Daily RC & CR Sheet — 12 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 DRIVER AND THE CHILD (Q1–Q5)

Two drivers leave the same party at the same hour, each having drunk the same two glasses of wine, each driving in the same careful but impaired way down the same road. On the first driver's route nothing happens; he reaches home, parks and sleeps. On the second driver's route a child runs out from between parked cars, and he cannot stop in time. Most of us judge the second driver far more harshly than the first. The law does too: one may pay a fine, the other may go to prison. Yet the two men did exactly the same thing. The only difference between them is a child neither of them could see.

Philosophers call this the problem of moral luck. On reflection we hold a principle that seems almost too obvious to state: people should be judged only for what lies within their control. But very little lies wholly within anyone's control. The consequences of our acts depend on circumstance; the situations we face depend on where and when we were born; even our temperaments, the raw material from which our choices are made, were handed to us. Applied strictly, the control principle shrinks the area left for praise and blame to a point, and perhaps to nothing at all.

One response is to bite the bullet: the two drivers are equally culpable, and our harsher feeling towards the second is simply a mistake, a confusion of guilt with grief. This view has the merit of consistency, but it asks us to give up a great deal. It implies that the second driver has no special reason to feel what he will in fact feel, and that his sense of having done something terrible is a kind of error to be corrected.

A better response, I think, is to separate two ideas that ordinary talk runs together. Blame, as an assessment of a person's quality of will, should indeed track only what he controlled, and on that score the two drivers stand level. But responsibility is also a matter of what one must answer for, and here outcomes count. The second driver owes the child's family something the first owes no one: an acknowledgement, a repair, a changed life. Luck does not make him a worse man. It makes him the man to whom the debt has fallen.

1. Which of the following best captures the central claim the author defends in the passage?

- ◯ **A.** Outcomes beyond a person's control are irrelevant to every moral judgement we make about him
- ◯ **B.** Bad luck leaves a person's blameworthiness unchanged but can alter what he must answer for
- ◯ **C.** The law is right to punish the unlucky driver more severely than the lucky driver
- ◯ **D.** Since almost nothing is within our control, praise and blame have no proper application

2. As used in the third paragraph, the expression 'bite the bullet' most nearly means

- ◯ **A.** refuse to take a philosophical problem seriously and dismiss it as a confusion of words
- ◯ **B.** feel the remorse appropriate to a serious harm that one has caused to another person
- ◯ **C.** attack the control principle directly by showing that it rests on a mistaken premise
- ◯ **D.** accept an unwelcome implication of one's principle rather than abandon the principle itself

3. It can be inferred that the author would most likely agree that the first driver

- ◯ **A.** has the same quality of will as the second but owes no one the repair the second owes
- ◯ **B.** deserves no criticism at all, because his drive home ended without harm to anyone on the road
- ◯ **C.** is more blameworthy than the second, because he escaped the consequences of identical conduct
- ◯ **D.** should feel the same guilt as the second, since their conduct on the road was exactly the same

4. Which of the following best describes the function of the third paragraph in the passage?

- ◯ **A.** It states the author's own answer to the problem and supports it with an example from the law
- ◯ **B.** It introduces the control principle and shows how strictly applying it erodes praise and blame
- ◯ **C.** It sets out a rival answer whose cost prepares the ground for the distinction the author draws next
- ◯ **D.** It concedes that our harsher judgement of the second driver is merely grief mistaken for guilt

5. Two surgeons skip the same safety check; one patient suffers lasting harm, the other none. The author's view implies that

- ◯ **A.** both are equally to blame, but only the first owes the injured patient acknowledgement and repair
- ◯ **B.** the first surgeon is the worse surgeon, since only his omission happened to cause any harm
- ◯ **C.** neither is blameworthy, since whether a patient suffered harm lay wholly outside either one's control
- ◯ **D.** both owe the same repair, since the duty of amends depends solely on each surgeon's quality of will

READING COMPREHENSION — ECONOMICS · THE PRICE OF A BOTTLE OF WATER (Q6–Q10)

When a cyclone cuts a coastal district off from the rest of the state, the price of bottled water, candles and generator fuel can triple within a day. The response of most governments is swift and popular: an order capping prices at their pre-disaster level, with fines for traders who exceed it. The order expresses a moral intuition that few would wish to give up, namely that it is wrong to profit from other people's desperation. Yet as an instrument for getting water to thirsty people, the cap usually fails, and it fails for reasons that have little to do with the greed it is meant to punish.

