Daily RC & CR Sheet — 8 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 — LAW & SOCIETY · THE VERDICT THE JUDGE REFUSED (Q1–Q5)

In April 1959 Kawas Nanavati, a naval commander, learned that his wife was having an affair with Prem Ahuja, a businessman and family friend. That afternoon he took a revolver from his ship and shot Ahuja dead in his Bombay flat. The killing itself was never in doubt. What divided the city was what it meant, and the trial that followed became the most famous jury case in Indian history.

The defence pleaded a struggle and an accidental shot; the prosecution, a deliberate killing. A popular weekly cast him as a wronged officer, and much of Bombay agreed. The jury acquitted him by eight votes to one. The Sessions Judge, persuaded that no reasonable jury could have reached that verdict, used a power under the old Code of Criminal Procedure to refer the case to the High Court. The High Court set the verdict aside and convicted Nanavati of murder, and the Supreme Court upheld the conviction in 1961.

The case is usually remembered as the reason India abolished trial by jury. The story is tidy and largely wrong. The jury had never been a national institution: it sat in the presidency towns and a handful of notified districts, while most trials were heard by judges sitting alone or with assessors whose opinions bound nobody. The Law Commission had recommended its abolition in a 1958 report, before the shooting, and the institution faded until the Code of 1973 made no provision for it.

What the trial exposed was not the folly of juries but a tension that any lay tribunal carries. A jury is prized because it brings the community's sense of justice into the courtroom, and distrusted for the same reason: that sense may forgive what the statute condemns. The jurors who acquitted a betrayed husband were arguably not misreading the evidence so much as applying a morality the law declined to recognise. Abolishing the jury removed that morality from the verdict. It did not remove it from society, which now presses its views through television studios and crowds on judges who have no jury to share the blame.

The lesson is not that India should restore the jury. It is that the question a jury once answered in the open, namely how far ordinary moral feeling should temper the letter of the law, has not gone away. It has only lost its official seat in the room.

1. The author's primary purpose in the passage is to
- ◯ **A.** show that the higher courts rightly corrected a jury verdict that was a plain miscarriage of justice
- ◯ **B.** establish that the Law Commission's 1958 report was the sole real cause of the jury's abolition
- ◯ **C.** correct a popular account of the case and draw from it a lasting tension in lay justice
- ◯ **D.** recommend restoring the jury for trials in which community morality is centrally at stake

2. The reference to the Law Commission's 1958 report primarily serves to
- ◯ **A.** show that the move away from juries began before the case could have prompted it
- ◯ **B.** suggest that the Commission foresaw the kind of verdict the Nanavati jury would return
- ◯ **C.** establish that juries had already been abolished in the presidency towns before the trial
- ◯ **D.** prove that the Sessions Judge's reference to the High Court followed the Commission's advice

3. The author's view of the jurors who acquitted Nanavati is best described as which of the following?
- ◯ **A.** They were swayed by the press into ignoring evidence that plainly established a murder
- ◯ **B.** They correctly found that the shot was fired by accident during a struggle in the flat
- ◯ **C.** They were using a power the old Code expressly gave them to set aside the law of murder
- ◯ **D.** They may have been voicing a community morality that the law refused to recognise

4. As used in the final paragraph, 'temper' most nearly means
- ◯ **A.** to provoke or inflame
- ◯ **B.** to moderate or ease
- ◯ **C.** to harden or toughen
- ◯ **D.** to disclose or reveal

5. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously undermine the author's claim that the popular story is 'largely wrong'?
- ◯ **A.** Juries in the presidency towns acquitted accused persons more often than judges sitting alone did
- ◯ **B.** States that ended jury trials after 1959 openly cited the Nanavati acquittal as their main reason
- ◯ **C.** The members who drafted the Law Commission's 1958 report had themselves once served as jurors
- ◯ **D.** Most Bombay residents polled in 1961 approved of the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the conviction

READING COMPREHENSION — HISTORY · THE CONTRACT NO ONE WOULD ENFORCE (Q6–Q10)

For half a century before 1860, European planters in lower Bengal prospered on a crop that the men who grew it had every reason to hate. The planter seldom farmed indigo himself. He advanced cash to a ryot, who in return bound himself to sow part of his land with indigo and to deliver the plants at a rate the planter fixed. The advance was small, the rate low and the accounts kept by the planter's own agents, so that a cultivator who accepted one advance could find himself in debt for years, obliged to give his best land to indigo in the very season his rice required it.

