Daily RC & CR Sheet — 7 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.
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SECTION — READING COMPREHENSION

READING COMPREHENSION — PHILOSOPHY & IDEAS · THE DISCOMFORT OF TOLERANCE (Q1–Q5)

We tend to speak of tolerance as though it were a mild form of approval, a warm openness to whatever our neighbours believe or do. The word deserves a harder reading. To tolerate something is, first, to object to it. A person who is indifferent to the music next door does not tolerate it; she simply does not mind. Tolerance begins only where disapproval begins, and it consists in the decision not to act on that disapproval by suppressing what one dislikes.

This structure explains why tolerance is both demanding and easily mistaken. It is demanding because it asks a person to hold two attitudes at once: a judgment that something is wrong, or at least unfortunate, and a further judgment that it would be worse to stop it. Neither attitude cancels the other. The tolerant believer still thinks her neighbour's faith mistaken; she merely refuses to enlist the state, or the mob, against it. It is easily mistaken because both of its counterfeits look attractive. One counterfeit is indifference, which feels generous but costs nothing. The other is acceptance, which abolishes the objection altogether and so leaves nothing to be tolerated.

Philosophers have long worried that this makes tolerance paradoxical. If I am right that a practice is wrong, how can it be right for me to allow it? The answer lies in the reasons for restraint. I may hold that beliefs forced on a person are worthless, so that coercion defeats its own aim. I may doubt my own certainty enough to want others free to prove me wrong. Or I may value a common life with people who disagree with me more than I value winning any single dispute. Each reason is distinct from the objection, and that is the point: tolerance is not a weaker version of disapproval but a second judgment that overrules the first.

None of this means that everything must be tolerated. A practice that injures others gives the objection a weight that no reason for restraint can match. But the boundary is drawn by harm, not by distaste, and whoever draws it must be honest about which is which.

A society that praises tolerance while expecting everyone to approve of everything has not become more tolerant. It has simply lost the vocabulary for living with disagreement.

1. Which of the following best captures the author's central claim about tolerance?
- ◯ **A.** Tolerance is a mild form of approval that grows as people learn more about each other's beliefs
- ◯ **B.** Tolerance means objecting to something while judging, for separate reasons, that suppressing it is worse
- ◯ **C.** Tolerance is paradoxical and incoherent, so societies should replace it with a broader principle of acceptance
- ◯ **D.** Tolerance must extend to every practice, because no person can be certain that her objections are right

2. It can be inferred that a person who has come to approve fully of her neighbour's practice
- ◯ **A.** tolerates that practice more completely than a person who merely puts up with it
- ◯ **B.** has adopted the counterfeit of indifference, which feels generous but costs her nothing at all
- ◯ **C.** must still hold a concealed objection that her open approval only partly disguises
- ◯ **D.** no longer tolerates the practice, since nothing objectionable remains for her to tolerate

3. As used in the passage, the word 'counterfeits' most nearly means
- ◯ **A.** attitudes that resemble tolerance while lacking one of its essential elements
- ◯ **B.** forged documents that a state relies on to justify suppressing a minority belief
- ◯ **C.** arguments that philosophers have advanced to show that tolerance is impossible
- ◯ **D.** sincere forms of disapproval that people conceal behind a show of polite manners

4. The list of reasons for restraint in the third paragraph chiefly serves to
- ◯ **A.** show that tolerance is only as strong as the believer's doubts about her own convictions
- ◯ **B.** prove that coercion always fails, so that every objection should in time be quietly abandoned
- ◯ **C.** resolve the apparent paradox by grounding restraint in reasons independent of the objection
- ◯ **D.** demonstrate that a person who objects to a practice is usually wrong to hold that view

5. Which of the following would the author most likely regard as an instance of genuine tolerance?
- ◯ **A.** A resident who has never noticed the festival processions that pass her street every year
- ◯ **B.** A councillor who thinks a sect's rituals foolish but opposes a ban, holding coerced belief worthless
- ◯ **C.** A teacher who stops objecting to slang after deciding it is a fully legitimate form of everyday speech
- ◯ **D.** A landlord who dislikes a tenant's diet and therefore declines to renew the tenant's lease

READING COMPREHENSION — ECONOMICS · PRICES IN A FLOOD (Q6–Q10)

When floodwater cuts a town off from its suppliers, the price of bottled water, candles and diesel climbs within hours. The reaction is predictable too: shopkeepers are denounced as profiteers, and the district administration announces that essentials must be sold at pre-flood rates. The anger is understandable. Whether the order helps the people it is meant to protect is another question.

