CLAT Gurukul — By Ready For Exam

Daily RC & CR Sheet — Answers, Skills & Examiner Notes — 3 November 2026

20 Qs · 0 Min
Answer key + skill tags + examiner notes

ANSWER KEY — 3 NOVEMBER 2026

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
B	D	A	C	B	A	C	D	A	C
Q11	**Q12**	**Q13**	**Q14**	**Q15**	**Q16**	**Q17**	**Q18**	**Q19**	**Q20**
D	B	A	C	D	B	A	D	C	B

READING COMPREHENSION

Q1 B — Main idea — MED

The passage moves in four steps. The first paragraph explains why the traditional rule of standing shut out the poor, who 'could not reach a court'. The second shows the Court relaxing the rule in Hussainara Khatoon so that 'a public-spirited person' might act for those who could not. The third sets praise against criticism and notes abuse. The fourth gives the author's own position: 'The relaxation of standing was justified by the helplessness of those it was meant to serve; wherever that helplessness is absent, the justification weakens.' That sentence is the passage in miniature, and B restates it with its caution about restraint. The option claiming the older rule should be restored in full overreaches, because the author never asks for abolition and treats the abuse as a reason for care, not repeal. The option calling the English rule an inherited error ignores that the author calls the underlying fear 'sensible'. The option on conclusive confirmation contradicts the section on criticism.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option A attracts students who fix on the third paragraph's talk of abuse; the author warns, but never proposes restoring the old rule.

Q2 D — Inference — ELITE

The passage says the Court 'took up the matter at the instance of an advocate who was not himself a prisoner', and that it did so on the strength of newspaper reports about undertrials. The two facts together show that the petitioner was a stranger to the injury and that the Court nevertheless proceeded. The author then explains the reasoning: standing is 'a means of reaching justice' and not 'the private property of the injured'. It follows that the petitioner's identity mattered less than the condition of the prisoners, which is exactly what D says. The compensation option adds a remedy the passage never mentions; the paragraph speaks only of the right to a speedy trial under Article 21. The option on newspaper reports turns a prompt into a rule of evidence, which the text does not state. The option about the advocate being a former undertrial is flatly contradicted by the words 'not himself a prisoner'.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option B is the trap for students who recall that undertrials and newspaper reports appear in the passage; the passage records no compensation, only the right to a speedy trial.

Q3 A — Tone — EASY

The tone can be read from the author's choice of words. The origins are described sympathetically: the poor are shown as unable to reach a court, and the Justices who relaxed standing are credited with treating it as 'a means of reaching justice'. The third paragraph sets praise and criticism side by side, and the last paragraph reaches what the author calls 'a caution' rather than 'a verdict'. That combination of approval for the doctrine's beginnings and care about its later growth is what A describes. The option of hostility to the origins fails because the author calls the original fear sensible but plainly sympathises with those the doctrine rescued. The option of complete detachment fails because the closing paragraph takes a position. The option of enthusiasm and impatience fails because the author gives real weight to the critics and ends by warning against judicial confidence. A careful reader should be able to eliminate three options on the strength of the final sentence alone.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option D tempts students who see that the author reports both sides; but reporting is not detachment, since the last paragraph takes a stand.

Q4 C — Vocabulary in context — HARD

The word 'confidence' is set against 'humility' in the same sentence: the doctrine is 'born of the humility of a judiciary that wished to listen to the voiceless' and must be guarded against 'the confidence of one that begins to speak for everyone'. A contrast with humility pushes the meaning of confidence toward self-assurance that has grown into presumption, since the surrounding argument warns of a court that supervises drains and emission norms without an elected body's accountability. The phrase 'speak for everyone' signals a court that has stepped from hearing petitioners to representing the whole public. That is why C fits. The option on trust in evidence uses the positive everyday sense of confidence, which the contrast with 'guarded against' rules out. The option on settled precedent describes the opposite of an activist expansion. The option on public cooperation picks up an idea the passage never raises.

NAME: _____ ROLL NO: _____ BATCH: _____

Examiner's note — the trap: Option A is the attractive wrong answer because 'confidence' normally carries a favourable sense; here the word 'guarded' makes it a warning.

