CG CLAT Gurukul — By Ready For Exam

Daily RC & CR Sheet — 15 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 — ARTS & CULTURE · THE LABEL ON THE WALL (Q1–Q5)

Watch visitors in any large museum and a pattern appears. They approach a painting, glance at it, lean towards the small card on the wall beside it, read, look back at the painting for a moment, and move on. The card, which curators call the label, has become the hinge of the visit. It tells people the artist, the date and the material, and increasingly it tells them what to notice: the hidden figure in the corner, the patron's politics, the unusual blue.

Curators defend the longer, explanatory label as a democratic advance. The old card, with its name and date alone, assumed a visitor who already knew why the object mattered; it served those who arrived educated and left everyone else to stand in polite bewilderment. An explanatory label opens the door. A schoolchild who has never heard of a miniature painting is told what to look for and why the court that commissioned it cared.

All of this is true, and yet something is lost in the exchange. A label that tells the visitor what to see also tells her when she has finished seeing. Once the hidden figure has been found and the patron's politics noted, the painting appears to have been answered, and the eye, released from its task, moves to the next card. The label was meant to be a way into the object; it easily becomes a substitute for it. Visitors leave knowing a good deal about pictures they have barely looked at.

Removing labels is no remedy. A gallery of bare walls returns the museum to the visitors who need no help, and calls that purity. The difficulty lies not in the amount the label says but in its grammar. Most labels are written as answers, in the confident present tense of the textbook. A label could as easily be written as a question that sends the visitor back to the object: why is the river painted higher than the hills? What is the woman at the window looking at? Such a label gives the newcomer somewhere to begin without telling anyone where to stop. The test of a good label is not how much the visitor learns from reading it, but how long she looks after she has read it.

1. Which of the following best states the central claim of the passage?

- ◯ **A.** Museums should remove explanatory labels, since they draw visitors away from the objects on display
- ◯ **B.** Labels should prompt renewed looking at the object instead of offering answers that end the looking
- ◯ **C.** Explanatory labels mainly serve educated visitors, who already understand why the objects matter
- ◯ **D.** Visitors to museums learn very little, because they spend longer reading labels than looking at art

2. In the third paragraph, the claim that a label 'also tells her when she has finished seeing' suggests that the label

- ◯ **A.** shortens each visit by stating how long a visitor ought to spend in front of every object
- ◯ **B.** discourages visitors from reading about a painting once they have finished looking at it
- ◯ **C.** makes visitors suspicious of whatever the curator has chosen to emphasise in a work
- ◯ **D.** marks a point of completion, after which the visitor stops attending to the work itself

3. With which of the following statements would the author most likely agree?

- ◯ **A.** A gallery with no labels at all favours visitors who arrive there already well informed
- ◯ **B.** The explanatory label has done more harm than good to visitors who are new to museums
- ◯ **C.** Visitors who read a label carefully will look at the object longer than those who do not
- ◯ **D.** The politics of a patron are seldom relevant to understanding a painting made for a court

4. Which of the following best describes the function of the fourth paragraph?

- ◯ **A.** It concedes that explanatory labels have failed and recommends a return to bare gallery walls
- ◯ **B.** It offers fresh evidence that visitors look at objects for less time than curators suppose
- ◯ **C.** It rejects one remedy for the problem described and proposes a different remedy in its place
- ◯ **D.** It summarises the curators' case for longer labels before the author goes on to rebut it

5. A curator is rewriting the label for a temple sculpture of a dancer. Which version would best meet the author's test of a good label?

- ◯ **A.** Notice the dancer's raised foot. Which way would she move next, and what holds her still?
- ◯ **B.** This dancer, carved about nine centuries ago, shows the goddess in her most joyous aspect.
- ◯ **C.** Sandstone, central India. The raised foot marks the climax of the dance that it records.
- ◯ **D.** Look closely: the raised foot reveals the sculptor's complete mastery of balance and movement.