In 1859 the ryots of Nadia and Jessore began to refuse. The refusal spread with striking discipline: villagers declined fresh advances, resisted the planters' armed retainers and carried their grievances to the magistrates' courts. The planters' power had rested on an assumption that a contract, however unequal its making, would be enforced by the state. When some district officials began to doubt that assumption, the system faltered. The government appointed an Indigo Commission in 1860, whose report censured the planters' methods, and the authorities announced that ryots could not be compelled to grow the crop.

The revolt acquired a second life in print. Nil Darpan, a Bengali play by Dinabandhu Mitra published in 1860, dramatised the [illegible] of a cultivating family at the hands of a planter. An English translation, which the missionary James Long arranged to have pr[illegible]

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circulated, so angered the planters that they prosecuted him for libel, and in 1861 he was fined and sent to prison for a month. The prosecution made the play notorious well beyond the readers it might otherwise have found, and it turned a provincial grievance into a question debated in Calcutta's newspapers.

Historians have sometimes enlisted the revolt as an early chapter of Indian nationalism. The label sits uneasily. The ryots did not demand an end to British rule; they appealed to its courts, and much of their success came from a division within the ruling order itself, between planters who wanted their contracts honoured and officials unwilling to honour them by force. Yet to call the movement merely a dispute over contracts misses what was new in it: cultivators acting together, across villages, to withdraw the consent on which an exploitative arrangement had quietly depended.

6. Which of the following best describes the organisation of the passage?

- ◯ **A.** A theory of peasant revolt is stated, tested against Bengal and finally rejected as too narrow
- ◯ **B.** Two rival accounts of the revolt are set out, and the older one is shown to be correct
- ◯ **C.** A planter's defence of the advance system is presented and then refuted point by point
- ◯ **D.** A system is described, its collapse narrated, its afterlife traced, a common label qualified

7. According to the passage, the indigo system faltered chiefly because

- ◯ **A.** the Indigo Commission ordered planters to repay the advances they had recovered from ryots
- ◯ **B.** the English translation of Nil Darpan turned British opinion decisively against the planters
- ◯ **C.** some officials began to doubt that unequal contracts should be enforced for the planters
- ◯ **D.** rice prices rose so sharply in 1859 that ryots could no longer afford to sow any indigo

8. The author's attitude toward describing the revolt as an early chapter of nationalism is best characterised as

- ◯ **A.** qualified scepticism: the label overstates its aims, yet calling it a contract dispute also errs
- ◯ **B.** firm endorsement: appealing to colonial courts was itself a covert challenge to British rule
- ◯ **C.** outright rejection: the movement was only a commercial quarrel between planters and debtors
- ◯ **D.** studied neutrality: the historians' view is reported without the author judging it either way

9. It can be inferred from the passage that the planters' prosecution of James Long

- ◯ **A.** succeeded in suppressing the English translation of the play across the districts of Bengal
- ◯ **B.** widened the play's audience, working against the planters' own interest in silencing it
- ◯ **C.** was dismissed by the court because the play described real events in Nadia and Jessore
- ◯ **D.** was brought by the government to defend the district officials whom the play had criticised

10. Which of the following situations most closely parallels the author's account of why the revolt succeeded?

- ◯ **A.** Factory workers win higher wages after a long strike drives their employer into bankruptcy
- ◯ **B.** Tenants obtain lower rents after a newspaper expose shames their landlord into cutting them
- ◯ **C.** Villagers overthrow a local ruler by raising an armed force far larger than his own guard
- ◯ **D.** Tenants jointly refuse unfair leases as the courts that enforced them stop doing so

SECTION — CRITICAL REASONING

CRITICAL REASONING — SOCIETY & CULTURE · WHO CAME ON SUNDAY (Q11–Q15)

Last year the city's culture department abolished the entry fee at its four public museums on Sundays, while keeping the Rs 150 charge on every other day. Within six months average Sunday attendance had risen from about 2,100 visitors to 6,800. The department now proposes to abolish the fee altogether. Its reasoning is simple: when the charge vanished, the crowds appeared, so the charge, not a lack of interest, must be what has kept the city's poorer residents away. Removing it every day, the department says, will open the museums to the households that have been priced out of them, and the lost ticket revenue of roughly Rs 3 crore a year is a modest price for a public institution that finally serves its whole public.

