# Daily RC & CR Sheet — 10 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 — POPULAR SCIENCE · A COMPASS IN THE EYE (Q1–Q5)

Every autumn, European robins that have spent the summer in Scandinavia set off at night for the Mediterranean, and they arrive without maps, landmarks or, in the case of young birds, any previous experience of the route. Experiments since the 1960s have shown that part of their guidance comes from the Earth's magnetic field. Yet the robin's compass is a strange instrument. It does not register whether the field points north or south, only the angle at which the field lines dip towards the ground, and it works only when there is some light, particularly at the blue end of the spectrum.

Those two oddities led physicists to a proposal that once sounded fanciful. When light strikes a protein called cryptochrome in the bird's retina, it may create a pair of molecules each carrying a single unpaired electron. The spins of these two electrons are linked, and the pair flips back and forth between two states at a rate that a weak magnetic field can nudge. Because the chemistry that follows depends on which state the pair ends in, the field's direction could, in principle, alter a chemical signal that the bird's brain reads as a pattern laid over its vision.

The most striking evidence came from a modest source: electrical noise. When researchers exposed caged robins to faint radio-frequency fields, far too weak to heat tissue or to move an ordinary magnet, the birds lost their sense of direction. An iron-based compass would have ignored such noise; a pair of linked electron spins should not. Later work found that robins kept in wooden huts on a university campus stayed disoriented until the huts were screened from the city's background electrical hum. It was an awkward result for anyone who still pictured the compass as a tiny bar magnet.

None of this amounts to proof. No one has yet watched the radical pair form inside a living bird's eye, and the effect measured in purified protein is weaker than the bird's sensitivity seems to require. Some biologists suspect that a second, iron-based sense in the beak or the inner ear works alongside the first. What the robin offers is not a settled answer but a reasonable wager: that a process physicists long thought too delicate to survive in warm, wet tissue may be steering one of nature's longest journeys.

**1. Which of the following best captures the central point of the passage?**

- ◯ **A.** Robins steer chiefly by sensing whether the Earth's magnetic field is pointing north or south at night
- ◯ **B.** A light-triggered chemical process plausibly explains the robin's compass, though it is unproven
- ◯ **C.** Radio-noise experiments have shown conclusively that birds rely on an iron-based magnetic sense
- ◯ **D.** Urban electrical noise is the main reason migratory songbirds are now declining across Europe

**2. Which of the following can most reasonably be inferred about the radio-frequency experiments?**

- ◯ **A.** They showed that robins' tissue is heated by fields too weak to move an ordinary magnet
- ◯ **B.** They proved that the radical pair forms inside the retina of a living, migrating robin
- ◯ **C.** They indicated that the robin depends on its beak rather than its eye for direction
- ◯ **D.** They told against a purely iron-based compass, which should have ignored such noise

**3. The author mentions that the robin's compass 'works only when there is some light' primarily in order to**

- ◯ **A.** point to a feature that a light-triggered chemical mechanism would explain
- ◯ **B.** show that robins prefer to migrate by day rather than in the dark of the night
- ◯ **C.** suggest that blue light, and not magnetism at all, is what actually guides the birds
- ◯ **D.** explain why the robin's compass cannot tell north from south on its own journey

**4. As used in the final paragraph, the word 'wager' most nearly means**

- ◯ **A.** a sum of money staked on the result of an uncertain contest
- ◯ **B.** a firm conclusion drawn from many repeated laboratory measurements
- ◯ **C.** a well-grounded bet on a hypothesis that is not yet confirmed
- ◯ **D.** a long-running contest between two rival schools of biologists

**5. Which finding, if true, would most seriously undermine the cryptochrome explanation as the passage presents it?**

- ◯ **A.** Robins whose retinal cryptochrome is disabled still orient normally under blue light
- ◯ **B.** Purified cryptochrome responds to magnetic fields more weakly than robins' behaviour needs
- ◯ **C.** Robins also have iron-rich cells in the beak that respond to strong magnetic pulses
- ◯ **D.** Faint radio noise disorients robins at some frequencies but leaves them unaffected at others

### READING COMPREHENSION — PSYCHOLOGY & MIND · THE INSIDE VIEW (Q6–Q10)

Ask a student how long a term paper will take and the answer usually arrives quickly and confidently. Ask again after the deadline has passed and the true figure is, more often than not, much larger. Psychologists call this the planning fallacy: the habit of underestimating the time, cost and risk of our own projects even when we know that similar projects have run late before. In one well-known study, final-year students predicted when they would finish their theses; fewer than a third finished by the date they had given, and most overran even the date they described as their worst case.