READING COMPREHENSION — ENVIRONMENT & NATURE · THE GARDEN AND THE WAR (Q6–Q10)

Few plants in Indian forests have been denounced as often as lantana. Brought from the Americas as a garden ornamental during the colonial period, it now forms dense thickets across large stretches of the subcontinent's forests, shading out native seedlings, crowding the paths of grazing animals and carrying fire into the canopy. Forest departments speak of it in the vocabulary of war. They mount drives against it, report the hectares cleared and count each uprooting as a victory.

The vocabulary is understandable, but it shapes the work in ways that are rarely examined. A war has an enemy and an end: the enemy is defeated, and the campaign is over. Under that logic, success is measured by what has been removed, and a hillside stripped of lantana is recorded as restored. Yet a cleared hillside is not a forest. It is bare, disturbed ground, which is precisely the condition in which lantana, and other invaders less familiar to the department, establish themselves most easily. Many cleared patches are green with lantana again within a few seasons, and the drive is mounted once more.

The metaphor also hides the fact that the plant has been living in these forests for generations. Birds feed on its berries; butterflies visit its flowers; small animals shelter in its thickets where the native undergrowth has long since gone. None of this makes lantana harm[illegible] none of it argues for leaving it alone. It does mean that removing a thicket removes something that, for some creatures, has [illegible] habitat, and that a clearance without a plan for what should grow in its place may impoverish the very forest it set out to rescue.

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The better question is not what should be killed but what the land should become. Some foresters have begun to clear lantana in small patches and to plant native grasses and shrubs in the same season, so that the ground is never left open. The work is slower and its results are harder to report. A plot of young native shrubs does not photograph as dramatically as a cleared slope, and a department counting hectares will always find the war easier to fight than the garden is to grow. But only the garden, in the end, keeps the enemy out.

6. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- ◯ **A.** argue that lantana has become harmless and should now be accepted as a forest plant
- ◯ **B.** describe how lantana arrived in India and explain the reasons for its rapid spread
- ◯ **C.** argue that clearing lantana fails unless it is guided by what should grow in its place
- ◯ **D.** criticise forest departments for exaggerating the damage lantana does to native forests

7. The author's response to recording a cleared hillside as 'restored' suggests that such a record

- ◯ **A.** mistakes the removal of a problem for the achievement of the condition actually sought
- ◯ **B.** is a deliberate falsification by officials who are anxious to report a successful drive
- ◯ **C.** is an accurate measure of success, provided the cleared ground is not grazed afterwards
- ◯ **D.** is a minor clerical habit that has no real effect on how clearance work is carried out

8. In the final paragraph, 'the garden' refers to

- ◯ **A.** the colonial ornamental gardens in which lantana was first planted on the subcontinent
- ◯ **B.** a forest left wholly undisturbed so that its native plants can recover by themselves
- ◯ **C.** the thickets of lantana that now give birds and butterflies a source of food and shelter
- ◯ **D.** the slow work of planting native cover so that cleared ground is never left open

9. The author's attitude towards lantana itself is best described as

- ◯ **A.** admiring, since the plant has proved far hardier than the native species it displaced
- ◯ **B.** critical of its harm, while acknowledging that it now supports some forest wildlife
- ◯ **C.** hostile without reservation, as an invader that must be removed at whatever cost
- ◯ **D.** indifferent, since the author's real concern is only how departments keep records

10. Which of the following, if true, would most undermine the proposal described in the final paragraph?

- ◯ **A.** Replanted plots photograph poorly, so departments seldom publicise their slower work
- ◯ **B.** Some birds that feed on lantana berries also feed on the fruit of native forest shrubs
- ◯ **C.** Lantana thickets carry ground fires into the canopy more readily than native undergrowth
- ◯ **D.** Lantana seedlings quickly overtop native shrubs planted alongside them in the same season

SECTION — CRITICAL REASONING

CRITICAL REASONING — POLITICAL ECONOMY · SELLING THE SILVER (Q11–Q15)

Every year the finance ministry announces a target for disinvestment, the sale of part of the government's holdings in public sector companies, and every year the proceeds are counted alongside taxes as receipts that help close the fiscal deficit. A government that raises a large sum from selling shares in a bank or an oil company can therefore report a smaller deficit than it would otherwise have run, and the markets and rating agencies that watch the deficit are expected to be reassured.