A price is not only a sum that changes hands; it is a signal. When diesel doubles in a stranded town, the higher price tells households to use less, tells those holding stocks to release them rather than hoard, and tells traders in neighbouring districts that a truck sent through flooded roads will be worth the risk. Freeze the price at its old level and every one of those messages is silenced. Demand stays as it was, supply arrives no faster, and the shortage that the high price was rationing does not disappear. It is rationed instead by queues, by connections and by whoever reaches the shop first. The black market that follows usually charges more than the open market would have.

Defenders of the cap reply that the price signal is cruel, because it allocates the last can of fuel to the household that can pay to the one that needs it most. This objection is the strongest one and should be taken seriously. A daily-wage labourer an owner do not face a doubled price in the same way, and an economist who says only "let prices work" has answered half the que

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But the problem the objection identifies is a shortage of money among the poor, not a defect in the price. It can be met without silencing the signal. Direct cash or vouchers credited to affected households let the poor bid for scarce goods while leaving traders the incentive to bring more of them in. Where a few items are truly vital, such as drinking water or medicines, the state can buy them at the market price and distribute them free, which adds supply rather than merely relabelling it.

A price cap is a promise of fairness that the empty shelf cannot keep. The fairer course is to put money in the hands of those who need it and let prices summon the goods.

6. The author's primary purpose in the passage is to

- ◯ **A.** defend traders who raise prices in emergencies against the public charge of profiteering
- ◯ **B.** argue that the state should never intervene in markets disrupted by natural disasters
- ◯ **C.** argue that cash support, not price caps, better secures fairness in emergency shortages
- ◯ **D.** show that black markets in flood-hit towns are caused chiefly by greedy local shopkeepers

7. According to the author, freezing diesel at its pre-flood price would most likely

- ◯ **A.** leave the shortage in place while shifting its allocation to queues and personal connections
- ◯ **B.** end the shortage, because hoarders would no longer gain anything at all by holding on to their stocks
- ◯ **C.** persuade traders in nearby districts to risk the flooded roads for the stranded town
- ◯ **D.** ensure that the household in greatest need receives the last available can of fuel

8. The author's attitude towards those who defend price caps is best described as

- ◯ **A.** dismissive, treating their concern for the poor as sentimental and economically quite naive
- ◯ **B.** wholly sympathetic, accepting both their diagnosis of the problem and their remedy
- ◯ **C.** hostile, accusing them of shielding the black marketeers who profit from shortages
- ◯ **D.** respectful of their objection, but convinced that it misidentifies the problem's source

9. The sentence 'an economist who says only "let prices work" has answered half the question' functions to

- ◯ **A.** withdraw the author's own earlier claim that prices act as useful signals during a shortage
- ◯ **B.** concede the force of the fairness objection before the author offers a remedy for it
- ◯ **C.** suggest that economists are not qualified to advise administrators during disasters
- ◯ **D.** imply that price signals operate for only half of the goods sold in an emergency

10. Which policy for a town cut off by floods would the author most likely support?

- ◯ **A.** Crediting vouchers to affected households while letting the market price of fuel rise
- ◯ **B.** Fixing fuel at pre-flood rates and posting police at the pumps to prevent hoarding
- ◯ **C.** Barring traders from neighbouring districts so that local shopkeepers are protected
- ◯ **D.** Buying all fuel stocks at pre-flood rates and selling them through government ration shops

SECTION — CRITICAL REASONING

CRITICAL REASONING — LAW & RIGHTS · DELAY AS PUNISHMENT (Q11–Q15)

Our criminal law insists that a person is innocent until proven guilty, and that bail, not jail, is the rule. Yet in prisons across the country roughly three of every four inmates are undertrials, people the state has accused but not convicted. Many have waited years for a trial that has barely begun.