It is tempting to treat the fallacy as simple optimism, a cheerful temperament that refuses to imagine trouble. The research suggests something more specific. When we plan, we construct a story of how this particular task will unfold, step by step, and we judge its length by how smoothly the story runs. Daniel Kahneman called this the inside view. Its weakness is not that it is bright rather than gloomy but that it is narrow. The story includes the steps we can foresee and omits the illness, the lost file and the extra round of revisions, each unlikely on its own but, taken together, almost certain to supply at least one delay.

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The alternative is the outside view. Instead of asking how this project will go, the planner asks how projects of this kind have gone: what share of theses, kitchen renovations or metro lines finished on schedule, and by how much the rest overran. The answer is dull, statistical and indifferent to the planner's particular hopes, which is precisely its value.

Curiously, people apply the outside view readily to others. Observers asked to predict when a friend will finish a task are more pessimistic, and usually more accurate, than the friend. The difference is not superior wisdom but distance: the observer has no detailed story to fall in love with and so reaches for the record of past cases.

None of this means that planning should be abandoned. A detailed plan tells us what to do on Monday morning; it is simply a poor instrument for telling us when we will be done. The sensible planner keeps both views, using the story to organise the work and the statistics to set the deadline.

**6.** The passage is primarily concerned with

- ◯ **A.** showing that optimistic people plan worse than people with a gloomy temperament
- ◯ **B.** arguing that detailed plans are useless and should give way to statistical forecasts
- ◯ **C.** explaining why people misjudge their own projects and how past cases correct this
- ◯ **D.** describing a thesis study in which most students missed even their worst-case dates

**7.** According to the passage, the inside view underestimates delays chiefly because it

- ◯ **A.** omits many individually unlikely setbacks that together are very likely to occur
- ◯ **B.** springs from a cheerful temperament that simply refuses to imagine any kind of trouble
- ◯ **C.** relies on records of earlier projects that were finished under easier conditions
- ◯ **D.** is the method used by observers who lack detailed knowledge of the actual task

**8.** It can be inferred that observers predict a friend's finishing time more accurately mainly because they

- ◯ **A.** have greater practical experience of the task than the friend has
- ◯ **B.** are by nature more pessimistic people than those who do the tasks
- ◯ **C.** build a more detailed step-by-step account of the friend's project
- ◯ **D.** lack a vivid scenario of the task and so fall back on past cases

**9.** The author's attitude towards detailed planning is best described as

- ◯ **A.** dismissive, since such plans are shown to mislead the people who make them
- ◯ **B.** qualified approval, valuing it for organising work but not for setting dates
- ◯ **C.** uncritical enthusiasm, treating it as the cure for the planning fallacy itself
- ◯ **D.** studied neutrality, declining to say whether planning has any worth at all

**10.** A city must estimate when a new metro line will open. Which approach would the author most likely endorse?

- ◯ **A.** Have the engineers list each construction stage and add the stage durations together
- ◯ **B.** Rely on an outside consultant's detailed account of how this particular line will be built
- ◯ **C.** Set the opening date from the engineers' worst-case estimate for each separate stage
- ◯ **D.** Plan the work stage by stage but set the date from overruns on comparable lines

## SECTION — CRITICAL REASONING

**CRITICAL REASONING — POLITICAL ECONOMY · THE KITCHEN AND THE FIELD (Q11–Q15)**

For the third time in five years, the Union government has responded to a rise in onion prices by banning exports overnight. The ban achieves its immediate aim: within weeks, onions that would have gone to Dubai or Dhaka are diverted to domestic markets, and retail prices in the cities ease. That is precisely why it is the wrong policy, and why it should be retired in favour of an instrument that does not make farmers pay for the comfort of urban consumers.

