Daily RC & CR Sheet — 11 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 — LITERARY FICTION · THE FAIR COPY (Q1–Q5)

Every morning at nine, Hariprasad Joshi unfolded his card table on the pavement outside the head post office, set out two pens, a bottle of gum and a stack of inland letter forms, and waited for the people who could not write to come and borrow his hand. He had done this for thirty-one years. He liked to say that he had written more love letters than any poet in the district, and that none of them had been his own.

His customers dictated; he translated. That was the word he used privately, though the language never changed. When Sushila Devi from the brick kiln told him to inform her son in Surat that he was a worthless boy who had forgotten his mother, Hariprasad wrote that his mother thought of him daily and hoped the work was not too hard. When a young man asked him to tell his wife that the money would come "when it comes", Hariprasad wrote "very soon, God willing". He read each letter back aloud, slowly, and his customers nodded, hearing in his gentle phrasing exactly what they believed they had said.

He considered this a service, not a deceit. Anger, he reasoned, was a luxury for people who would be present when it was answered; a letter travelled alone and arrived without a face to soften it. Ink was permanent and tempers were not. Somebody had to stand between the two, and the post office had never employed anyone for the purpose.

His own son, Vinod, had gone to Pune eleven years ago and wrote twice a year, at Diwali and on his father's birthday, in a neat English hand that Hariprasad admired and slightly resented. The letters were short and perfectly polite. They asked about his knee and the monsoon. They never said anything he could take hold of.

This Diwali the letter came on time. Hariprasad read it at his table between customers, then read it again, tilting it towards the light as if a second message might surface beneath the first. Everything was well. Work was busy. The children sent their respects.

For the first time in thirty-one years, he wondered what a letter looked like before someone made a fair copy of it, and whether his son had found a man like him, or had simply become one.

1. Which of the following best describes the central concern of the passage?

- ◯ **A.** A scribe's pride in his craft, which the passage presents as fully justified by his long service
- ◯ **B.** A letter-writer whose habit of softening others' words makes him doubt the courtesy he receives
- ◯ **C.** A father's bitterness at a son who moved to Pune and now writes to him only in English
- ◯ **D.** The decline of the pavement letter-writer as literacy spreads among the people of the district

2. It can be inferred that Hariprasad's customers nodded when he read their letters back because they

- ◯ **A.** noticed his changes to their words but were too polite to object to them aloud
- ◯ **B.** had been told by the post office that every letter had to be phrased gently
- ◯ **C.** could not follow his slow reading and nodded only to avoid seeming ignorant
- ◯ **D.** heard the meaning they intended rather than the words they had actually used

3. As used in the second paragraph, the word 'translated' most nearly suggests that Hariprasad

- ◯ **A.** recast what was said into what he judged the absent reader ought to receive
- ◯ **B.** rendered his customers' local dialect into the standard written form of Hindi
- ◯ **C.** copied each customer's dictation word for word into his own neater handwriting
- ◯ **D.** converted spoken complaints into formal petitions addressed to the authorities

4. The irony of the final paragraph rests chiefly on the fact that Hariprasad

- ◯ **A.** realises for the first time that his son has never written to him in his own hand
- ◯ **B.** decides that his thirty-one years of softening letters were a kind of deceit after all
- ◯ **C.** begins to suspect in his son's courtesy the very softening he practises on others
- ◯ **D.** learns that his son has employed a professional letter-writer in Pune for years

5. The narrator's attitude towards Hariprasad is best described as

- ◯ **A.** affectionate, while quietly exposing the limits of his own reasoning
- ◯ **B.** openly scornful of a man who deceives the poor for a small fee
- ◯ **C.** reverent, presenting him as a wise figure whose judgement is beyond doubt
- ◯ **D.** coldly detached, recording his actions without any trace of feeling

READING COMPREHENSION — POLITICS & GOVERNANCE · ELECTED BUT NOT EMPOWERED (Q6–Q10)

The Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth Amendments, passed in 1992, did something the framers of the Constitution had left to the goodwill of the states: they made village panchayats and municipalities a constitutional tier of government, with fixed five-year terms, regular elections and reserved seats for women and for Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Three decades later, the electoral half of that promise has largely been kept. Local elections are held on schedule in most states, and more than a million women now sit on local bodies. What has not been kept is the financial half, and without it the elections decide less than they appear to.

