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 — LAW & SOCIETY · WHY THE LAW FORGETS (Q1–Q5)

Few doctrines offend the ordinary sense of justice as sharply as adverse possession. A man fences in a strip of his neighbour's land, farms it openly for twelve years, and the law, instead of ordering him off, extinguishes the neighbour's title. Under India's Limitation Act of 1963, a suit to recover immovable property by a private owner must ordinarily be brought within twelve years of the possession becoming adverse; where the government is the owner, the period is thirty years. To many this looks like a reward for trespass, a rule that lets the patient wrongdoer outwait the careless owner.

The complaint mistakes what the rule is for. Limitation is not a judgment that the trespasser deserves the land. It is a judgment about what courts can still know. After a decade and more, witnesses have died, boundary stones have shifted, and the papers that might have settled it have rotted. A court asked to decide a stale claim is not choosing between truth and falsehood; it is choosing between a present, visible arrangement and a reconstructed past it can no longer reliably see.

There is a second reason, and it concerns everyone else. Land is bought, mortgaged and inherited. A buyer who pays for a field occupied without challenge for twenty years must be able to rely on that occupation. If every title remained open to an ancient claim, no title would be secure, and the cost of that insecurity would fall not on careless owners but on the many who deal in good faith with whoever is visibly in possession.

None of this makes forgetting free. The doctrine is defensible only because it is hedged. Possession must be open, continuous and hostile to the owner; a tenant or a licensee who occupies with permission cannot count those years. Because the occupation must be open, the owner is never ambushed: the years run only while the occupation was there to see. Where these conditions are relaxed, as when a powerful occupier quietly encloses the land of an absent widow, the rule stops protecting reliance and starts laundering seizure.

The right question, then, is not whether the law should forget, but what it should demand before it does. A legal system that never forgets can settle nothing; one that forgets too easily rewards whoever is strong enough to occupy. Limitation is the law's attempt to forget on terms.

1. The author's main purpose in the passage is to

- ◯ **A.** condemn adverse possession as a rule that rewards trespassers for simply outwaiting careless owners
- ◯ **B.** defend limitation as a conditional rule resting on lost evidence and reliance rather than desert
- ◯ **C.** argue that the twelve-year period against private owners should be raised to match thirty years
- ◯ **D.** show that courts are generally unable to discover the truth in any dispute about title to land

2. According to the passage, a tenant who has occupied a house for fifteen years with the owner's permission

- ◯ **A.** acquires title, because the twelve-year period for private owners has already run in full
- ◯ **B.** acquires title only if the owner lived far away and never inspected the house in those years
- ◯ **C.** must be evicted at once, because the owner's documents are presumed to be fully preserved
- ◯ **D.** cannot count those years, because occupation by permission is not hostile to the owner

3. The example of the 'absent widow' in the fourth paragraph serves mainly to

- ◯ **A.** show that adverse possession most often harms widows and other women who own land in villages
- ◯ **B.** argue that the thirty-year period available to the government should be extended to widows
- ◯ **C.** prove that the lost-evidence rationale fails in every case in which an owner is not present
- ◯ **D.** illustrate how relaxing the conditions turns protection of reliance into cover for seizure

4. As used in the fourth paragraph, 'laundering' most nearly means

- ◯ **A.** washing away all the physical traces of an occupation from the land itself
- ◯ **B.** punishing a seizure only after the limitation period has fully run out
- ◯ **C.** lending a wrongful taking the appearance of a lawful and settled title
- ◯ **D.** slowly reversing an enclosure by means of repeated suits in the courts

5. On the author's reasoning, which situation is the strongest case for the law to 'forget' the original owner's claim?

- ◯ **A.** A family farmed a plot openly for twenty years, unchallenged by the owner; it was later sold twice
- ◯ **B.** A caretaker employed by an owner living abroad has occupied the house for eighteen years and claims it
- ◯ **C.** A strongman fenced an absent owner's land and has hidden it behind high walls for fourteen years
- ◯ **D.** An occupier took the land six years ago, and the owner's old title documents remain perfectly preserved

READING COMPREHENSION — HISTORY · THE MAP AS A RECORD (Q6–Q10)

For two centuries the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India has been told in one of two ways. In the first, it is a triumph of patient science: beginning in 1802, William Lambton and his successors measured a baseline near Madras with chains laid end to end and then, by measuring angles from hilltop to hilltop, extended a web of triangles across the subcontinent. In the second, it is an instrument of conquest, a way of turning unknown territory into land that could be taxed, garrisoned and ruled. Each version treats the other as a distortion. Both are partly right, and the quarrel between them misses what is most interesting.