Consider who bears the cost. A price spike in the retail market is the one moment in the cycle when the grower, who in most years sells near the cost of production, can earn enough to cover the lean seasons. An export ban removes a large group of buyers at exactly that moment. When the 2023 ban took effect, wholesale prices at Lasalgaon, the country's largest onion market, fell by more than a third within a fortnight, while the retail price in Mumbai fell by barely a tenth. The gap was captured not by consumers but by traders, who bought cheaply from growers after the ban and sold at retail prices that had barely moved.

The damage outlasts the season. Importers in West Asia and South-East Asia need suppliers they can rely on, and a supplier who may vanish overnight is one they will replace when they can. After each ban, Indian exporters report that buyers have signed longer contracts with Pakistan, Egypt and China, contracts that do not return when the ban is lifted. A market built over decades is surrendered for a few weeks of lower prices.

Defenders of the ban say that onions are a staple of the poor and that no government can watch their price triple. That is a fair point, and it is why the state needs an instrument. But it already has one. A buffer stock, bought from farmers when prices are low and released into retail markets when they climb, can lower urban prices without shutting the border, and it pays farmers rather than penalising them.

The buffer has failed in the past mainly because it was too small and was stored badly, so that much of it rotted. Those are problems of scale and storage, not of principle. A government willing to fix them would never again need to choose between the kitchen and the field.

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

- ◯ **A.** The government should replace sudden onion export bans with a well-run buffer stock
- ◯ **B.** Export bans fail to bring down retail onion prices in the big cities within a few weeks
- ◯ **C.** Traders rather than consumers gain most when onion exports are suddenly banned
- ◯ **D.** India's onion buffer stock failed in the past because it was small and badly stored

**12.** The argument that a buffer stock can take the place of the export ban assumes that

- ◯ **A.** retail onion prices seldom rise sharply in years when no export ban is imposed
- ◯ **B.** foreign importers will return to Indian suppliers as soon as the bans are lifted
- ◯ **C.** a larger, better-stored buffer could release enough onions to check a retail spike
- ◯ **D.** farmers would much rather sell their onions to the government than to private exporters

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**13.** Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's claim that export bans cause lasting damage to Indian onion exports?

- ◯ **A.** Importers in West Asia usually buy onions from several countries at once to spread supply risk
- ◯ **B.** India's onion export volumes returned to their pre-ban levels within a year after each ban
- ◯ **C.** Most Indian onion exporters also trade in other vegetables whose export was never banned
- ◯ **D.** Retail onion prices in Mumbai rose again within three months of the 2023 ban being lifted

**14.** Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the claim that traders captured the gap after the 2023 ban?

- ◯ **A.** Retail onion prices in Mumbai had nearly tripled in the three months just before the ban was imposed
- ◯ **B.** Farmers in Maharashtra planted more onions in the season after the 2023 ban
- ◯ **C.** Wholesale prices at other onion markets fell by similar margins after the ban
- ◯ **D.** Traders' purchases at Lasalgaon rose sharply after the ban while their selling prices held

**15.** The author's case for the buffer stock is most vulnerable to the criticism that it

- ◯ **A.** relies on a single wholesale market to describe conditions across the whole country
- ◯ **B.** overlooks that releasing stock during a spike also lowers the prices farmers then receive
- ◯ **C.** confuses the size of the buffer stock with the quality of the facilities storing it
- ◯ **D.** treats concern for poor consumers as illegitimate instead of as a fair point

**CRITICAL REASONING — SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY POLICY · THE PRICE OF FREE READING (Q16–Q20)**

The national research funding agency has announced that, from next year, every paper arising from its grants must be free to read on the day of publication. The aim is admirable: research paid for by taxpayers should be readable by them, and by the student in a small college whose library cannot afford a thousand journal subscriptions. But the route the agency has chosen to that aim will do harm, and it should be changed before the rule takes effect.