When a court refuses bail, it does so on a forecast: that the accused may flee, tamper with evidence or threaten witnesses. Such forecasts may be reasonable when they are made. But a forecast about a trial expected in months cannot justify detention that stretches into years. The longer an accused waits, the weaker each ground becomes. Witnesses whose statements were recorded long ago are harder to intimidate; evidence that has been collected and sealed is harder to destroy; and a person who has spent half his likely sentence in custody has less reason to flee than to stay and be acquitted.

Courts have recognised parts of this reasoning. The Supreme Court has said repeatedly that the right to a speedy trial is part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21, and that even stringent statutes restricting bail must yield when a trial cannot conclude within a reasonable time. Parliament, too, now requires that an undertrial who has served a specified share of the maximum sentence be released on bond in most cases. These are welcome steps, but they treat delay as an exception to be noticed only when it becomes extreme.

Delay should instead be treated as a ground for bail in its own right, weighed at every hearing. Each time a bail application is heard, the court should ask not only whether the original risks persist, but whether the state's failure to proceed has begun to turn custody into punishment. Detention that the prosecution cannot convert into a verdict within a reasonable period serves no purpose the law recognises; it punishes a person whom the law still presumes innocent.

The objection that such a rule would release dangerous people misreads the proposal. It does not oblige courts to free anyone; it obliges them to count time. If the prosecution believes the risk is grave, its remedy is to bring the case to trial.

11. Which of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the argument?

- ◯ **A.** Stringent statutes restricting bail violate Article 21 and ought to be struck down by courts
- ◯ **B.** Most undertrials in Indian prisons are innocent and should be released on bond at once
- ◯ **C.** Courts should refuse bail only where the accused is likely to flee or to threaten witnesses
- ◯ **D.** Courts should weigh the prosecution's delay as an independent ground for bail at every hearing

12. The claim that delay weakens the grounds for refusing bail assumes that

- ◯ **A.** most accused persons who are refused bail are in fact innocent of the offences charged
- ◯ **B.** prosecutors deliberately slow down trials in order to keep accused persons in custody
- ◯ **C.** the risks justifying refusal arise mainly from the case's stage, not the accused's character
- ◯ **D.** witnesses in criminal trials are only rarely intimidated by accused persons who are released on bail

13. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the author's argument?

- ◯ **A.** Accused freed after long detention abscond or threaten witnesses as often as those freed early
- ◯ **B.** Many undertrials remain in custody because they cannot afford the sureties bail requires
- ◯ **C.** Trials in several states have been delayed mainly by shortages of judges rather than by prosecutors

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◯ **D.** The Supreme Court has granted bail on grounds of delay even under stringent anti-terror laws

14. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the case for the author's proposal over the existing statutory release rule?

◯ **A.** Most undertrials are charged with offences carrying short sentences and are freed quickly
◯ **B.** Many undertrials face long maximum sentences, so they wait years before reaching the share
◯ **C.** Courts already treat delay as a relevant factor when deciding bail in most cases under ordinary law
◯ **D.** Prisons now hold far more convicted prisoners than they did a decade before the new code

15. In the final paragraph, the author responds to an objection chiefly by

◯ **A.** conceding that the rule would free some dangerous accused, but calling it an acceptable cost
◯ **B.** citing evidence that accused released on grounds of delay rarely commit fresh offences
◯ **C.** arguing that dangerous accused should instead be tried in special courts with faster procedures
◯ **D.** clarifying that the proposal requires courts to weigh time, not to release any particular accused

CRITICAL REASONING — ENVIRONMENT · COUNTING SAPLINGS (Q16–Q20)

Every monsoon brings a new record. A state government announces that crores of saplings were planted in a single day, volunteers pose with spades, and the figure is cited as proof of environmental commitment. The same season, in another district, a stretch of old forest is diverted for a mine or a highway, and the diversion is approved on the condition that the developer pays for trees to be planted elsewhere. On paper, the two events cancel out. In the ground, they do not.