Consider what triangulation demanded. To fix a single point, surveyors hauled a theodolite so heavy that teams of men were needed to carry it, cleared lines of sight through forest, and built masonry towers where the plains offered no hill. Labour on that scale made sense only to a state that intended to stay. The precision was not a neutral by-product that empire happened to exploit; it was the form that a settled, administrative empire took. A government that collects revenue village by village needs to know, almost to the yard, w
village ends and the next begins.

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Yet the instrument cannot be reduced to its purpose. The great arc measured along a meridian under George Everest, completed in the 1840s, also yielded knowledge of the shape of the earth that outlasted the regime that paid for it. Science conducted for imperial reasons is still science.

What the two versions share is a silence about who did the work. The calculations that identified Peak XV as the highest summit then known were carried out by Radhanath Sikdar, employed by the Survey as a 'computer'. When Tibet was closed to Europeans, the Survey sent Indian explorers such as Nain Singh Rawat, who counted his paces on a rosary of a hundred beads instead of the customary hundred and eight. In 1865 the peak was named after Everest, who had himself objected that his name could be neither written nor pronounced by the people who lived beneath it.

A map, then, is best read not as a picture of land but as the record of a relationship: who measured, who was measured, and whose names survived the measuring.

6. Which of the following best captures the author's central claim?

- ◯ **A.** The Survey was both science and rule, and both usual accounts overlook who did its work
- ◯ **B.** The Survey was chiefly pure science which the colonial state later misused to raise revenue
- ◯ **C.** The Survey's maps were too inaccurate to serve as science and so served only imperial control
- ◯ **D.** The Survey's main achievement was naming the world's highest peak after its own director

7. The author mentions masonry towers and cleared lines of sight chiefly to suggest that

- ◯ **A.** the Survey's methods were technically crude when compared with those used in Europe at that same time
- ◯ **B.** Indian terrain made triangulation impossible without the military help of local rulers and armies
- ◯ **C.** the Survey wasted money that would have been better spent on irrigation canals and famine relief
- ◯ **D.** labour on such a scale fits a state planning to stay, tying the Survey's precision to its purpose

8. The third paragraph functions mainly to

- ◯ **A.** withdraw the earlier claim that the Survey served the administrative needs of the colonial state
- ◯ **B.** establish that the shape of the earth was first worked out by surveyors working in India
- ◯ **C.** qualify the second paragraph by denying that the Survey's purpose exhausts its value
- ◯ **D.** argue that imperial patronage is the most reliable guarantee of lasting scientific results

9. Which study would best follow the method of reading maps that the author recommends in the final paragraph?

- ◯ **A.** One tracing who drew a land-revenue map, whom it taxed, and which local names it replaced
- ◯ **B.** One checking a colonial map's distances against satellite data to grade its overall accuracy
- ◯ **C.** One ranking colonial surveys by the precision of their instruments and the angles they measured
- ◯ **D.** One urging that colonial maps be discarded altogether because they were made for imperial ends

10. According to the passage, Nain Singh Rawat's rosary differed from the customary one in that it

- ◯ **A.** had a hundred and eight beads, each set aside for recording a single angle
- ◯ **B.** was used to note angles measured from one hilltop station to the next
- ◯ **C.** was a gift from George Everest at the time when Tibet closed its frontier
- ◯ **D.** had a hundred beads rather than the hundred and eight usually carried

SECTION — CRITICAL REASONING

CRITICAL REASONING — POLITICAL ECONOMY · THE WAIVER AND THE NEXT LOAN (Q11–Q15)

Each election season brings a fresh promise to waive farmers' loans, and each time the promise is defended as relief for the most distressed people in the economy. The sympathy is genuine and the distress is real. But a waiver is a poor instrument for relieving it, and the governments that announce waivers would help farmers more by spending the same money another way.