The agency proposes to meet the publishers' price for open access. Under this model, often called 'gold' open access, a journal makes an article free to all readers in return for a fee paid on the author's behalf, which at leading journals now runs to several lakh rupees per article. The agency will reimburse these fees from its grant budget. Since that budget is fixed, every rupee paid to publishers is a rupee not spent on laboratories, fellowships or field work. A rough estimate by the agency's own advisers puts the annual cost at about a tenth of the money now given to new projects.

The model also changes what publishers are paid for. When income comes from subscriptions, a journal earns by being worth reading; when income comes from author fees, it earns by publishing more. Several large publishers have expanded their fee-charging titles rapidly over the past decade, and the growth has been fastest in journals whose standards of review are hardest to verify.

There is a cheaper road to the same destination. Most publishers already allow authors to place the accepted version of a paper, after peer review but before the publisher's typesetting, in a public repository. This 'green' route costs the agency almost nothing beyond running the repository. A rule requiring every grantee to deposit the accepted manuscript on publication would make the research free to read at once, without diverting a rupee from the work itself. Both routes end with the same paper free for anyone to read; they differ only in who pays, and when.

Some will object that readers prefer the polished published version, and that a few publishers forbid immediate deposit. Both points are true and neither is decisive. A reader who wants to know what was found can read the accepted manuscript; and the agency, which pays for the research, is well placed to tell grantees not to publish in journals that refuse.

**16.** Which of the following best states the main conclusion the author reaches about how the agency should secure open access to the research it funds?

- ◯ **A.** Taxpayers should be able to read every paper produced with public research money
- ◯ **B.** Author fees at leading journals now cost several lakh rupees for every article
- ◯ **C.** Journals paid through author fees will inevitably lower their standards of review
- ◯ **D.** The agency should require repository deposit instead of paying journals' open-access fees

**17.** The claim that reimbursing the fees will reduce spending on research assumes that

- ◯ **A.** most grantees would publish in fee-charging journals even without any reimbursement
- ◯ **B.** the fees would not instead be met by universities or other outside bodies
- ◯ **C.** leading journals will go on raising their open-access fees every year from now on
- ◯ **D.** subscription journals spend less on peer review than fee-charging journals now do

**18.** Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument for the green route?

- ◯ **A.** A national repository would need a small permanent staff to check and catalogue files
- ◯ **B.** Many accepted manuscripts differ from the published versions only in layout and pagination
- ◯ **C.** Most journals in the agency's main fields bar deposit until twelve months after publication
- ◯ **D.** Students in small colleges often lack reliable internet access to download any research papers

**19.** Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the author's claim about how author fees change publishers' incentives?

- ◯ **A.** Fee-funded journals at several large publishers raised acceptance rates as their article counts grew
- ◯ **B.** Fee-charging titles now publish more articles in total than subscription titles do each year
- ◯ **C.** Subscription prices at leading journals have risen faster than inflation for two decades
- ◯ **D.** Several fee-charging journals were founded by universities and learned societies rather than by commercial publishers

**20.** The author's reply to the objection that some publishers forbid immediate deposit is most open to the criticism that it

- ◯ **A.** concedes a point which the rest of the argument cannot afford to grant at all
- ◯ **B.** relies on the preferences of readers that the author earlier dismissed as unimportant
- ◯ **C.** overlooks that barring such journals may cost grantees outlets their careers depend on
- ◯ **D.** assumes, without argument, that the agency has no legal power to direct where its grantees choose to publish

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## RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL

91 quick questions · not negatively marked

1. Where do the European robins in the passage spend the summer?
2. Towards which region do the robins migrate in autumn?
3. At what time of day do the robins set off on migration?
4. Since which decade have experiments linked robin navigation to magnetism?
5. Can the robin's compass tell magnetic north from south?
6. What does the robin's compass actually register?
7. Which end of the spectrum does the robin's compass need?
8. Which retinal protein is central to the proposed compass?
9. Light on cryptochrome may create a pair of molecules carrying what?
10. What can the weak magnetic field 'nudge' in the radical pair?
11. How might the bird perceive the chemical signal?
12. What 'modest source' gave the most striking evidence?
13. Were the radio fields strong enough to heat tissue?
14. Which kind of compass would have ignored the radio noise?
15. Where were robins kept when city hum disoriented them?
16. What restored the hut robins' sense of direction?
17. Has anyone watched the radical pair form in a living bird?
18. Is the effect in purified protein stronger or weaker than needed?
19. Where might a second, iron-based sense be located?
20. 'Wager' in the robin passage most nearly means?
21. The robin passage calls the radical-pair process too delicate for what?
22. 'Fanciful' (as the proposal once sounded) means?
23. What does 'disoriented' mean?
24. What is the robin passage's final verdict on the cryptochrome idea?
25. Name the robin passage's two 'oddities' of the compass.
26. What name do psychologists give to underestimating one's own projects?
27. The planning fallacy underestimates which three things?
28. In the thesis study, what share finished by their predicted date?
29. Did most students beat their own worst-case date?
30. Which explanation of the fallacy does the author set aside?
31. Who coined the term 'inside view' in the passage?
32. How does the inside view judge a task's length?
33. The inside view's weakness is that it is what?
34. Name one setback the inside view omits.
35. What does the outside view ask about?
36. Name one reference class listed with theses.
37. Three words the author uses for the outside view's answer?
38. Who are more accurate about a friend's finishing date?
39. Why are observers more accurate, per the passage?
40. Does the author say planning should be abandoned?
41. What does a detailed plan tell us, per the author?
42. What is the plan 'a poor instrument' for?
43. What should the story be used for?
44. What should the statistics be used for?
45. 'Indifferent to' (the planner's hopes) means?
46. What does 'overran' mean in the planning passage?
47. Observers' forecasts are more ___ than the planner's own.
48. Is the planning fallacy, per the passage, about temperament?
49. Taken together, small unlikely setbacks are almost ___ to occur.
50. The sensible planner keeps how many views?
51. How many onion export bans in five years, per the passage?
52. What does an onion export ban achieve within weeks?
53. Name two destinations of diverted onion exports.
54. When can an onion grower cover the lean seasons?
55. In most years, near what price does the grower sell?
56. Which is India's largest onion market, per the passage?
57. By how much did Lasalgaon prices fall after the 2023 ban?
58. By how much did Mumbai retail prices fall?
59. Who captured the gap between wholesale and retail falls?
60. Which regions' importers need reliable onion suppliers?
61. Name the three rival suppliers buyers turned to.
62. Do lost export contracts return after a ban is lifted?
63. What does the author say is surrendered for a few weeks?
64. What do the ban's defenders call onions?
65. Does the author accept the defenders' concern?
66. Which instrument does the author propose instead of bans?
67. When does the buffer buy from farmers?
68. When does the buffer release onions?
69. Why did the buffer fail in the past?
70. The buffer's failures were problems of what, not principle?
71. 'The kitchen and the field' stand for whom?
72. Flaw in the buffer case: releasing stock at a spike does what?
73. 'Retired' (a policy) most nearly means?
74. What does 'penalising' farmers mean here?
75. Is the onion passage an argument or a neutral report?
76. What must research from the agency's grants be on publication?
77. Whose library cannot afford a thousand subscriptions?
78. What is the author-fee model of open access called?
79. Roughly how much do leading journals' fees run to?
80. From which budget will the agency reimburse fees?
81. Name one thing the money is diverted from.
82. Advisers' estimate of the annual fee cost?
83. Under subscriptions, how does a journal earn?
84. Under author fees, how does a journal earn?
85. Where has fee-title growth been fastest?
86. What is the repository-deposit route called?
87. Which version of a paper goes into the repository?
88. Is the deposited version typeset by the publisher?
89. What does the green route cost beyond the repository?
90. What does the author want every grantee to deposit?
91. Name one objection to the green route.

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