A price, in a market, is not only a charge; it is a message. A sudden rise tells households that a good has become scarce and that they should buy only what they need, so that the first family in the queue does not empty the shelf. It tells traders in the next district that a truckload of water sent through flooded roads will now repay the cost and risk of sending it. Cap the price and both messages fall silent. Early buyers hoard because hoarding is cheap; distant suppliers stay home because the trip no longer pays. The shelves empty, and the goods that remain go not to those who need them most but to those who arrived first or knew the shopkeeper.

None of this means that high prices are fair, or that a poor family which cannot pay three times the usual rate should simply go
The case against the cap is an argument about means, not ends. If the worry is that the poor will be priced out, the remedy

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money or vouchers in their hands, or to have the state buy and distribute water itself, rather than to forbid the very price that draws water into the district in the first place.

There are qualifications. Where a single seller controls the only road in, a high price may reflect market power rather than scarcity, and nothing new will arrive however high it climbs; there a cap does little harm. A cap that lasts a few days may also matter less than one that lingers for months. But these are exceptions to be argued for case by case, not a reason to make the cap the first reflex of every disaster response.

6. Which of the following best states the main point of the passage?

- ◯ **A.** Traders who raise prices sharply during disasters act unfairly and deserve the fines imposed on them
- ◯ **B.** Price caps should be lifted only where a single seller controls the only road into a district
- ◯ **C.** Disaster price caps usually defeat their purpose; concern for the poor is better met by other means
- ◯ **D.** Disaster prices should be left wholly to the market, since high prices are both fair and useful

7. By saying that a price 'is not only a charge; it is a message', the author means that a price

- ◯ **A.** carries information that shapes how much buyers take and whether distant suppliers choose to come
- ◯ **B.** expresses the seller's moral attitude towards customers who must buy from him in an emergency
- ◯ **C.** communicates to the authorities whether the traders in a district are behaving fairly or greedily
- ◯ **D.** tells a poor household in advance whether it can afford what it will need in a crisis

8. What can be inferred about why the author thinks a cap 'does little harm' where a single seller controls the only road?

- ◯ **A.** Because a lone seller will always keep his prices at pre-disaster levels out of fear of being fined
- ◯ **B.** Because buyers in such a district have no need to restrain their purchases when goods are scarce
- ◯ **C.** Because the state is already supplying water to such districts, so private prices hardly matter
- ◯ **D.** Because there the high price summons no new supply, so capping it silences no useful message

9. The author's attitude towards the intuition that it is wrong to profit from others' desperation is best described as

- ◯ **A.** dismissive, since he treats the intuition as a prejudice that economic reasoning shows to be mistaken
- ◯ **B.** respectful of its concern but doubtful that it justifies a price cap as the remedy
- ◯ **C.** wholly approving, since he concludes that price caps are the right first response to every disaster
- ◯ **D.** uncertain, since he raises objections to the cap but finally declines to say which policy is better

10. Which of the following responses to a cyclone would the author most likely endorse?

- ◯ **A.** Capping water prices for six months to protect poor households from paying more than usual
- ◯ **B.** Fining traders who bring water from other districts, so that local shops are not undercut
- ◯ **C.** Leaving prices free and giving no help to families, since high prices ration water efficiently
- ◯ **D.** Letting water prices rise while giving low-income households vouchers to buy what they need

SECTION — CRITICAL REASONING

CRITICAL REASONING — SOCIETY & CULTURE · OPEN WHEN THE READERS ARE FREE (Q11–Q15)

Every few years a municipal committee looks at the footfall registers of the city's public libraries, sees the numbers falling, and concludes that people have stopped reading. Budgets are trimmed, a branch or two is closed, and the explanation offered is always the same: the smartphone has done to the library what the motor car did to the bullock cart. The explanation is convenient, because it makes the decline nobody's fault. It is also, on the evidence, wrong.

