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.
Free daily practice — clatgurukul.com/daily · Pass this sheet to a friend.

SECTION — READING COMPREHENSION

READING COMPREHENSION — LITERARY FICTION · CONCERT PITCH (Q1–Q5)

Mr Dastur arrived at ten, as he had every November for thirty-one years, carrying the leather case that his wife had once called his doctor's bag. Nobody met him at the gate. The house on Rope Walk Lane had always kept someone at the gate, and the absence made him walk more slowly up the path, as though he might be intruding on a grief that had not yet decided how to receive visitors.

It was the son, Farhad, who opened the door. He was in his fifties now and still had his mother's habit of beginning sentences in the middle. "We're selling it," he said. "The dealer comes on Thursday. Just make it presentable. Nobody expects it to be perfect." He gestured towards the drawing room as though the piano were an elderly relative he had agreed to drive to the station.

Dastur lifted the lid and pressed the A above middle C. It was flat, as it always was by November, the old soundboard giving way to the damp the way an old man gives way in an argument, not by conceding but by ceasing to insist. He laid out his tools in the order he had always laid them out: the lever, the felt wedges, the fork that hummed against his knee.

A girl of about twelve watched him from the stairs. "Nani said you were the only one who listened to it properly," she said. Dastur did not look up. "Your grandmother listened better than I did. I only had to listen to the notes. She had to listen to what she was playing."

He worked for three hours. Farhad looked in twice, the second time with his car keys in his hand, and remarked that the dealer would hardly notice the difference. Dastur agreed that he would not, and went on working.

When he had finished he played nothing, not even a scale, and closed the lid. At the door Farhad asked what he owed, and Dastur named the fee for a full tuning, the same fee he had charged this house for three decades. Farhad began to object, then counted out the notes without a word. The girl was still on the stairs. Dastur told her, in the voice one uses for instructions about medicine, that it would hold its pitch until spring.

1. The passage is primarily concerned with portraying

- ◯ **A.** a tuner's resentment at being asked for careless work by a family that no longer values music
- ◯ **B.** a tuner's quiet refusal to let the piano's sale become a reason for doing less than full work
- ◯ **C.** a family quarrel over whether a dead woman's piano should be sold or kept for her granddaughter
- ◯ **D.** a craftsman's realisation that his skill has become irrelevant in a house that has stopped playing

2. The comparison of the soundboard to 'an old man' who gives way 'not by conceding but by ceasing to insist' suggests that the piano's decline is

- ◯ **A.** sudden and dramatic, the result of one especially damaging season of damp in the house
- ◯ **B.** a sign of neglect that the family could easily have prevented by heating the drawing room each winter
- ◯ **C.** reversible only if the instrument is moved out of the damp house on Rope Walk Lane
- ◯ **D.** gradual and passive, a slow loss of resistance rather than an outright collapse or defeat

3. Dastur's reply about the girl's grandmother most strongly implies that he

- ◯ **A.** regards playing music as a fuller kind of attention than the technical listening his work requires
- ◯ **B.** believes the grandmother had a more accurate ear for pitch than he himself had ever possessed
- ◯ **C.** wishes to discourage the girl from treating him as any kind of authority on music or playing
- ◯ **D.** feels guilty that he never praised the grandmother's playing at any time while she was alive

4. Which of the following is best supported by the account of the payment at the door?

- ◯ **A.** Farhad has decided to keep the piano after watching the tuner work on it for three hours
- ◯ **B.** Farhad considers the fee a fair price for the light work he had asked the tuner to do
- ◯ **C.** Farhad's silent payment concedes a point about the work that he had begun to contest
- ◯ **D.** Farhad is unaware that his mother had employed this same tuner for more than three decades

5. The final sentence, in which Dastur tells the girl the piano 'would hold its pitch until spring', is best understood as

- ◯ **A.** an assurance addressed beyond the sale, treating the girl as the instrument's remaining custodian
- ◯ **B.** a practical warning that the dealer must arrange for a fresh tuning before the following spring
- ◯ **C.** a hint that the family will come to regret the sale well before the season changes again
- ◯ **D.** an attempt to persuade the girl to ask her uncle to keep the piano in the family's house

READING COMPREHENSION — POLITICS & GOVERNANCE · LAWS WITH AN EXPIRY DATE (Q6–Q10)

Every legislature finds it easier to make a law than to unmake one. A statute, once passed, acquires officials who administer it, budgets that depend on it and a public that has arranged its affairs around it. Repeal requires a fresh majority and a fresh argument; survival requires nothing at all. For this reason reformers have long proposed the sunset clause, a provision under which a law lapses on a fixed date unless the legislature votes to renew it.