Begin with who benefits. A waiver cancels debts owed to banks and cooperatives. It does nothing for the tenant cultivator who leases land informally and borrows from a moneylender or a trader, because those loans appear on no official ledger. The farmers most likely to hold formal loans are those with clear title to land, and they are, on average, better off than those without it. A waiver therefore directs its largest benefits away from the poorest cultivators it claims to rescue.

Consider next what a waiver teaches. A farmer who repaid on time watches a neighbour who did not have his debt cancelled. The lesson is not lost on either of them. If borrowers come to expect another waiver before the next election, repayment falls even among those who could pay, and banks respond by lending less to agriculture or by lending only to the largest and safest borrowers. The relief of one season becomes the tightened credit of the next.

Finally, a waiver addresses the debt but not its cause. Farmers fall into arrears after a failed monsoon, a pest attack or a collapse in prices. Cancelling the debt after the event leaves the next farmer exposed to the same shock. Money spent on crop insurance that pays promptly, or on direct income support paid per cultivator rather than per loan, would reach tenants as well as owners and would arrive before distress hardened into default.

None of this denies that some debts are genuinely unpayable and should be written down case by case. It means that a blanket cancellation, announced on a political calendar rather than an agricultural one, buys gratitude at the cost of the credit system on which farmers depend. Relief that is targeted, predictable and paid before the crisis is not less generous than a waiver. It is generosity that does not have to be repaid later in the form of tighter loans.

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

- ◯ **A.** Farmers' distress is greatly exaggerated by political parties as each election season approaches
- ◯ **B.** Banks ought to stop lending to small farmers who do not hold clear legal title to their land
- ◯ **C.** All debts that farmers owe to private moneylenders should be cancelled by law, not bank loans
- ◯ **D.** Waiver money would help farmers more if spent on prompt insurance or per-cultivator support

12. The claim that income support paid per cultivator 'would reach tenants as well as owners' assumes that

- ◯ **A.** tenant cultivators would prefer direct income support to a policy of prompt crop insurance
- ◯ **B.** moneylenders will lower their interest rates once governments stop announcing loan waivers
- ◯ **C.** the state can identify cultivators who lease land informally and pay them the support
- ◯ **D.** banks already lend more to tenant cultivators than they lend to farmers who own land

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

- ◯ **A.** Governments reimbursed banks in full for every single loan that was cancelled under past waiver schemes
- ◯ **B.** After past waivers, repayment by non-beneficiaries and new farm lending soon regained earlier levels
- ◯ **C.** Waivers are usually announced several months before an election rather than just weeks before it
- ◯ **D.** Some farmers who repaid their loans on time later borrowed larger sums from informal moneylenders

14. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the claim made in the second paragraph?

- ◯ **A.** Some large landowners decline the waivers offered to them out of concern for their credit records
- ◯ **B.** Most tenant and marginal cultivators borrow mainly from informal lenders, not banks or cooperatives
- ◯ **C.** Moneylenders in rural areas usually charge far higher rates of interest than do banks and cooperatives
- ◯ **D.** Waiver schemes are usually capped at a small fixed sum for each borrower, however large the loan

15. The statement in the final paragraph that some debts 'should be written down case by case' functions to

- ◯ **A.** concede that the whole argument against waivers applies only in years without a drought
- ◯ **B.** show that blanket waivers are in the end the most efficient form of relief that is available
- ◯ **C.** confine the thesis to blanket waivers while still allowing targeted relief of real debt
- ◯ **D.** introduce a new reason why banks should withdraw from agricultural lending altogether

CRITICAL REASONING — SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY POLICY · THE PART THAT WILL NOT PAIR (Q16–Q20)

When a phone's battery fades or a tractor's sensor fails, the owner increasingly discovers that the machine cannot be fixed by anyone except its maker. Parts are sold only to authorised service centres, repair manuals are kept confidential, and software rejects a replacement component unless the manufacturer has 'paired' it to that particular device. Manufacturers defend these practices on grounds of safety and security: an untrained repairer might fit a faulty battery or open a route for malicious software. A law requiring them to supply parts, tools and manuals to independent repairers, they argue, would put consumers at risk.