Consider when our libraries are open. Most branches run from ten in the morning to five in the evening, six days a week, and close on Sundays and public holidays. These are precisely the hours during which the people most likely to use a free reading room, students in colleges and coaching centres and young workers in shops and offices, are somewhere else. A library that is open only while its readers are busy will be empty, and its emptiness says nothing about whether they want to read.

The city's own experiment bears this out. Two years ago, three branches in the eastern wards were allowed, as a pilot, to stay open until nine at night and on Sundays. Within a year their monthly footfall had more than doubled, while the branches that kept the old hours continued their slow decline. The new visitors were not, for the most part, borrowing novels. They came to sit, with their own books and laptops, in a quiet, lit and safe room that their homes do not provide.

That last point matters, because it tells us what the library has become. For many young people in crowded homes it is less a store of books than a place to concentrate. Phones have not replaced that need; if anything, the distraction they bring has made a quiet room more valuable.

The committee should therefore reverse the logic of its last three reviews. Instead of closing branches whose registers are thin, it should extend evening and Sunday hours across the whole network, and it should find the money for the extra staff before it looks for another branch to close. A library that opens when its readers are free is not a sentimental luxury. It is among the cheapest pieces of public infrastructure the city owns.

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

- ◯ **A.** The committee should extend library hours across the network instead of closing low-footfall branches
- ◯ **B.** The smartphone has made the quiet reading room more valuable to young people in crowded homes
- ◯ **C.** Library footfall in the eastern wards more than doubled after branches began opening late and on Sundays
- ◯ **D.** Falling footfall registers show that city residents have lost interest in borrowing books from libraries

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

- ◯ **A.** Students and young workers read more books today than they did before smartphones became common
- ◯ **B.** Readers who sit with their own laptops matter less to a library than readers who borrow books
- ◯ **C.** The pilot's rise in footfall came chiefly from longer hours, not from other changes in the wards
- ◯ **D.** No city branch has ever been shut for any reason except falling numbers in its footfall registers

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

- ◯ **A.** Several branches that kept the old hours have recently had their reading rooms repainted and relit

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◯ **B.** During the pilot, a large hostel and coaching hub opened in the eastern wards and nowhere else
◯ **C.** Many of the pilot's new visitors said they would have come more often had the branches opened earlier
◯ **D.** Staff at the pilot branches reported that evening visitors were quieter than visitors during the day

14. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument?
◯ **A.** Most of the city's public library budget is spent on buying new books rather than on paying staff
◯ **B.** Several residents who visited the pilot branches said they preferred reading at home on their phones
◯ **C.** Footfall at the city's private coaching centres fell during the two years of the library pilot
◯ **D.** When two western branches later adopted the same longer hours, their footfall also rose within months

15. A critic notes that the pilot's new visitors were not borrowing books. How does the argument deal with this point?
◯ **A.** It denies the point, insisting that the rise in footfall reflected a revival of borrowing among the young
◯ **B.** It accepts the point and argues that the library now matters chiefly as a quiet place to work
◯ **C.** It treats the point as fatal to the pilot and rests its case solely on the branches' cost
◯ **D.** It ignores the point entirely and relies only on the claim that the smartphone story is too convenient

CRITICAL REASONING — HEALTH POLICY · THE BUS FARE, NOT THE POSTER (Q16–Q20)

For two decades the response to patients who abandon tuberculosis treatment midway has been to tell them more. Posters explain that an incomplete course breeds drug resistance; health workers counsel patients at diagnosis; text messages remind them to take their tablets. The assumption behind all of it is that patients stop because they do not understand what is at stake. That assumption deserves to be retired, because the patients who drop out are, on the whole, not the ones who understand least.