The appeal is obvious. A sunset clause reverses the burden of inertia. Instead of opponents having to show that a law should end, its supporters must show that it should continue. Emergency powers seem made for this treatment, since they are justified by circumstances that are supposed to be temporary, and a power justified by a passing danger ought not to outlive the danger.

The record, however, is less encouraging than the theory. Laws carrying sunset dates have commonly been renewed with little debate, often in the final days before expiry, when the choice before legislators is between extension and a sudden gap in the law. A deadline that was meant to force deliberation instead forces haste. Security statutes in several democracies have been renewed repeatedly in exactly this way, each renewal treating the previous one as proof that the power was still needed.

The fault lies not in the idea of expiry but in what renewal is permitted to rest on. A sunset clause that asks only whether a ma
wants the law asks the question the original vote has already answered. A useful clause would demand something the original v

NAME: _____ ROLL NO: _____ BATCH: _____

not supply: a report, prepared by a body other than the agency exercising the power, stating how often the power was used, against whom, and with what result. Renewal without such a report should be impossible, not merely embarrassing.

Designed in this way, the sunset clause becomes less a timer than an audit. Its value is not that laws die on schedule, which they seldom will, but that every few years a government must explain, with evidence it did not write itself, why a power it was given for a stated reason still serves that reason. A law that cannot survive such an explanation has already outlived its purpose.

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

- ◯ **A.** Sunset clauses should be abandoned, since legislatures keep renewing them without any real debate
- ◯ **B.** Emergency powers should never be granted unless a fixed expiry date is written into the statute
- ◯ **C.** Sunset clauses work only if renewal must rest on independent evidence of how a power was used
- ◯ **D.** Legislatures should repeal outdated laws through a fresh majority and a fresh argument each time

7. According to the passage, the original attraction of a sunset clause is that it

- ◯ **A.** shifts onto a law's supporters the task of showing why it should continue in force
- ◯ **B.** prevents emergency powers from being granted by the legislature in the first place
- ◯ **C.** ensures that every law is reviewed by a body independent of the government of the day
- ◯ **D.** guarantees that temporary laws lapse on exactly the date that the legislature originally fixed for them

8. The remark that a deadline 'meant to force deliberation instead forces haste' serves mainly to

- ◯ **A.** argue that legislatures should be allowed longer periods before a sunset date finally arrives
- ◯ **B.** concede that the theory behind sunset clauses was mistaken from the very start of the idea
- ◯ **C.** show that security statutes are renewed more often than any other kind of ordinary law
- ◯ **D.** identify how a mechanism meant to cure inertia was turned into a pressure to renew

9. Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the author's proposed remedy?

- ◯ **A.** Some laws with sunset clauses have in fact been allowed to lapse after a full legislative debate
- ◯ **B.** Bodies preparing such reports usually depend for their data on the agency whose power is reviewed
- ◯ **C.** Emergency powers are often granted for reasons that legislators sincerely believe to be temporary
- ◯ **D.** Reports on the use of statutory powers are usually lengthy and highly technical in their presentation

10. The author would most likely say that a renewal vote taken without an independent report

- ◯ **A.** is more dangerous than allowing the law to lapse with no legislative debate at all
- ◯ **B.** should be replaced by a fresh vote on whether the original law was wise to pass
- ◯ **C.** is acceptable for security statutes but not for ordinary grants of emergency power
- ◯ **D.** adds little, since it repeats a judgment that the original vote had already made

SECTION — CRITICAL REASONING

CRITICAL REASONING — SOCIETY & CULTURE · BEHIND THE GATE (Q11–Q15)

For a decade the city's older neighbourhoods have watched their festivals shrink. The Ganesh pandal that once drew the whole lane now draws a few families; the Durga Puja committee struggles to find volunteers; the cricket match between two streets, played every winter for forty years, has quietly stopped. The usual explanation is that people are busier. Longer commutes and longer working hours, it is said, leave no evening free for rehearsing a play or stringing lights across a lane.