The figures are genuine, but they do not show what the department believes they show. A rise in Sunday attendance tells us how many people came, not who they were, and the department collected no information about its visitors' incomes or neighbourhoods. Some of the new Sunday crowd may simply be earlier weekday visitors who now save money by switching days; weekday attendance has, in fact, fallen by about a fifth since the scheme began. Others may be tourists, school parties, or residents who could always afford the ticket and responded, as most of us would, to a bargain.

None of this proves that the fee is irrelevant. It means that a policy whose stated purpose is to widen access must be judged by whether it reaches the people who were excluded, and that is precisely what the department has not measured. A cheaper test lies to hand. The city already issues concession cards to low-income households for its buses; it could admit cardholders free on every day for a year and count how many come. If they come in numbers, the case for abolishing the fee for everyone grows stronger. If they do not, the barrier lies elsewhere, in distance, in working hours, or in a settled sense that museums are not meant for people like them, and abolishing the fee for all would spend Rs 3 crore a year without touching it.

Good intentions are not a measurement. A department that wants its museums to belong to the whole city should first find out who is still missing from them.

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

- ◯ **A.** The Sunday figures do not prove the fee excluded poorer residents; a targeted trial should come first
- ◯ **B.** Museum fees do not affect attendance, so the city should keep charging Rs 150 every day
- ◯ **C.** Most new Sunday visitors are weekday visitors who switched days to avoid paying for a ticket
- ◯ **D.** Abolishing the fee costs Rs 3 crore a year, a sum the city cannot justify on its museums

12. The author's proposed test assumes that

- ◯ **A.** concession cardholders will visit the museums more often than any other group of city residents
- ◯ **B.** tourists and school parties will stop visiting once the Sunday free-entry scheme is withdrawn
- ◯ **C.** bus concession cardholders broadly represent the residents the fee is thought to have excluded
- ◯ **D.** the city's museums can admit many more weekday visitors without needing any additional staff

13. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's objection to the department's reasor

- ◯ **A.** Sunday attendance has kept rising through the second six months of the free-entry scheme

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◯ **B.** A survey found most Sunday visitors lived in poor wards and had never visited a museum
◯ **C.** Free-entry Sundays at museums in other cities have also drawn large numbers of tourists
◯ **D.** The department plans to recover the lost Rs 3 crore through a small rise in property tax

14. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's suggestion that some new Sunday visitors merely switched days?

◯ **A.** Sunday crowds at the museums peak in the afternoons, after most families have finished lunch
◯ **B.** Sunday visitors spend longer in the galleries than the visitors who pay on weekdays do
◯ **C.** Private galleries in the city reported no change in their attendance after the scheme began
◯ **D.** Museum-society members who once visited on weekdays now log most of their visits on Sundays

15. The department's reasoning is most closely paralleled by which of the following?

◯ **A.** A gym's free trial month tripled sign-ups, so it concluded cost was why non-members avoided exercise
◯ **B.** A library extended its opening hours and loans rose, so it concluded longer hours caused the rise
◯ **C.** A bus company cut fares and ridership fell, so it concluded fares had no effect on riders
◯ **D.** A theatre raised its prices and audiences held steady, so it concluded that its patrons were wealthy

CRITICAL REASONING — HEALTH POLICY · THE RED OCTAGON (Q16–Q20)

Eighteen months ago the state of Kesarpur required every packaged sugar-sweetened drink sold within its borders to carry a red octagonal warning on the front of the pack, stating that the product was high in sugar. Retail sales of such drinks, measured in litres, have since fallen by fourteen per cent. The state should now extend the warning to every packaged food high in sugar, salt or fat, and it should do so before the rising tide of childhood obesity becomes impossible to turn back.