Q5 B Structure and purpose HARD

Paragraph three presents two camps: admirers of orders that freed bonded labourers and cleaned rivers, and critics who doubt the Court's expertise and note that petitions for 'publicity' and 'private grudges' have 'cluttered dockets'. Paragraph four begins, 'What survives is less a verdict than a caution'. This phrase tells the reader that the author is not choosing a winner but extracting what remains useful from both camps. The paragraph then states the test, which is to ask whom the petitioner speaks for and what he stands to gain. That is a qualified conclusion, as B says. The option about restating criticisms is wrong because the paragraph also preserves the justification for relaxing standing. The option about a fresh reversing example is wrong because the paragraph introduces no case at all. The option about defending the English rule is wrong because the author never wishes to return to it; the caution applies only where helplessness is absent.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option A tempts students who notice the paragraph's cautionary tone and take it for a further attack on the jurisdiction, though it keeps the original justification intact.

Q6 A Main idea HARD

The passage opens with the announcement of 1793 and the purpose behind it, which was to end instability. It then describes the working of the settlement: recognising the zamindar as proprietor, fixing a high demand, and enforcing it through the sunset law. The third paragraph turns to outcomes that 'ran against the intentions', and the last reports the historians' debate and the settlement's 'long shadow'. Taken together this is what A says: purpose, working, unintended results and the argument about significance. The option on Mughal and British methods uses the Mughal comparison, which appears only in passing in the second paragraph, and the passage never calls British methods superior. The option on Cornwallis's career treats a single name as the subject, although the passage concerns one measure. The option on the origin of the zamindari class and its displacement by merchants takes up a single strand from the third paragraph and presents it as the whole.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option C attracts students who latch on to the first sentence's naming of Cornwallis; the passage is about a measure, not a biography.

Q7 C Inference ELITE

The second paragraph says that proprietorship was 'a status he had not held in that form under Mughal practice', where his office was 'closer to a hereditary collector's, with customary claims on a share of the produce'. If the 1793 measure recognised him as proprietor, then his legal standing changed, and the passage adds that the cultivators were left to bargain with a landlord who 'now had the law on his side'. The inference in C follows, and it goes beyond the arrangement of a fixed sum. The option on fixed payments reverses the passage, because before 1793 collection was by short-term arrangements and the fixing of the sum came with the new measure. The option on the sunset sale confuses cause and sequence, since the sunset law was part of the 1793 enforcement. The option on purely commercial relations is contradicted by the statement that cultivators' rights rested on custom and that their position worsened.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option B is the trap: sunset sales are vivid and appear in the passage, but they belong to the settlement itself and not to the period before it.

Q8 D Attitude to a view MED

The fourth paragraph says 'Older accounts credited it with creating a loyal landed class', which acknowledges that the view had a place in scholarship. It then says 'later work stresses that the landlords were often absentee and indebted, and that loyalty could not be bought by a legal title alone'. The phrase 'later work stresses' marks a refinement and not a rejection outright; the author reports both and leans toward the revision. That is what D expresses. The option calling it a myth that no historian advanced is wrong because the passage says historians did advance it. The option calling it the only account explaining British survival is wrong because the author prefers the later correction and offers no such claim. The option of indifference fails because the author gives a whole sentence to the revision and treats loyalty as a real question. The correct answer is the only one that keeps both halves of the sentence.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option A attracts students who read 'later work stresses' as a refutation; the author qualifies the older view and does not call it a myth.

Q9 A Vocabulary in context MED

The word 'liable' appears in a legal and administrative setting, describing the consequence of failing to pay revenue on time. In this sense it means subject to a risk or exposed to a penalty, and the sentence therefore says that an estate with an overdue instalment could be sold, not that it always was. That is the meaning in A. The option on moral answerability picks up another everyday use of liable, in the sense of being blameworthy, but the estate is a piece of property and the context is statutory enforcement. The option on certainty in every instance overstates the force of the word, and it conflicts with the third paragraph, which says many zamindars lost estates 'unable to meet the demand in a bad season', implying that not all did. The option on economic attractiveness reads the sale from the buyer's side and misses that the subject of the sentence is the estate's owner.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option C is the tempting wrong answer because 'liable' often means 'responsible'; the sentence concerns exposure to a penalty.