That explanation does not survive a look at the evidence. A survey commissioned by the municipal corporation last year compared two groups of salaried residents with nearly identical working hours and commuting times. Those living in the open lanes of the old city had taken part in an average of four community events in the previous year. Those living in gated housing societies on the city's edge had taken part in fewer than one. If busyness were the cause, the two groups should have looked alike. They did not.

The difference lies in what the gate does. A festival in an open lane happens in front of everyone's door. One cannot avoid being asked to contribute, and refusing carries a small but real social cost. A gated society moves celebration into a clubhouse booked by a committee, where attendance is a decision made in advance rather than an encounter on the way home. Participation that was once the default becomes an option, and options are easily declined by people who are tired.

Calls on employers to shorten working hours, which the busyness theory recommends, would therefore leave the real cause untouched. The remedy lies with the people who approve the shape of the city rather than with the people who set its office hours. New housing approved by the corporation should be required to keep at least some of its streets open to the public, so that the ordinary business of walking home passes once again through space that belongs to everyone.

This is not nostalgia for a vanished way of life. It is a recognition that community is less a sentiment people carry around with them than a habit that particular places either make easy or make hard.

11. Which of the following most accurately expresses the main conclusion of the argument?

- ◯ **A.** City planners can help revive participation by requiring new housing to keep some streets open
- ◯ **B.** Residents of gated societies work longer hours than residents of the old city's open lanes
- ◯ **C.** Busier working lives are the main reason the city's community festivals have declined
- ◯ **D.** Festivals held in open lanes impose a social cost on residents who refuse to contribute to them

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

- ◯ **A.** Gated societies on the city's edge hold fewer festivals in their clubhouses than open lanes hold
- ◯ **B.** The municipal survey covered every single housing society located on the edge of the city
- ◯ **C.** People who chose gated societies were not already less inclined to join community events
- ◯ **D.** Residents of the old city would welcome new housing projects that keep some streets open

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

- ◯ **A.** Many residents of the old city say their festivals are noticeably smaller than in the past
- ◯ **B.** Residents who moved from open lanes into gated societies took part in no fewer events afterwards
- ◯ **C.** Gated societies on the city's edge have grown faster than the old city over the past decade
- ◯ **D.** A few gated societies hold clubhouse festivals that are attended by most of their resident families

SCAN AT DESK TO COLLECT
CG-RC-20261119

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

◯ **A.** Commuting times have risen in recent years for residents of both the old city and its outer edge
◯ **B.** Most residents of gated societies say that they value the privacy that the gate provides
◯ **C.** Clubhouse events in gated societies are usually organised by elected residents' committees each year
◯ **D.** Gated societies whose internal streets are open to the public match the old city's participation

15. The reasoning in the argument is most vulnerable to the criticism that it

◯ **A.** assumes that employers have no power at all to shorten the working hours of city residents
◯ **B.** explains a gap between two kinds of housing but not the shrinking of festivals in the old lanes
◯ **C.** rejects the busyness explanation without any evidence comparing the residents' working hours
◯ **D.** assumes without evidence that the city's festivals were once larger than they are at present

CRITICAL REASONING — HEALTH POLICY · CONSENT IS NOT THE BOTTLENECK (Q16–Q20)

Every few years the proposal returns: India should move to presumed consent for organ donation, under which every adult who dies is treated as a willing donor unless he or she registered an objection during life. Supporters point to Spain, which has for decades had one of the highest deceased-donation rates in the world, and to the long list of Indian patients who die each year waiting for a kidney or a liver. Change the default, they argue, and the supply of organs will follow.