Sceptics offer two objections. The first is that the fall owes more to the ten per cent excise increase that Kesarpur imposed on sweetened drinks in the same year. But the tax came into force eight months after the labels, and by then sales had already fallen by nine per cent. Whatever the tax added, the labels had done most of the work before it arrived. The second objection is that buyers simply moved to sweet drinks the rule did not cover, such as packaged fruit juices, which were exempt. Yet juice sales rose by barely two per cent over the period, far too little to absorb the fall.

The mechanism is not mysterious. A shopper deciding in a few seconds between two bottles does not read the nutrition table printed in small type on the back of the pack; she sees a red symbol on the front, and a fraction of shoppers put the bottle down. Multiplied across millions of purchases, that small hesitation becomes a large change in what a population consumes. There is no reason the same hesitation should not occur in front of a packet of chips, a jar of pickle or a box of biscuits.

Labels cost the state almost nothing, and manufacturers redesign their packs every few years in any case, so the burden on industry is slight. A measure that is cheap, that has been shown to work and that respects the shopper's freedom to buy whatever she likes deserves to be applied wherever the same danger is sold. Critics who demand still more evidence should say what evidence would satisfy them, and how many more children should grow up in the meantime on diets nobody warned their parents about. Kesarpur has run the experiment. It should now act on the result.

16. The statement that sales had fallen nine per cent before the tax took effect plays which role in the argument?

◯ **A.** It is the main conclusion, which the remainder of the passage is offered to support
◯ **B.** It rebuts a rival explanation by showing most of the fall preceded the alternative cause
◯ **C.** It concedes that the tax, not the labels, accounts for most of the observed fall in sales
◯ **D.** It supplies the direct evidence that the labels will reduce childhood obesity in the state

17. The claim that the labels reduced what people consume depends on the assumption that

◯ **A.** shoppers in Kesarpur now read the nutrition tables on the backs of packs more than before
◯ **B.** manufacturers will not raise prices of labelled drinks to recover the cost of new packs
◯ **C.** the excise tax on sweetened drinks will be withdrawn once the labels are extended to food
◯ **D.** the fall in retail litres was not offset by sweet drinks bought outside retail channels

18. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the claim that the labels caused the fall in sales?

◯ **A.** Sales of packaged fruit juices in Kesarpur rose by about two per cent over the eighteen months
◯ **B.** Most manufacturers in Kesarpur redesigned their packs to carry the label within a few weeks
◯ **C.** A heavily publicised campaign linking sugary drinks to diabetes began just when the labels did
◯ **D.** The excise increase on sweetened drinks was the first such increase in Kesarpur for a decade

19. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument?

◯ **A.** In a neighbouring state with neither labels nor a new tax, sales of sugary drinks stayed flat
◯ **B.** Childhood obesity in Kesarpur was above the national average before the labels were introduced
◯ **C.** Several large manufacturers have publicly opposed extending the warning labels to snacks
◯ **D.** The red octagonal symbol used in Kesarpur was copied from a design used in another country

20. The argument's final recommendation is most vulnerable to the criticism that it

◯ **A.** relies on sales data from a period too short to show any change in how much people drink
◯ **B.** ignores the possibility that the excise tax caused some part of the fall in drink sales
◯ **C.** presumes a warning effect seen with one drink category will recur across very different foods
◯ **D.** assumes shoppers lose all freedom to buy a labelled product once they decide they want it

RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL

110 quick questions · not negatively marked

1. In which month and year did the Nanavati shooting take place? .....
2. What rank did Kawas Nanavati hold? .....
3. Who was the man Nanavati shot dead? .....
4. What was Prem Ahuja's occupation, per the passage? .....
5. Where did Nanavati obtain the revolver? .....
6. In which city did the shooting take place? .....
7. What did the defence plead at the trial? .....
8. What did the prosecution allege? .....
9. How did a popular weekly portray Nanavati? .....