They should not be. A tax receipt and a sale receipt are different kinds of money. Tax is income: the state can expect to collect it again next year, because the economy that produced it will still be there. The proceeds of a sale come once. The shares, once sold, are gone, and so are the dividends they would have paid in every later year. A government that uses sale proceeds to meet salaries, interest and subsidies is not reducing its deficit. It is converting a permanent asset into a single year's consumption and calling the result prudence.

Households understand this without needing an economist to explain it. A family that sells its grandmother's jewellery to pay the monthly grocery bill has not balanced its budget. It has postponed the moment at which it must face the fact that its spending exceeds its income, and it has made that moment worse by giving away something that cannot be sold twice.

The remedy is not to stop selling. There are good reasons for a state to leave businesses it runs badly, and the money released can be put to excellent use. The remedy is to stop pretending that sale proceeds are income. They should be reported separately from the deficit and committed by law to purposes that leave the state with something lasting in return: the repayment of debt, which lowers future interest bills, or investment in roads, ports and power lines that will themselves yield returns. Only then will the deficit figure tell the public what it is supposed to tell them, namely whether the state is living within its means.

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

- ◯ **A.** Sale proceeds should be reported apart from the deficit and kept by law for lasting uses
- ◯ **B.** Governments should stop selling shares in public sector companies to meet deficit targets
- ◯ **C.** Tax receipts are a more reliable source of state revenue than the proceeds of asset sales
- ◯ **D.** Rating agencies are mistaken to judge a government's finances by the size of its deficit

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

- ◯ **A.** Public sector companies are always run less efficiently than comparable private companies
- ◯ **B.** Governments that sell shares in their companies usually sell them for less than they are worth
- ◯ **C.** The holdings sold would otherwise have gone on yielding the state a return in later years
- ◯ **D.** Repaying debt is always a better use of sale proceeds than investing in new infrastructure

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

- ◯ **A.** Some households sell jewellery to pay for education, which brings the family a lasting return
- ◯ **B.** The companies sold had paid no dividends for years and needed regular capital from the budget
- ◯ **C.** Tax collections in some years fall short of forecasts because of an unexpected slowdown
- ◯ **D.** Rating agencies pay more attention to the level of public debt than to the annual deficit

14. The account of the family that sells its grandmother's jewellery plays which role in the argument?

- ◯ **A.** It is the main evidence that disinvestment has worsened the state's finances in recent years
- ◯ **B.** It shows that governments, like households, should never sell the assets they have inherited
- ◯ **C.** It anticipates an objection to the argument and explains why that objection does not succeed

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◯ **D.** It illustrates in familiar terms the difference between one-off proceeds and recurring income

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

◯ **A.** Disinvestment targets announced by the finance ministry have often been missed by wide margins
◯ **B.** In years of large sale proceeds, current spending rose and was hard to cut once sales ended
◯ **C.** Investment in roads and ports has sometimes yielded lower returns than its planners promised
◯ **D.** Some rating agencies already publish the deficit both with and without asset sale proceeds

CRITICAL REASONING — SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY POLICY · A PORTFOLIO, NOT A BET (Q16–Q20)

The government's new research policy will channel most competitive grants to a small number of designated centres of excellence. Its authors point out that these institutions already produce the majority of the country's most cited papers, and argue that money should follow proven quality. The policy is likely to make the country's science poorer, not richer.

