are afterwards taken up in a full debate on the floor of the House

◯ **C.** it is recommended unanimously and the presiding officer then arranges for the report to be made public before the next session

◯ **D.** it restricts the executive's freedom to legislate quickly in a manner that voters will notice and that carries a political cost

8. The author's tone in discussing the committee system is best characterised as

◯ **A.** sceptical and dismissive, regarding committees as a merely cosmetic device

◯ **B.** celebratory and uncritical, presenting committees as the cure for disruption

◯ **C.** analytical and reformist, crediting real worth yet naming a structural gap

◯ **D.** detached and descriptive, declining to recommend any change in procedure

9. As used in the third paragraph, the word "convention" most nearly means

◯ **A.** a formal assembly of delegates convened to decide a question of policy

◯ **B.** an established practice observed without being legally compelled

◯ **C.** a binding agreement between states that is enforceable in a court of law

◯ **D.** a customary and unoriginal style of thinking that resists any new ideas

10. The final paragraph serves chiefly to

◯ **A.** qualify the criticism of the previous paragraph and then relocate the remedy from louder committees to a rule that reverses the burden of justification

◯ **B.** refute the opening claim that the floor is the least revealing place to observe lawmaking and thereby restore the primacy of full-House debate in the Parliament

◯ **C.** summarise the advantages of committees listed earlier and conclude that they should be given larger powers to summon witnesses and to compel disclosure by ministers

◯ **D.** introduce for the first time the argument that committees are decorative and then dismiss it with reference to the amendments the executive has accepted

SECTION — CRITICAL REASONING

CRITICAL REASONING — ETHICS · CAN A WRONG BE PAID FOR? (Q11–Q15)

Defenders of carbon offsets, and of the wider practice of paying to undo a wrong, rely on an appealingly simple principle: if a harm is fully cancelled, nothing wrong remains. The principle works for ordinary debts. A man who breaks his neighbour's window and replaces it has settled the matter. But the analogy conceals what the window case has in its favour. The neighbour agrees to the settlement, and the harm and the repair are of the same kind, delivered to the same person.

Offsets have neither feature. The people who breathe the smoke from a factory are not the people who benefit from a forest planted a thousand kilometres away, and none of them was asked. Defenders reply that the aggregate result is the same or better, since a tonne of carbon removed is a tonne removed wherever it happens. This answer, however, assumes that only aggregate outcomes matter morally, which is precisely the point in dispute.

There is a second difficulty, which concerns incentives rather than principle. A firm that can purchase absolution has less reason to examine its own conduct. Consider the experiment in Haifa, where day-care centres began to fine parents who collected their children late. Lateness did not fall; it rose. Parents had come to treat the fine as a fee, a price for an additional hour of care, and the guilt that once restrained them dissolved once the wrong had been given a tariff. There is little reason to suppose that a company deciding whether to modernise a polluting plant would reason differently from a parent deciding whether to stay at work.

We do not conclude that offsetting is worthless. Where emissions cannot be avoided, funding removal elsewhere is better t nothing. But it should be understood as a supplement to the prevention of harm and never as a substitute for it, because a w can be bought off ceases to be experienced as a wrong. A society that forgets this distinction will find that its most relia restraint, the sense of having done something one ought not to do, has been quietly priced out of existence.

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11. Which of the following most accurately states the conclusion of the argument?

◯ **A.** Paying to cancel a harm is never morally permissible, because the people harmed by the original wrong are never those who gain from the eventual repair

◯ **B.** Firms should be fined heavily for their emissions, since the Haifa fines demonstrated that financial penalties are the most effective deterrent available

◯ **C.** Offsetting may usefully supplement the prevention of harm but cannot replace it, since a wrong that can be bought off ceases to be experienced as a wrong

◯ **D.** The principle that a fully cancelled harm leaves no wrong behind is valid only for debts between consenting individuals and is invalid in every other setting

12. The argument depends on which of the following assumptions?

◯ **A.** Every offset project fails to deliver the reduction in emissions that its sellers claim for it, so that the repair never matches the original harm