The amendments did not give local bodies taxes of their own. They left it to each state legislature to decide which levies a panchayat may collect and which functions it may perform, and they required every state to appoint a State Finance Commission every five years to recommend how state revenue should be shared with the tier below. The design assumed that states would want strong local governments. Many have not. Commissions have been constituted late, their reports have been tabled years after submission, and their recommendations have often been accepted in part or quietly ignored.

The result is a tier of government that is elected but not empowered. A typical gram panchayat raises only a small fract
spending from its own sources, chiefly property tax and fees, and depends for the rest on grants that arrive tied to particular s

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NAME: _____ ROLL NO: _____ BATCH: _____

sarpanch who wants to repair a drain that no scheme covers must often wait for a scheme to be invented. Voters who see this conclude, reasonably, that the panchayat cannot help them, and stop asking it to; officials who see the voters' indifference conclude that panchayats cannot be trusted with more.

That loop is not broken by exhortation. It is broken by money that a council may spend at its own discretion and must answer for at its next election. Untied grants are not a reward for capacity already shown; they are the means by which capacity is built, because a body that is never allowed to make a decision never learns to make one well. The question for the states is not whether panchayats are ready for autonomy but whether autonomy can ever be learned without first being given.

6. The primary purpose of the passage is to

◯ **A.** celebrate the success of the 1992 amendments in bringing women into local government
◯ **B.** argue that State Finance Commissions should be abolished and replaced by central grants
◯ **C.** show that financial dependence hollows out local bodies' elected status, and propose a remedy
◯ **D.** explain the procedure by which panchayat elections are scheduled and conducted in most of the states

7. It can be inferred that the author regards the electoral provisions of the 1992 amendments as

◯ **A.** necessary but not sufficient to make local governments effective on their own
◯ **B.** a failure, since local elections are rarely held on schedule in the states
◯ **C.** the main reason that panchayats have come to depend on tied scheme grants
◯ **D.** less important to local democracy than the reservation of seats for women

8. The example of the sarpanch and the drain in the third paragraph serves mainly to

◯ **A.** show that most panchayats have no engineers able to plan public works properly
◯ **B.** suggest that schemes for drains are designed far too narrowly by state ministries
◯ **C.** prove that voters in villages care more about drains than about local elections
◯ **D.** illustrate how scheme-tied grants leave councils no discretion over local needs

9. Which of the following policies would the author be most likely to support?

◯ **A.** Releasing untied funds only to panchayats that first prove capacity on tied schemes
◯ **B.** Giving panchayats a fixed share of state revenue to spend freely, checked by later audit
◯ **C.** Doubling scheme grants to panchayats while keeping each grant tied to its stated purpose
◯ **D.** Transferring the panchayats' remaining functions to district officials until capacity improves

10. The 'loop' referred to at the start of the fourth paragraph is the process in which

◯ **A.** state finance commissions are formed late and their reports are tabled years later
◯ **B.** panchayat elections produce new councils every five years that repeat the old schemes
◯ **C.** voters' indifference and officials' distrust feed each other's low view of panchayats
◯ **D.** panchayats raise property tax, spend it on schemes, and then ask the state government for more

SECTION — CRITICAL REASONING

CRITICAL REASONING — LAW & RIGHTS · THE CASE IN THE ENVELOPE (Q11–Q15)

For more than a decade, Indian courts have allowed the state to make part of its case in an envelope. When a government says that the reasons for an action touch national security or a pending investigation, it hands the judge a sealed cover that the other side never sees. The judge reads it, and decides. The practice has been used in bail hearings, in the denial of promotions and in the cancellation of licences, and it has drifted from a rare exception towards something close to routine. It should be confined again, because a hearing in which one party cannot know the case against it is not a hearing at all.