The argument deserves a hearing, but it does not survive scrutiny. If the danger lay in untrained hands, the remedy would be to certify repairers, not to shut all of them out. Electricians, plumbers and motor mechanics work on equipment far more dangerous than a phone, and the law does not respond by requiring that only the original manufacturer may touch a wiring board or a car's brakes. It sets standards and lets qualified people meet them.

The security claim fares no better. Software that rejects an unpaired part does not test whether the part is faulty or malicious; it checks only whether the manufacturer approved the sale. A genuine part taken from one handset and fitted to another is refused as readily as a counterfeit. A check that cannot tell a sound part from a dangerous one is not a safety mechanism. It is a sales mechanism.

The costs of the present arrangement, meanwhile, fall on people the manufacturers do not mention. Devices that could have worked for years are discarded when a single cheap part fails, swelling the stream of electronic waste. Owners in small towns, far from any authorised centre, wait for weeks or pay for a replacement they did not need. Independent repair shops, which employ many people, are pushed to the edges of the law.

A repair mandate would not oblige anyone to use an independent repairer. Owners who trust only the maker could go on returning to it. What the mandate removes is the maker's power to make that choice on the owner's behalf. Safety is a good reason to set standards for repair; it is no reason to abolish the repairer.

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

- ◯ **A.** Safety and security claims do not justify keeping parts, tools and manuals from independent repairers
- ◯ **B.** Independent repairers are generally more skilled than the technicians at authorised service centres
- ◯ **C.** Owners should be legally required to use independent repairers instead of returning to the maker
- ◯ **D.** Electronic waste is now the gravest environmental problem created by the electronics industry

17. The argument in the third paragraph depends on which of the following assumptions?

- ◯ **A.** Most counterfeit parts on the market are sold and fitted through independent repair shops
- ◯ **B.** Manufacturers earn more from selling replacement parts than they do from selling new devices
- ◯ **C.** Parts lacking the maker's approval are not, as a class, much likelier to be faulty than approved ones
- ◯ **D.** Software pairing was introduced only after independent repair had already become common in most markets

18. Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument in the second paragraph?

- ◯ **A.** Many electricians and plumbers work without any licence and are seldom checked by the authorities
- ◯ **B.** Where phone repairers are certified, battery fires after certified repairs far exceed those after the maker's
- ◯ **C.** Authorised service centres often employ technicians who were trained in independent repair shops
- ◯ **D.** Most owners would rather return a faulty device to its maker than take it to a local shop

19. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the claim that the present arrangement imposes needless costs?

- ◯ **A.** Phones today are built with a larger share of recyclable materials than they were a decade ago
- ◯ **B.** Many discarded phones had failed only in a battery or screen that could cheaply have been replaced
- ◯ **C.** Manufacturers have opened authorised service centres in several district towns in recent years
- ◯ **D.** Some independent repair shops have been found selling counterfeit parts as genuine replacements

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

- ◯ **A.** A hospital lets only its own pharmacy fill prescriptions to stop errors, yet bars licensed outside pharmacists too
- ◯ **B.** A city bans motor scooters on safety grounds; since scooters do cause accidents, the ban must be justified
- ◯ **C.** A school bans calculators because a few students cheated; since most never cheated, the ban is plainly unfair
- ◯ **D.** A carmaker recalls a model after brake failures; since recalls are costly, the faults must be very serious

RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL

101 quick questions · not negatively marked

1. Which Indian statute sets the period for recovering land, per the passage? .....
2. Period for a private owner to sue to recover land? .....
3. Period when the government is the owner of the land? .....
4. From when does the twelve-year period run? .....
5. What does the law extinguish once the period runs? .....
6. How does the lay objection describe adverse possession? .....