◯ **B.** The aggregate outcome of an action is irrelevant to deciding whether the action was morally right, whatever the circumstances of those it affects

◯ **C.** No compensation can be morally acceptable unless the persons harmed have first consented to the particular form that the compensation takes

◯ **D.** Firms able to purchase offsets would respond to that option as the Haifa parents responded to the late-collection fine

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

◯ **A.** Most offset projects are located in regions far from the places where the emissions they are meant to cancel were originally produced by the buyers

◯ **B.** Among firms that began buying offsets, direct emission cuts and internal audits grew faster than among comparable firms that did not

◯ **C.** Several of the largest sellers of offsets have been shown to overstate the quantity of carbon stored by the forests that they plant and maintain

◯ **D.** The Haifa day-care centres were small, and the parents studied were drawn from a single city and from a limited range of occupations and incomes

14. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the author's claim about incentives?

◯ **A.** Firms that purchase offsets are, on average, less likely than comparable firms to commission independent reviews of their production methods

◯ **B.** Offset prices have risen steadily and now form a significant share of operating costs in the industries that buy them in the largest quantities

◯ **C.** A majority of consumers say that they would rather buy from firms that offset their emissions than from firms that make no effort of any kind

◯ **D.** Offset projects planted in one region typically absorb carbon more slowly than the emissions they are intended to cancel are released elsewhere

15. The author's reasoning about the broken-window analogy is most closely paralleled by which of the following?

◯ **A.** Medicines tested on healthy volunteers are generally safe for them; since sick patients are also volunteers, medicines tested on healthy people need no further trials among patients

◯ **B.** Vaccination reduced disease in one district, so it will reduce disease in every other district, regardless of how many people in those other districts agree to accept it

◯ **C.** A bridge that carries bicycles has been built safely; a bridge for heavy lorries should therefore be built to the same design in order to save on the cost of its construction

◯ **D.** An honour system works in a village cricket match, where players value the game and none gains by lying; it cannot be extended to a professional league where prizes make lying pay

CRITICAL REASONING — EDUCATION · THE RATIO AND THE ROLL (Q16–Q20)

When a state publishes every school's board-examination pass percentage, the intention is plain: to give parents information and to give principals a reason to improve. The difficulty is that a pass percentage is a ratio, and a ratio can be raised from either end. Raising the numerator means teaching better. Shrinking the denominator is far cheaper, and a principal anxious to appear on the right side of a published table has every reason to choose the cheaper course.

After the state began publishing league tables, the pass percentage in Class X rose from 74 to 88 within three years. Officials cite this as proof that the policy works. Yet during the same period the number of students who sat the Class X examination fell to roughly nine-tenths of the Class IX cohort that had entered the schools a year earlier, and the proportion of Class IX students declared "not ready for promotion" climbed sharply, especially in schools near the top of the tables. The pattern suggests that part of the improvement was achieved by deciding who would be permitted to sit the examination.

Defenders reply that a student held back is given a second year and will fare better for it. That may be true of some. But research on grade retention in several countries consistently finds that it raises the likelihood of dropping out, and the students most often held back come from poorer households, which can least afford an additional year of schooling. The policy therefore risks transferring the cost of an apparent gain to the very children the system exists to serve.

A fairer measure would count every student who entered Class IX, so that a school could improve its figure only by retaining and teaching its pupils rather than by shedding them. Until the metric is changed, the published percentages should be read as evidence of what schools have learned about the rules of the ranking, not of what their pupils have learned about the subjects they are examined in. A statistic that rewards the removal of weak students will, in time, produce schools that are very good at removing them.