The argument mistakes the law for the system. Spain's rise in donation began in 1989 with the creation of a national transplant organisation that placed a trained coordinator, usually an intensive-care doctor, in every hospital capable of retrieving organs. Its presumed-consent law had been on the books since 1979, a full decade earlier, without any comparable effect. In practice Spanish doctors still ask families, and still respect a family's refusal. What changed in 1989 was not consent but capacity: someone in each hospital whose job was to identify potential donors, ensure that brain death was certified promptly and speak to grieving relatives with skill.

India's shortfall has the same shape. Most of the country's deceased donations come from a handful of states that have built coordination networks, while large states with comparable populations and road-accident deaths record almost none. Brain-stem death frequently goes uncertified, because hospitals lack the trained teams the law requires for certification, and a death that is never certified can never become a donation, whatever the default. Living relatives can give a kidney or part of a liver, but a heart or a pair of lungs can come only from a certified death.

A presumed-consent law would therefore change very little. Worse, it might cost something real. If families came to believe that the state now claims their relatives' bodies, the goodwill on which every request at a bedside depends could weaken, and refusals could rise rather than fall. The money, legislative time and public attention that the proposal would consume are better spent on placing a trained coordinator and a certification team in every hospital with an intensive-care unit, beginning with the large states that now record almost no donations at all.

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

◯ **A.** Spain's high donation rate is chiefly the result of the presumed-consent law it passed in 1979
◯ **B.** Families in India should no longer be asked for consent before organs are retrieved from the dead
◯ **C.** Brain-stem death is rarely certified in Indian hospitals because the law makes it hard to certify
◯ **D.** Resources should go to hospital coordination and certification rather than to a new consent law

17. The detail that Spain's presumed-consent law predated its rise in donation by a decade functions in the argument as

◯ **A.** the main conclusion that the rest of the author's evidence about India is meant to support
◯ **B.** evidence that the rise in donation followed a change other than the change in the consent law
◯ **C.** a concession that presumed consent was responsible for at least part of Spain's success
◯ **D.** an example showing that presumed-consent laws gradually reduce families' goodwill over time

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

◯ **A.** Families in India refuse requests for donation more often than families in Spain usually do
◯ **B.** The states that have built coordination networks have larger populations than the other states
◯ **C.** A presumed-consent law would not by itself prompt hospitals to set up certification teams
◯ **D.** Spain's transplant coordinators are paid more than intensive-care doctors working in India

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

◯ **A.** Where Indian hospitals do have trained coordinators, families still refuse most of their requests
◯ **B.** Several countries adopted presumed consent and saw no rise in donation over the following five years
◯ **C.** Spain's coordinators receive specialised training in speaking with families who have just been bereaved
◯ **D.** Some Indian states with coordination networks still fall short of the donation targets they have set

20. Which of the following arguments is most similar in its reasoning to the argument in the passage?

◯ **A.** Crop yields rose once a new seed reached the district, so every farm statewide should receive it
◯ **B.** A city's traffic law cut accidents, so other cities should copy that law word for word
◯ **C.** Scores rose only once trained teachers came, long after a new syllabus, so fund teachers, not syllabi
◯ **D.** A clinic's visits fell after its fees rose, so it should restore its old fees at once

RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL

107 quick questions · not negatively marked

1. How many years had Mr Dastur been tuning the piano on Rope Walk Lane? _____
2. In which month did Dastur always arrive to tune the piano? _____
3. What had Dastur's wife called his leather tool case? _____
4. On which lane did the house with the piano stand? _____
5. What was unusual at the gate when Dastur arrived? _____
6. Who opened the door to Dastur? _____
7. What habit had Farhad inherited from his mother? _____
8. On which day was the piano dealer due to come? _____
9. What did Farhad ask Dastur to make the piano? _____
10. Which note did Dastur press first? _____
11. What state was the piano's pitch in when Dastur tested it? _____
12. What part of the piano was 'giving way to the damp'? _____
13. How does an old man give way in an argument, per the simi _____

SCAN AT DESK TO COLLECT
CG-RC-20261119

14. Name the three tools Dastur laid out.
15. Where did the tuning fork hum?
16. How old was the girl watching from the stairs?
17. What did the girl call her grandmother?
18. What did Nani say about Dastur?
19. According to Dastur, what did he alone have to listen to?
20. What did the grandmother have to listen to, per Dastur?
21. How long did Dastur work on the piano?
22. What was Farhad holding when he looked in the second time?