Treatment for drug-sensitive tuberculosis lasts six months, and for most of that period the tablets are free. What is not free is everything around them. A daily-wage labourer who must travel to a clinic to collect his medicines loses a morning's earnings each time, and pays the bus fare as well. The drugs can bring nausea that makes heavy physical work harder. Worst of all, the patient begins to feel well within a few weeks, long before the bacteria are gone, so that the cost of continuing is felt every week while its benefit has become invisible.

A district survey last year asked patients who had stopped treatment why they had done so. Fewer than one in ten said they had not known that the course must be completed. More than half named lost wages or travel costs, and a further fifth said they had felt cured. Patients who had stopped were, if anything, slightly more likely than those who completed treatment to describe the danger of resistance correctly.

The lesson is that adherence is an economic decision made by people who know the stakes, not a gap in knowledge waiting to be filled. Policy should be designed accordingly. The modest monthly nutrition payment that patients already receive should be raised enough to cover a typical worker's lost earnings, paid on schedule rather than months in arrears, and linked to the collection of each month's medicines. Medicines should be dispensed a month at a time from the nearest health sub-centre, not weekly from a distant district clinic.

Awareness campaigns need not stop; a patient who has never heard of resistance should hear of it. But every rupee spent repeating the message to people who already know it is a rupee not spent on the bus fare that would actually bring them back.

16. Which of the following most accurately expresses the main conclusion of the argument?
◯ **A.** Awareness campaigns about tuberculosis should be stopped, since every patient already knows the dangers
◯ **B.** Patients abandon tuberculosis treatment mainly because they begin to feel well within a few weeks
◯ **C.** Drug resistance spreads mainly because patients are given too little information at their diagnosis
◯ **D.** Adherence policy should shift its effort from informing patients to cutting the costs of continuing

17. The argument depends on which of the following assumptions?
◯ **A.** Tuberculosis medicines cause nausea in most patients who take them for the full six-month course
◯ **B.** The reasons patients gave in the survey broadly reflect the real reasons why they stopped treatment
◯ **C.** Patients who complete their treatment do so mainly because they receive the monthly nutrition payment
◯ **D.** Health workers who counsel patients at diagnosis are poorly trained in explaining drug resistance

18. Which of the following arguments is most similar in its reasoning to the argument in the passage?
◯ **A.** Few voters skip polls from apathy; turnout is lowest where booths are fewest; so add more booths
◯ **B.** Shoppers ignore warning labels because the print is too small; so labels should be redesigned with larger print
◯ **C.** Farmers skipping soil tests know their value but cite the far-off lab; so send mobile labs, not adverts
◯ **D.** Students who fail tests usually studied too little; so schools should lengthen study hours instead of hiring tutors

19. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the argument?
◯ **A.** A nearby district tripled and promptly paid the nutrition payment, yet its dropout rate stayed the same
◯ **B.** Some patients in the survey said they had stopped because their family disapproved of the treatment
◯ **C.** Text-message reminders have been shown to raise adherence for patients who own their own phones
◯ **D.** Treatment for drug-resistant tuberculosis lasts very much longer than the six-month course for other cases

20. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument?
◯ **A.** Most patients who stopped treatment were found to have restarted it within a year of stopping
◯ **B.** The district that ran the survey has more health sub-centres per person than any other district
◯ **C.** A block that dispensed monthly supplies nearby and paid on collection halved dropout without raising awareness
◯ **D.** Patients who completed treatment were more likely than those who stopped to have been counselled at their diagnosis

RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL 102 quick questions · not negatively marked

1. How many glasses of wine had each driver drunk? .....
2. Where were the two drivers leaving from? .....
3. What runs out in front of the second driver's car? .....
4. From where does the child run out onto the road? .....
5. What happens on the first driver's route? .....
6. What may the law do to the first, lucky driver? .....
7. What may the law do to the second, unlucky driver? .....
8. What do philosophers call the two-driver puzzle? .....