The difficulty begins with what is counted. Planting drives report saplings put into the soil, not trees alive five years later, and the few surveys of survival that exist suggest that a large share die within the first dry season. Compensatory plantations are often raised on degraded land far from the forest that was lost, sometimes as single-species rows of fast-growing trees that are easy to plant and easy to audit. Such stands may eventually store some carbon, but a mature natural forest stores far more, and it does so now, not in thirty years.

Carbon is also the narrowest measure of what a forest does. An old forest holds soil on slopes, recharges the springs that villages below depend on, and shelters species that cannot live in a young plantation however many stems it contains. These functions take decades to develop and cannot be moved to another district by an accountant's transfer. A hectare of standing forest and a hectare of new saplings are recorded in the same unit, but they are not the same asset.

It follows that environmental policy has its priorities reversed. The money and publicity go to planting, which is visible and quick, while the protection of existing forest, which is invisible precisely when it succeeds, is treated as a cost to development. A forest that is not cut makes no photograph.

Planting has its place, particularly in restoring land that has already been lost. But a government serious about forests would measure its record by the old forest it kept standing, and would treat a promise to plant elsewhere as a poor substitute for not cutting at all.

16. Which of the following best states the conclusion of the argument?

◯ **A.** Forest policy should value keeping existing forest standing above counting newly planted saplings
◯ **B.** Tree-planting drives should be abolished altogether because most saplings die in their first dry season
◯ **C.** Compensatory plantations should be located close to the forests whose diversion they offset
◯ **D.** Carbon storage is a misleading measure that environmental policy should stop using altogether

17. The author's use of survival surveys to characterise planting drives in general assumes that

◯ **A.** state governments deliberately inflate the sapling counts they announce after each drive
◯ **B.** saplings planted on degraded land die faster than saplings planted beside old forests
◯ **C.** the few available survival surveys broadly reflect what happens across planting drives
◯ **D.** planting drives would succeed if volunteers were properly trained before each monsoon

18. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument?

◯ **A.** Some compensatory plantations are single-species stands of fast-growing exotic trees
◯ **B.** Compensation now requires restoring native, species-matched forest adjoining each diverted site
◯ **C.** Planting drives attract more media coverage than any other state environmental programme
◯ **D.** Mature natural forests store more carbon per hectare than plantations of the same area

19. The sentence 'A forest that is not cut makes no photograph' serves primarily to

◯ **A.** criticise volunteers for valuing publicity above the survival of the saplings they plant
◯ **B.** propose that photographs of forests be used to monitor illegal tree felling by developers
◯ **C.** concede that forest protection is less valuable than planting because it cannot be seen
◯ **D.** explain why protection receives less attention than planting despite its greater value

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

◯ **A.** Opening libraries without training librarians wastes money, so library grants should fund staff first
◯ **B.** Faster traffic produces less pollution, so a city serious about clean air should build more flyovers
◯ **C.** Judging health ministries by beds added, not illness prevented, rewards the visible; measure prevention
◯ **D.** Seeds yield more grain only if the rains arrive, so farmers who plant more should insure against drought

RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL — 97 quick questions · not negatively marked

1. What, according to the author, is tolerance often mistaken for? .....
2. To tolerate something is, first, to do what? .....
3. Why does the indifferent neighbour not tolerate the music next door? .....
4. Where does tolerance begin, per the passage? .....
5. Tolerance consists in the decision not to act on what? .....
6. Why is tolerance 'demanding'? .....
7. What two judgments does the tolerant person hold together? .....
8. Whom does the tolerant believer refuse to enlist against her neighbour? .....
9. Name the two counterfeits of tolerance. .....
10. Why does indifference only 'feel generous'? .....
11. What does acceptance do to the objection? .....
12. What paradox have philosophers worried about? .....