23. What did Farhad say the dealer would hardly notice?
24. What did Dastur play after he finished tuning?
25. What fee did Dastur name at the door?
26. What did Farhad do after beginning to object?
27. In what voice did Dastur speak to the girl at the end?
28. Until when would the piano hold its pitch?
29. Farhad treated the piano like what kind of relative?
30. What does 'presentable' mean as Farhad uses it?
31. What is easier for a legislature: making a law or unmaking one?

32. Name three things a statute acquires once passed.
33. What does repeal of a law require?
34. What does a law's survival require?
35. Define a sunset clause.
36. What burden does a sunset clause reverse?
37. Under a sunset clause, who must show a law should continue?

38. Which kind of power seems made for sunset treatment?
39. Why do emergency powers suit expiry dates?
40. When are sunset laws often renewed?
41. What choice do legislators face just before expiry?
42. A deadline meant to force deliberation instead forces what?
43. Which statutes were renewed repeatedly in several democracies?

44. How did each renewal treat the previous one?
45. Where does the fault lie, per the author: expiry or renewal's basis?

46. What question does a bare renewal vote re-ask?
47. Who must prepare the report the author proposes?
48. Name the three things the proposed report must state.
49. Renewal without a report should be impossible, not merely what?

50. A well-designed sunset clause is less a timer than what?
51. How often will laws actually die on schedule, per the author?

52. What evidence must a government use when explaining renewal?

53. What has a law that cannot survive such explanation already done?

54. What does 'inertia' mean in the sunset essay?
55. What does 'lapse' mean for a statute?
56. What has happened to festivals in the city's older neighbourhoods?

57. How long had the street cricket match been played?
58. What does the Durga Puja committee struggle to find?
59. What is the 'usual explanation' for shrinking festivals?
60. Who commissioned the participation survey?
61. Which two factors did the survey hold nearly identical?
62. Average events attended by open-lane residents in a year?
63. Average events attended by gated-society residents?
64. Where are the gated housing societies located?
65. Where does a festival in an open lane happen?
66. What does refusing to contribute in an open lane carry?
67. Where does a gated society move celebration?
68. In a gated society, attendance becomes a decision made when?

69. Participation that was the default becomes what behind the gate?

70. Who holds the remedy, per the author: employers or planners?

71. What should new housing be required to keep open?
72. What would calls to shorten working hours leave untouched?

73. Community is less a sentiment than what?
74. The author denies the argument is what?
75. Key assumption of the gated-society argument?
76. What flaw links the decline and the gate theory?
77. Which theory recommends shortening office hours?
78. What does 'default' mean in the festival argument?
79. What new policy proposal keeps returning in India?
80. Under presumed consent, who is treated as a donor?
81. Which country do supporters of presumed consent cite?
82. In which year did Spain pass its presumed-consent law?
83. When did Spain's rise in organ donation begin?
84. What did Spain create in 1989?
85. Who is usually Spain's hospital transplant coordinator?
86. Do Spanish doctors still ask families before retrieval?
87. What changed in Spain in 1989: consent or capacity?
88. Name the coordinator's three jobs in Spain.
89. Where do most of India's deceased donations come from?
90. Why does brain-stem death often go uncertified in India?
91. Can an uncertified death become a donation?
92. Which organs can living relatives give?
93. Which organs can come only from a certified death?
94. What might families come to believe under presumed consent?

95. What could weaken if families distrust the state?
96. Where should coordinators and certification teams go?
97. Which states should get the teams first?
98. The argument 'mistakes the law for' what?
99. What does 'bottleneck' mean in the donation argument?
100. For how long has Spain had one of the highest donation rates?

101. What did the house on Rope Walk Lane always keep at its gate?

102. How did Dastur walk up the path when no one met him?
103. How old was Farhad at the time of the visit?
104. How did Dastur react when told the dealer would not notice?

105. How long had Dastur charged this house the same fee?
106. Where was the girl when Dastur left?
107. Where did Dastur look while answering the girl?

SCAN AT DESK TO COLLECT
CG-RC-20261119