Consider where many of the most consequential ideas of the last century came from. A good number emerged not from the best-funded laboratories of their day but from places at the edge of the establishment: a patent clerk working on physics in his spare hours, a hospital far from any research centre whose doctors noticed something odd in a handful of patients, a small university department too obscure to be told that its question was not worth asking. Such places are free of the pressures that shape research at the centre, where large teams, expensive equipment and the expectations of funders push scientists towards projects certain to yield publishable results. The safe project, however sound it looks on paper, is rarely the revolutionary one.

Nor does the citation record mean what the policy's authors suppose. The designated centres produce the most cited work in part because they already receive the largest grants, attract the students with the best options and enjoy the reputations that lead other scientists to read and cite them. A record built partly on past funding cannot be treated as independent proof that further funding will be best used there.

A national research system is a portfolio, not a single bet. An investor who placed every rupee in the shares that had performed best last year would be praised for a while and ruined eventually, because past performance is a weak guide to the next surprise. The country should continue to fund its strongest institutions generously, but it should reserve a substantial share of competitive money for scientists outside them, judged on the promise of their questions rather than on the prestige of their addresses. A policy that starves the edges of the system will be safe, measurable and, in the end, unproductive.

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

◯ **A.** The centres of excellence produce most cited papers only because they get the largest grants
◯ **B.** Scientists who work outside major institutions are more creative than those working inside them
◯ **C.** Citation counts should no longer be used by funders in judging the quality of scientific research
◯ **D.** Concentrating grants in a few centres will weaken science, so some money should go to outsiders

17. The reasoning in the second paragraph is most vulnerable to the criticism that it

◯ **A.** assumes that a patent clerk could not have done better work in a well-funded laboratory
◯ **B.** generalises from a few memorable cases without showing how often outsiders succeed
◯ **C.** overlooks that the centres of excellence also train many scientists who later work elsewhere
◯ **D.** treats the citation record of the centres as proof of the quality of all their research

18. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's reasoning in the third paragraph?

◯ **A.** The centres of excellence received larger grants than other institutions in each of the last twenty years
◯ **B.** Scientists at the centres cite one another's papers more often than they cite work done elsewhere
◯ **C.** Outside researchers given equal grants in a trial produced far less cited work than the centres
◯ **D.** Students who choose the centres usually hold offers of admission from several other institutions

19. The author's recommendation in the final paragraph depends on which of the following assumptions?

◯ **A.** Grant panels can judge the promise of a question without leaning on the applicant's institution
◯ **B.** Scientists at the centres of excellence would produce more if their grants were somewhat reduced
◯ **C.** Every revolutionary idea of the last century came from a scientist outside a major institution
◯ **D.** The government can raise its total research budget enough to fund both groups in full at once

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

◯ **A.** Large research teams publish more papers per scientist than small teams working on similar topics
◯ **B.** Most grants given to outside scientists in earlier schemes were spent on routine, low-risk projects
◯ **C.** Studies find that work by small, lightly funded teams is more likely to open up new fields
◯ **D.** Centres of excellence spend a larger share of their grants on equipment than other institutions do

RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL

109 quick questions · not negatively marked

1. What do museum visitors lean towards after glancing at a painting?
2. What do curators call the small card beside an exhibit?
3. The label is described as the 'hinge' of what?
4. Name the three basic facts a label tells visitors.
5. Which colour does the passage give as an example of what labels point out?
6. Where is the hidden figure that labels point to?
7. How do curators defend the longer, explanatory label?
8. What did the old card contain?
9. Whom did the old name-and-date card serve?
10. In what state were other visitors left by the old card?
11. What does an explanatory label do, according to its defenders?
12. Which kind of painting has the schoolchild never heard of?
13. Besides what to look for, what is the schoolchild told?
14. A label that tells the visitor what to see also tells her what?
15. Once the label's points are found, how does the painting appear?
16. Where does the eye move once it is 'released from its task'?
17. The label was meant to be a way into the object; what does it become?
18. Visitors leave knowing a good deal about what kind of pictu
19. Is removing labels a remedy, according to the author?

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20. What does a gallery of bare walls call its exclusion of newcomers?