The principle at stake is older than the Constitution. A person cannot answer what she has not been told. A court that relies on material the litigant cannot see has no means of testing it: no cross-examination, no rival expert, no chance for the person who knows the facts best to point out that a date is wrong or a witness has a grudge. The judge becomes the only check on the state's evidence, and a judge, however conscientious, cannot catch errors she has no reason to suspect.

Governments reply that some information genuinely cannot be disclosed: the name of an informant, the method of an interception, the contents of a foreign intelligence report. That is true, and no one suggests that such material be read aloud in open court. But secrecy is a matter of degree, and the sealed cover treats it as all or nothing. In 2023 the Supreme Court, setting aside the refusal to renew a news channel's broadcasting licence, said much the same: the state must show why disclosure would cause harm, and even then courts should prefer a less restrictive course, such as disclosing a summary, redacting names, or appointing an amicus who may see the material and argue against it.

Those alternatives are not novel. Several common-law countries already use security-cleared special advocates, and Indian courts routinely redact documents in other settings. What the alternatives demand is effort from the state, which must justify each secret rather than wrap everything in a single envelope. That effort is the price of a fair hearing, and it is the state, not the litigant, that should pay it.

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

◯ **A.** The Supreme Court in 2023 abolished the sealed-cover procedure in all broadcasting licence cases
◯ **B.** Judges should always read sealed material aloud in open court before relying on it
◯ **C.** Informants' names and interception methods ought never to be kept from a litigant
◯ **D.** Courts should confine the sealed cover, since a party unable to know the case is not heard

12. The author's preference for summaries, redaction and an amicus over the sealed cover assumes that

◯ **A.** judges are less conscientious than the lawyers who appear before them in court
◯ **B.** such partial disclosure can protect genuine secrets while still allowing a real reply
◯ **C.** governments seldom have any information that truly needs to be kept from a litigant in court
◯ **D.** special advocates in other common-law countries have never made a serious mistake

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

◯ **A.** Summaries and redacted papers have often let hostile parties work out who the informants were
◯ **B.** Some judges who read sealed covers have later said that they found the material unpersuasive

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◯ **C.** Several common-law countries that use special advocates also allow sealed material in bail cases
◯ **D.** Indian courts already redact the names of rape survivors and children in published judgments

14. Which of the following situations would the author's reasoning most clearly condemn?

◯ **A.** A tribunal withholds an informant's name but shows the accused the substance of every allegation
◯ **B.** A court lets a security-cleared amicus see secret files and contest them on the accused's behalf
◯ **C.** A board sacks a teacher on a complaint it hides wholly, though only its author's name needed shielding
◯ **D.** A judge redacts witnesses' names from a police report and gives the rest of it to both parties

15. The statement that 'secrecy is a matter of degree' functions in the argument as

◯ **A.** the main conclusion, which the remaining paragraphs are written to prove
◯ **B.** an objection raised by the government that the author then entirely fails to answer
◯ **C.** a factual finding drawn from the Supreme Court's 2023 judgment on licences
◯ **D.** a premise that accepts the state's point but denies it justifies total secrecy

CRITICAL REASONING — ENVIRONMENT · FREE POWER, FALLING WATER (Q16–Q20)

In much of north-western India, the electricity that drives farm pumps is free, or so nearly free that farmers pay a flat charge unconnected to what they use. The policy was meant to protect small cultivators from the cost of irrigation. Its effect has been to make groundwater, the scarcest input in the region, the one thing a farmer has no reason to save. In many blocks of Punjab and Haryana the water table has been falling by close to a metre a year, and tube-wells that once drew water from thirty feet now chase it below two hundred. Free power is not a subsidy to farmers; it is a subsidy to the depletion of the aquifer on which their children's farms will depend.