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13. Why is coercion said to defeat its own aim?
14. Which reason for restraint rests on self-doubt?
15. What may a person value more than winning any single dispute?
16. Tolerance is not a weaker disapproval but what?
17. What gives an objection a weight no restraint can match?
18. By what is the boundary of tolerance drawn?
19. What has a society lost if it expects approval of everything?
20. Meaning of 'counterfeit' in the tolerance passage?
21. Meaning of 'coercion'?
22. Which three goods rise in price when floods cut off a town?
23. What are shopkeepers denounced as after a flood?
24. What does the district administration typically order?
25. A price is not only a sum that changes hands; it is also what?
26. What does a higher diesel price tell households?
27. What does a higher price tell those holding stocks?
28. What does a higher price tell traders in neighbouring districts?
29. What happens to the price signals when the price is frozen?
30. Under a cap, by what three means is the shortage rationed?
31. How does the black-market price compare with the open market?
32. Why do defenders call the price signal 'cruel'?
33. How does the author rate the defenders' objection?
34. Which two people face a doubled price differently?
35. An economist who says only 'let prices work' has answered how much?
36. What problem does the objection really identify, per the author?
37. What does the author propose for affected households?
38. Which items may the state buy and distribute free?
39. At what price should the state buy those vital items?
40. Free distribution of bought goods adds supply rather than doing what?
41. A price cap is a promise of fairness that what cannot keep?
42. Meaning of 'profiteer'?
43. Meaning of 'ration' as used in the flood passage?
44. What does the author want prices to do with goods?
45. Roughly what share of prison inmates are undertrials, per the passage?
46. Who is an undertrial?
47. What is 'the rule' in bail law, per the passage?
48. A refusal of bail rests on what kind of judgment?
49. Name the three risks that bail refusals forecast.
50. What happens to each ground for refusal as time passes?
51. Why does long custody reduce the reason to flee?
52. The speedy-trial right is part of which Article?
53. What must even stringent bail statutes do when trials stall?
54. What has Parliament required for undertrials?
55. How do current steps treat delay, says the author?
56. What does the author want delay to become?
57. What may the state's failure to proceed turn custody into?
58. Detention without a verdict punishes whom?
59. What objection does the final paragraph answer?
60. The proposal obliges courts to do what, not to free anyone?
61. If risk is grave, what is the prosecution's remedy?
62. What record does every monsoon bring, per the passage?
63. For what is forest diversion approved, in the example?
64. On what condition is the diversion approved?
65. On paper the two events cancel out; where do they not?
66. What do planting drives report?
67. When do many saplings die, per the surveys?
68. On what land are compensatory plantations often raised?
69. Why are single-species rows favoured?
70. When does a mature forest store carbon, compared with a plantation?
71. Carbon is called what kind of measure of a forest's work?
72. Name three functions of an old forest given in the passage.
73. Why can forest functions not be moved by an accountant's transfer?
74. A standing hectare and a planted hectare share a unit but are not the same what?
75. Why does planting get money and publicity?
76. Forest protection is invisible precisely when it does what?
77. Complete: 'A forest that is not cut makes no ___.'
78. Where does the author concede planting has a place?
79. By what should a serious government measure its forest record?
80. Meaning of 'diverted' forest land?
81. Is the tolerant believer said to change her view of her neighbour's faith?
82. Is the flood passage's author against all state intervention?
83. Why is collected and sealed evidence harder to destroy?
84. Meaning of 'on bond' in the bail passage?
85. What is the presumption of innocence?
86. Meaning of 'compensatory' in the forest passage?
87. Why are witnesses whose statements were recorded long ago harder to intimidate?
88. Tolerance is easily mistaken because its counterfeits look how?
89. Does the tolerance author say everything must be tolerated?
90. What must whoever draws tolerance's boundary be honest about?
91. Tolerance withholds what action against a disliked practice?
92. How many reasons for restraint does the tolerance passage list?
93. Meaning of 'distaste' in the tolerance passage?
94. How fast do essential prices climb when floods cut off a town?
95. How does the author describe the public anger at profiteers?
96. Under a price freeze, what happens to demand?
97. Under a price freeze, how fast does supply arrive?

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