16. The main conclusion of the argument is that

◯ **A.** published pass percentages show how schools have adapted to the rules of the ranking and not how much their pupils h---- learned

◯ **B.** league tables should be abolished, since they give parents information that cannot be used to compare one school with a

◯ **C.** grade retention ought to be prohibited because it raises the likelihood of dropping out among students from poorer hou

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◯ **D.** the state's publication policy has succeeded in raising pass percentages and should therefore be extended to every class in school

17. The inference that schools raised pass percentages by shedding students depends on assuming that

◯ **A.** every student who was held back in Class IX eventually left school without completing any board examination in the state at all
◯ **B.** teaching quality in the state's schools did not improve at all during the years in which the league tables were being published
◯ **C.** nothing apart from schools' retention decisions explains most of the fall in Class X enrolment relative to the Class IX cohort
◯ **D.** parents ignore the published tables when choosing a school, so that the tables cannot have improved accountability in any way

18. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the claim that the policy shifts costs on to poorer students?

◯ **A.** Parents in the state say that they find the published tables easier to understand than the earlier reports that gave only an average score
◯ **B.** Poorer students who repeat Class IX in the state complete school at a rate no lower than that of students promoted at first
◯ **C.** Dropout rates among students from poorer households were already higher in the state than among others before any table was published
◯ **D.** Studies of retention from other countries were conducted in school systems with less private tutoring than the state's schools have

19. The reasoning in the passage about the league tables is most closely paralleled by which of the following?

◯ **A.** When a company pays its sales staff a commission, they sell more; so the rise in sales shows that the commission scheme has made the whole sales staff more skilled
◯ **B.** When a city fines drivers for parking violations, revenue from fines rises each year; so the fines must have failed to deter parking violations in the city
◯ **C.** When a university publishes its graduates' salaries, applications to it rise; so such publication ought to be required of every university in the whole country
◯ **D.** When a hospital publishes surgeons' survival rates, surgeons may decline high-risk patients, so a rising rate may show selectivity, not skill; a fairer measure counts every patient referred

20. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the claim that part of the rise in pass percentages was produced by exclusion?

◯ **A.** Pass percentages also rose in schools in which no student at all was held back in Class IX during the years in which the tables were published
◯ **B.** Teachers in the state's schools report that they received additional training from the education department during the same years as the tables
◯ **C.** Schools that held back the largest share of Class IX students show the sharpest gains in their published Class X pass percentages
◯ **D.** Total enrolment in Class IX in the state rose steadily over the period because the number of children of school age increased in each district

RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL

32 quick questions · not negatively marked

1. Plural of 'phenomenon'? _____
2. Meaning of the maxim 'ubi jus ibi remedium'? _____
3. Antonym of 'candid'? _____
4. Which Article of the Constitution guarantees equality before law? _____
5. One word for 'a person who lives in a foreign country by choice'? _____
6. Meaning of 'mens rea'? _____
7. Correct word: 'The committee (adopted/adapted) the resolution unanimously.' _____
8. Synonym of 'obdurate'? _____
9. Which Article abolishes untouchability? _____
10. Meaning of 'bona fide'? _____
11. Spot the error: 'Each of the boys have finished.' _____
12. Meaning of 'ultra vires'? _____
13. Who presides over the Rajya Sabha? _____
14. Synonym of 'ephemeral'? _____
15. Idiom 'to burn the midnight oil' means? _____
16. Which writ means 'you may have the body'? _____
17. Antonym of 'benevolent'? _____
18. Article 21 protects which right? _____
19. Meaning of 'sub judice'? _____
20. Fill in: 'Neither the teacher nor the students ___ present.' (was/were) _____
21. How many Fundamental Duties are listed in Article 51A? _____
22. One word for 'a speech delivered without preparation'? _____
23. Meaning of 'obiter dictum'? _____
24. Synonym of 'meticulous'? _____
25. Who appoints the Chief Justice of India? _____
26. Idiom 'a red herring' means? _____
27. Meaning of 'res judicata'? _____
28. Correct spelling: 'accomodation' or 'accommodation'? _____
29. Which Part of the Constitution contains the Directive Principles? _____
30. Antonym of 'verbose'? _____
31. Meaning of 'locus standi'? _____
32. Meaning of 'quid pro quo'? _____

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