The obvious reply, that farmers would be ruined by metered tariffs, misreads what metering requires. A meter does not oblige the state to charge. It allows the state to pay. Under a scheme piloted in Punjab, farmers were given an allowance of units each season and paid in cash for every unit they did not use; the pump stayed free up to the allowance, and saving became income. Early reports suggested that participating farmers cut their consumption noticeably without lower yields, mostly by irrigating at better times and repairing leaking channels.

The scheme's virtue is that it changes the decision at the margin while leaving the farmer's total support intact. A flat subsidy rewards the farmer whether he wastes water or not, and so it rewards waste. A cash payment for unused power rewards the same farmer for restraint, and the state spends no more than it spends now, because power that is not drawn is power it need not buy.

Critics say that the larger farmers, who own deeper wells and more pumps, will capture most of the payments. That is a reason to cap the allowance per household, not to keep a system under which those same farmers already capture most of the free power. Every tonne of paddy the region grows is irrigated with water that will not return within a generation. A policy that makes each farmer weigh that cost, and pays him for doing so, is not an attack on agriculture. It is the only form of support that agriculture there can still afford.

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

◯ **A.** Paying farmers for unused power, not giving it free, is the support the region can sustain
◯ **B.** Farm pumps in Punjab and Haryana should be metered and charged at full commercial tariffs
◯ **C.** The water table in north-western India has fallen by about a metre a year in many blocks
◯ **D.** Larger farmers capture most of the benefit of free electricity in north-western India

17. The claim that the state 'spends no more than it spends now' depends on the assumption that

◯ **A.** farmers will always choose to sell back their entire seasonal allowance of units to the state
◯ **B.** the cost of producing electricity will fall over the life of the payment scheme
◯ **C.** the cash paid for each unsaved unit costs the state no more than supplying it would have
◯ **D.** farmers in the pilot scheme did not have any leaking channels left to repair

18. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument that cash payments will reduce groundwater use?

◯ **A.** Many participating farmers reported that they found the scheme's paperwork confusing at first
◯ **B.** Most farmers who cut power use simply switched to diesel pumps that the scheme did not track
◯ **C.** Some states outside north-western India already charge farmers by the unit for pump power
◯ **D.** Paddy prices in the region rose during the season in which the pilot was being run

19. Which of the following most closely parallels the reasoning of the second and third paragraphs?

◯ **A.** A city funds free buses by raising parking charges for private cars in the city centre
◯ **B.** A city caps each household's water at a fixed monthly quantity and fines anyone who exceeds it
◯ **C.** A city gives its heaviest bus users a bonus at the end of each month for loyalty
◯ **D.** A city keeps bus travel free up to a monthly limit and pays residents cash for unused rides

20. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the claim that a flat subsidy rewards waste?

◯ **A.** Groundwater in parts of Rajasthan has also fallen sharply over the last thirty years
◯ **B.** Farmers on flat tariffs often leave pumps running unattended at night, as extra hours cost nothing
◯ **C.** Small cultivators in the region spend a large share of their yearly income on seeds and fertiliser
◯ **D.** Electricity boards in the region have reported financial losses in most recent years

RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL

90 quick questions · not negatively marked

1. At what hour did Hariprasad set up his table each morning?

2. Where did Hariprasad set up his card table?

3. For how many years had Hariprasad been writing letters for others?

4. What kind of letter forms did Hariprasad stack on his table?

5. Besides pens and letter forms, what bottle did Hariprasad set out?

6. Hariprasad claimed to have written more love letters than whom?

7. How many of the love letters Hariprasad wrote were his own

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8. Which word did Hariprasad privately use for what he did with dictation?
9. Where did Sushila Devi work?
10. In which city did Sushila Devi's son work?
11. What did Sushila Devi call her son in her dictation?
12. How did Hariprasad render 'when it comes' about the money?
13. How did Hariprasad read each letter back to the customer?
14. Hariprasad considered his softening a service, not a what?
15. For whom, in Hariprasad's view, was anger a luxury?
16. According to Hariprasad, what is permanent while tempers are not?
17. What is the name of Hariprasad's son?
18. To which city had Hariprasad's son moved?
19. How long ago had Vinod left home?
20. On which two occasions did Vinod write each year?
21. In what language did Vinod write his letters?
22. Which two feelings did Vinod's neat hand stir in his father?
23. About which two things did Vinod's letters ask?
24. What did Vinod's letters never contain, in his father's view?
25. What did the children send, according to Vinod's Diwali letter?
26. Why did Hariprasad tilt the letter towards the light?
27. What does a 'fair copy' of a letter mean?
28. Which phrase in the story names a clean final version of a draft?
29. What is the narrator's stance towards Hariprasad?
30. Situational irony in the story: the softener of letters becomes what?
31. In which year were the 73rd and 74th Amendments passed?
32. What tier did the 73rd and 74th Amendments create?
33. What fixed term did the amendments give local bodies?
34. Besides women, for whom were seats reserved in local bodies?
35. Roughly how many women now sit on local bodies, per the passage?
36. Which half of the 1992 promise has largely been kept?
37. Which half of the 1992 promise has not been kept?
38. Who decides which levies a panchayat may collect?
39. Which body recommends sharing state revenue with local bodies?
40. How often must a State Finance Commission be appointed?
41. Name one way states have neglected finance commission reports.
42. The passage calls local government 'elected but not' what?
43. What are a gram panchayat's chief own sources of revenue?
44. On what does a panchayat depend for most of its spending?
45. What does a sarpanch wait for to repair an uncovered drain?
46. What do voters do when they see the panchayat cannot help?
47. What do officials conclude from voters' indifference?
48. According to the author, the loop is not broken by what?
49. What kind of money breaks the loop, per the author?
50. The author says untied grants are not a reward for what?
51. According to the author, untied grants are the means of building what?
52. What does 'exhortation' mean?
53. What does 'untied' mean when applied to grants?
54. What is a 'sarpanch'?
55. What is the author's closing question for the states?
56. What does the state hand the judge in the procedure criticised?
57. Who never sees the contents of the sealed cover?
58. Name two grounds governments give for sealed covers.
59. Name one setting where sealed covers have been used.
60. What is a hearing where one party cannot know the case, per the author?
61. Which principle is 'older than the Constitution'?
62. Name one way of testing evidence that sealed covers rule out.
63. Who becomes the only check on the state's evidence?
64. What can a conscientious judge not catch, per the author?
65. Name one item of information the author accepts must stay secret.
66. How does the author describe secrecy?
67. How does the sealed cover treat secrecy?
68. In which year did the Supreme Court rule on the news channel's licence?
69. What did the state refuse to renew in the 2023 case?
70. What must the state show before withholding material, per the 2023 ruling?
71. Name one less restrictive alternative to the sealed cover.
72. What is an 'amicus' in the passage?
73. Who may see secret material and argue against it?
74. What do several common-law countries use instead of sealed covers?
75. What do the alternatives to the sealed cover demand from the state?
76. Who, per the author, should pay the price of a fair hearing?
77. What does 'redact' mean?
78. What does 'conscientious' mean?
79. What is the electricity for farm pumps in north-western India?
80. What do farmers pay under a flat charge, per the passage?
81. Who was free farm power meant to protect?
82. What is the scarcest farm input in the region?
83. By how much is the water table falling in many blocks?
84. Which two states does the passage name?
85. From what depth did tube-wells once draw water?
86. Below what depth do tube-wells now chase water?
87. Free power, the author says, subsidises the depletion of what?
88. What does a meter allow the state to do, instead of charge?
89. What were farmers paid for under the Punjab pilot?
90. Under the pilot, what did saving power become for farmers?

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