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7. Whom does the lay objection say the rule lets outwait the owner?
8. Limitation is a judgment about what, according to the author?
9. Limitation is NOT a judgment that the trespasser does what?
10. Name one thing lost after a decade, per the passage.
11. A court deciding a stale claim chooses between a present arrangement and what?
12. Whose reliance does the third paragraph protect?
13. On whom would insecure titles chiefly cost, per the author?
14. Three qualities possession must have, per the passage?
15. Who cannot count years of occupation held with permission?
16. Why is the owner 'never ambushed'?
17. Whose land does the powerful occupier quietly enclose in the example?
18. When conditions are relaxed, the rule starts doing what?
19. What can a legal system that never forgets do, per the author?
20. Whom does a law that forgets too easily reward?
21. The author calls limitation the law's attempt to do what?
22. Is the author's defence of limitation unconditional?
23. The 'right question' is what the law should demand before it does what?
24. What did the man in the opening example do with the neighbour's strip?
25. In which year did the Great Trigonometrical Survey begin?
26. Who began the Great Trigonometrical Survey?
27. Near which city was the first baseline measured?
28. With what was the baseline measured?
29. Triangulation extends a web of what across the land?
30. Angles were measured from where to where?
31. What did the first account call the Survey?
32. What did the second account call the Survey?
33. Does the author think either account wholly wrong?
34. What instrument needed teams of men to carry it?
35. What did surveyors build where the plains offered no hill?
36. Labour on that scale made sense only to what kind of state?
37. The Survey's precision was the form taken by what?
38. Why must a revenue state know where a village ends?
39. Under whom was the great meridional arc measured?
40. When was the great arc completed?
41. Knowledge of what did the great arc yield?
42. Science conducted for imperial reasons is still what?
43. What do both standard accounts share, per the author?
44. Who calculated that Peak XV was the highest summit then known?
45. What post did Radhanath Sikdar hold in the Survey?
46. Who counted paces on a rosary in Tibet?
47. How many beads did his rosary have?
48. How many beads does a customary rosary have?
49. Why were Indian explorers sent into Tibet?
50. In which year was Peak XV named after Everest?
51. What did Everest object about naming the peak after him?
52. A map is best read as the record of what?
53. Name one question the author asks of a map.
54. What is promised each election season, per the passage?
55. Does the author deny that farm distress is real?
56. The author calls a waiver a poor what?
57. Debts owed to whom does a waiver cancel?
58. From whom does the tenant cultivator borrow?
59. Why does a waiver miss informal loans?
60. Who is most likely to hold formal loans?
61. Away from whom does a waiver direct its largest benefits?
62. What does a waiver 'teach' the farmer who repaid on time?
63. If borrowers expect another waiver, what falls?
64. How may banks respond to falling repayment?
65. The relief of one season becomes what next season?
66. A waiver addresses the debt but not its what?
67. Name one cause of arrears listed in the passage.
68. What kind of crop insurance does the author favour?
69. Income support should be paid per what, not per loan?
70. Whom would per-cultivator support reach besides owners?
71. Which debts does the author accept should be written down?
72. A blanket waiver is announced on what kind of calendar?
73. What does a blanket waiver buy, per the author?
74. At the cost of what does it buy gratitude?
75. Three qualities of better relief, per the author?
76. Is the author's target all debt relief?
77. Generosity that need not be repaid in what form?
78. To whom are parts sold under the present arrangement?
79. What is kept confidential, per the passage?
80. What does software do to an unpaired part?
81. Two grounds manufacturers cite for restricting repair?
82. What might an untrained repairer fit, per manufacturers?
83. What three things would a repair law require makers to supply?
84. If danger lay in untrained hands, what is the remedy?
85. Which trades does the author cite in the analogy?
86. What does the law do for those trades instead of a maker monopoly?
87. What does pairing software actually check?
88. A genuine part from another handset is refused as readily as what?
89. The author calls the pairing check a what mechanism?
90. What are devices discarded for, per the fourth paragraph?
91. What stream does such discarding swell?
92. Who waits weeks for repairs, per the passage?
93. Who is pushed to the edges of the law?
94. Would a repair mandate force owners to use independent repairers?
95. What power does the mandate remove from the maker?
96. Safety is a good reason to do what, per the author?
97. Safety is no reason to do what?
98. Which machine besides a phone appears in the opening?
99. What fault does the tractor suffer in the example?
100. What phrase opens the author's reply to the makers?
101. Which Act sets limitation periods for suits in India?

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