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9. Principle: people should be judged only for what lies within their what?
10. What does the passage call temperament in relation to our choices?
11. Applied strictly, the control principle shrinks praise and blame to what?
12. The 'bite the bullet' view calls harsher feeling a confusion of guilt with what?
13. What merit does the author grant the bite-the-bullet view?
14. According to the author, blame assesses a person's quality of what?
15. On blame, how do the two drivers stand?
16. Responsibility also concerns what one must do?
17. Name one thing the second driver owes the child's family.
18. Does luck make the second driver a worse man, per the author?
19. Luck makes the second driver the man to whom what has fallen?
20. 'Culpable' most nearly means?
21. 'Bite the bullet' means?
22. What phrase introduces the author's own view?
23. The situations we face depend on where and when we were what?
24. The consequences of our acts depend on what, per the passage?
25. How did both drivers drive down the road?
26. By how much can water prices rise within a day after a cyclone?
27. Name two goods besides water whose prices jump.
28. Caps hold prices at what level?
29. What penalty do caps impose on traders who exceed them?
30. Moral intuition: it is wrong to profit from others' what?
31. A price is not only a charge; it is a what?
32. What does a price rise tell households?
33. What does a price rise tell traders in the next district?
34. Under a cap, why do early buyers hoard?
35. Under a cap, why do distant suppliers stay home?
36. Under a cap, who gets the remaining goods?
37. Is the case against the cap about means or ends?
38. Name one remedy the author offers for poor families.
39. Does the author say high prices are fair?
40. In the single-seller case, a high price may reflect what?
41. In the single-seller case, how much harm does a cap do?
42. Which cap matters more: a few days or months long?
43. The cap should not be the first what of disaster response?
44. Through what kind of roads is the truckload of water sent?
45. 'Scarcity' means?
46. 'Hoard' means?
47. What natural disaster opens the passage?
48. The government's cap order is described as swift and what?
49. Caps fail for reasons unrelated to what they punish, namely?
50. Exceptions to the case against caps should be argued how?
51. What do committees look at in the libraries?
52. What do committees conclude from falling footfall?
53. What technology is usually blamed for falling footfall?
54. Smartphone vs library is likened to motor car vs what?
55. Why is the smartphone explanation called convenient?
56. Most branches open at what time?
57. Most branches close at what time?
58. How many days a week are most branches open?
59. On which days are branches closed?
60. How many branches ran the pilot?
61. In which wards were the pilot branches?
62. Until what hour did pilot branches stay open?
63. When did the pilot begin?
64. What happened to pilot footfall within a year?
65. What happened at branches on the old hours?
66. Were the new visitors mainly borrowing novels?
67. What did new visitors bring with them?
68. Three words describing the room visitors sought?
69. For young people in crowded homes, the library is a place to do what?
70. Per the author, phones have made a quiet room more or less valuable?
71. How many past committee reviews should be reversed?
72. What should be extended across the whole network?
73. The author denies the library is a sentimental what?
74. The library is among the cheapest pieces of public what?
75. What does 'footfall' mean?
76. How long does treatment for drug-sensitive TB last?
77. What does an incomplete TB course breed?
78. When do health workers counsel TB patients?
79. What do text messages remind patients to do?
80. Are the TB tablets free for most of treatment?
81. What does a daily-wage labourer lose per clinic trip?
82. Besides lost wages, what travel cost does a patient bear?
83. What side effect can TB drugs bring?
84. When does a TB patient begin to feel well?
85. When was the district survey conducted?
86. What share said they did not know the course must be completed?
87. What share named lost wages or travel costs?
88. What share said they had felt cured?
89. Who was slightly likelier to describe resistance correctly?
90. The author calls adherence what kind of decision?
91. What existing payment should be raised?
92. The payment is currently paid how late?
93. The payment should be linked to what?
94. From where should medicines be dispensed?
95. How often should medicines be dispensed?
96. Should awareness campaigns stop, per the author?
97. Spending on repeated messages is better spent on what?
98. 'Adherence' in treatment means?
99. 'In arrears' means?
100. The old assumption deserves to be what, per the author?
101. Did the two drivers leave the party at different hours?
102. What does the author say the bite-the-bullet view asks us t

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