21. The difficulty lies not in the amount a label says but in what?

22. In what tense are most labels written?
23. Instead of answers, how could labels be written?
24. Which sample question concerns a river?
25. What is the author's test of a good label?
26. Few plants in Indian forests have been denounced as often as which plant?
27. From where was lantana brought to India?
28. As what was lantana originally brought in?
29. In which period did lantana arrive?
30. What does lantana shade out?
31. Whose paths does lantana crowd?
32. Where does lantana carry fire?
33. In what vocabulary do forest departments speak of lantana?

34. What do departments report after a drive?
35. How is each uprooting counted?
36. What two things does a war have, says the passage?
37. Under war logic, how is success measured?
38. How is a hillside stripped of lantana recorded?
39. What is a cleared hillside, if not a forest?
40. Besides lantana, what else establishes itself on cleared ground?

41. How soon are many cleared patches green with lantana again?

42. For how long has lantana lived in these forests?
43. What do birds feed on?
44. Which insects visit lantana's flowers?
45. What do small animals do in lantana thickets?
46. Does the author say the creatures it supports make lantana harmless?

47. For some creatures, a lantana thicket has become what?
48. A clearance without a plan may impoverish what?
49. What is 'the better question', per the author?
50. In what size of patches have some foresters begun clearing?

51. What do they plant in the same season?
52. Why plant in the same season?
53. What does not photograph as dramatically as a cleared slope?

54. A department counting hectares finds which easier: the war or the garden?
55. What, in the end, keeps the enemy out?
56. What is disinvestment?
57. Who announces a disinvestment target every year?
58. Alongside what are sale proceeds counted?
59. Which deficit do the proceeds help close?
60. Which two companies are given as examples of shares sold?

61. Who watch the deficit and are expected to be reassured?
62. Should the markets be reassured, says the author?
63. Why is tax called income?
64. How often do the proceeds of a sale come?
65. What else is gone once the shares are sold?

66. Name the three current uses of sale proceeds the author criticises.

67. Selling shares for current needs converts what into what?
68. What does such a government call the result?
69. Who understand this without needing an economist?
70. What does the family in the analogy sell?
71. What bill does the family use the money to pay?
72. Has the family balanced its budget?
73. The family has postponed facing what fact?
74. Why does selling the jewellery make matters worse?
75. Is the author's remedy to stop selling?
76. From what kind of businesses may a state have good reason to exit?

77. What must the state stop pretending about sale proceeds?
78. How should proceeds be reported?
79. By what should the proceeds be committed to lasting purposes?

80. Which lasting use lowers future interest bills?
81. Name the three kinds of infrastructure the author lists.
82. What should the deficit figure tell the public?
83. Where will the new policy channel most competitive grants?

84. What do these centres already produce?
85. What should money follow, say the policy's authors?
86. Will the policy make science richer, per the author?
87. Where did many consequential ideas emerge, says the author?

88. Which outsider worked on physics in his spare hours?
89. What did doctors at a remote hospital notice?
90. Which department was too obscure to be told its question was not worth asking?
91. Name the three pressures at the centre.
92. Towards what kind of projects do these pressures push scientists?

93. What is rarely the revolutionary project?
94. Do the centres produce the most cited work wholly or partly because of big grants?
95. Which students do the centres attract?
96. A citation record built on past funding is not what kind of proof?

97. A national research system is a portfolio, not what?
98. What happens to the investor who backs only last year's best shares?

99. Past performance is a weak guide to what?
100. Outsiders should be judged on what rather than the prestige of their addresses?
101. Which sample label question concerns a woman?
102. What does a question-label give the newcomer?
103. What does a question-label not tell anyone?
104. Whose politics might a label ask visitors to note?
105. Who commissioned the miniature painting the schoolchild learns about?

106. What does a gallery of bare walls return the museum to?
107. In whose 'confident present tense' are labels written?
108. How long does it take lantana to return after clearance?
109. Besides grazing animals' paths, what does lantana carry into

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