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10. By what margin did the jury acquit Nanavati?
11. Who referred the jury's verdict to the High Court?
12. Why did the Sessions Judge refer the case?
13. Under which law did the judge have the power to refer the case?
14. Of what offence did the High Court convict Nanavati?
15. In which year did the Supreme Court uphold the conviction?
16. For what is the Nanavati case usually remembered?
17. How does the author rate the popular story of the case?
18. Where did the jury sit, per the passage?
19. How were most criminal trials heard?
20. What was the status of assessors' opinions?
21. Which body recommended abolishing the jury?
22. In which year was that recommendation made?
23. Which Code made no provision for jury trials?
24. The trial exposed not the folly of juries but what?
25. Why is a jury prized?
26. Why is a jury distrusted?
27. What were the acquitting jurors arguably applying?
28. Abolishing the jury removed that morality from what?
29. Through what does society now press its views on judges?
30. What do today's judges lack, per the author?
31. Does the author want the jury restored?
32. What has the question of lay morality lost?
33. Meaning of 'temper' in 'temper the letter of the law'?
34. Meaning of 'lay tribunal'?
35. For how long had planters prospered on indigo before 1860?
36. In which region did the indigo planters operate?
37. What did the planter give the ryot?
38. What did the ryot promise in return?
39. Who fixed the rate paid for indigo plants?
40. Who kept the accounts of the advances?
41. What could happen to a ryot who took one advance?
42. Which crop's season clashed with indigo?
43. In which year did the ryots begin to refuse?
44. Name the two districts where refusal began.
45. How did the refusal spread, per the passage?
46. Whom did the villagers resist?
47. Where did ryots carry their grievances?
48. On what assumption did the planters' power rest?
49. When did the system falter?
50. In which year was the Indigo Commission appointed?
51. What did the Commission's report do?
52. What did the authorities then announce?
53. Who wrote the play Nil Darpan?
54. In which language was Nil Darpan written?
55. In which year was Nil Darpan published?
56. What did Nil Darpan dramatise?
57. Which missionary had the English translation circulated?
58. On what charge did the planters prosecute Long?
59. What sentence did Long receive in 1861?
60. What did the prosecution do to the play's reach?
61. How have some historians enlisted the revolt?
62. How does the author find the nationalist label?
63. Did the ryots demand an end to British rule?
64. What division helped the ryots succeed?
65. What was new in the indigo movement?
66. Meaning of 'ryot'?
67. Meaning of 'censured'?
68. Meaning of 'libel'?
69. Meaning of 'retainers' in the indigo passage?
70. On which day did the city abolish museum entry fees?
71. How many public museums does the city run?
72. What is the entry charge on other days?
73. What was average Sunday attendance before the scheme?
74. What did Sunday attendance rise to within six months?
75. What does the department now propose?
76. What does the department say kept poorer residents away?
77. How much ticket revenue would full abolition lose?
78. Rising Sunday attendance tells us how many came, not what?
79. What visitor data did the department fail to collect?
80. By how much has weekday attendance fallen?
81. Name two groups besides switchers who may fill Sundays.
82. Does the author say the fee is irrelevant?
83. By what must an access policy be judged?
84. To whom does the city already issue concession cards?
85. What test does the author propose?
86. Name one barrier other than cost the author lists.
87. Complete: 'Good intentions are not a ___.'
88. What did Kesarpur require on sugary drink packs?
89. How long ago did the labelling rule begin?
90. In what unit were drink sales measured?
91. By how much did sugary drink sales fall?
92. What does the author want labels extended to?
93. How large was Kesarpur's excise increase on sweet drinks?
94. How long after the labels did the tax take effect?
95. By how much had sales fallen before the tax arrived?
96. Which exempt drinks might buyers have switched to?
97. By how much did juice sales rise?
98. What does a hurried shopper not read, per the passage?
99. What becomes a large change across millions of purchases?
100. How often do manufacturers redesign packs, per the author?
101. What did Nanavati learn about his wife?
102. Was the Nanavati killing itself ever in doubt?
103. What, per the passage, divided Bombay about the killing?
104. What did the Nanavati trial become in Indian history?
105. Was the jury ever a national institution in India?
106. How does the author describe the man the jurors acquitted?
107. How does the author describe the indigo advance and rate?
108. Which land did an indebted ryot have to give to indigo?
109. After 1859, what did villagers do with fresh advances?
110. What does the author call the revolt's career in print?

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