Q10 C Structure and purpose HARD

The sentence in question follows the observation that, because the demand 'stayed fixed while prices and cultivation rose, the Company's share of the produce shrank'. It then says the Company 'turned to other systems elsewhere', and it describes mahalwari revenue as 'open to periodic revision'. The mention of the two systems therefore illustrates the response to the problem of a fixed demand, namely settlements that could be revised, as C states. The option about fairness is not supported, because the passage describes the systems by their revenue arrangements and not by their fairness to cultivators. The option about the zamindari class being dismantled before 1885 misplaces the final paragraph, which says the system ended only after independence. The option about the sunset law being withdrawn is invented, since the passage never says the law was withdrawn. The purpose is thus tied to the Company's finances and not to cultivator welfare.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option A is the attractive wrong answer for students who assume that a later system must have been a better one; the passage gives a fiscal reason.

CRITICAL REASONING

Q11 D Main conclusion MED

The author builds toward the last two sentences: 'A system that waits for a request will always release fewer people than the law intends. Only a system that begins from the record can turn the entitlement into a practice.' The preceding paragraphs supply the premises: most prisoners are undertrials, the entitlement exists, it depends on an application, and a monthly list prepared from prison records would cure that dependence at little judicial cost. The conclusion is therefore the claim in D, that the entitlement works reliably only if review starts from the record. The option on repealing the provision contradicts the argument, which wants the provision made effective. The option on hearing every bail application misreads the final paragraph, which says the present burden of repeated bail hearings would shrink. The option on release without any scrutiny goes beyond the proposal, which keeps a judicial decision on every listed name, including the power to record reasons for continued detention.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option C tempts students who remember that unrepresented prisoners are the hardest hit; the proposal still retains judicial scrutiny of each name.

Q12 B Necessary assumption HARD

The author says that 'calculating eligibility is a clerical task that the prison's own records already make possible'. For the remedy to work, those records must be accurate enough to compute the days each undertrial has spent in custody and to identify who has crossed the threshold. If they were unreliable, the monthly list would either miss eligible prisoners or wrongly include others, and the claim that the courts' task is brief on 'a prepared file' would collapse. That is the assumption in B, and a quick negation test confirms it: if the records could not identify eligibility, the proposal fails. The option on innocence is not needed; the argument concerns the entitlement, not guilt. The option on equal approval is also not needed, since the argument is about the process starting point and not the number approved. The option on every offence is not needed either, because the provision's scope can be whatever the law says.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option A attracts students moved by the opening reference to acquittals; the argument works whether or not the undertrials are innocent.

Q13 A Weaken ELITE

The opponents' point is that the proposal burdens already overloaded courts. The author replies that 'the judicial decision on each case ... is brief when it is made on a prepared file', so the burden is light and is offset by fewer repeated bail hearings. To weaken that reply, one must attack the claim that each decision is brief. A does exactly that: if each decision needs a hearing with the prosecution and a check of other cases, and takes as long as a contested bail application, then the saving disappears, and monthly lists would add work in every district. The option on other pending cases limits who benefits but says nothing about the time each decision takes. The option on slow jail authorities supports the author's complaint that the existing directions are 'followed unevenly'. The option on the Supreme Court's directions simply repeats a fact the passage has already mentioned and does not touch the reply to opponents.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option B is the attractive wrong answer: it narrows the benefit, but a smaller benefit is not a heavier burden on the courts, which is what the opponents argued.

Q14 C Strengthen MED

The author claims two things: that a self-executing system will release more eligible people, and that it will reduce the burden of repeated bail applications 'that arise only because eligible prisoners remained inside'. Evidence that, where monthly lists were adopted, bail applications from eligible prisoners fell and releases under the provision rose supports both claims at once, which is what C gives. The option on legal aid fees concerns the cost of lawyers, a matter not central to the proposal. The option on attendance after release might help show that release is safe, but the author's argument is about whether the entitlement is delivered, not about whether released people return. The option on the conviction rate suggests that more of the prisoners might be innocent, which is relevant to the opening paragraph's complaint but does nothing to show that lists would deliver the entitlement or ease the court's workload. Only the correct option tests the proposal against its own predictions.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option B tempts students who think safety after release is the issue; the argument is about delivery of the entitlement, which attendance does not test.

Q15 D Parallel reasoning HARD

The author's pattern is this: a benefit exists by law; it reaches too few people because it depends on an application from those least able to make one; therefore the institution holding the records should start the process itself, since a system that waits for a request delivers less than the law intends. D has the same structure: a refund exists; it goes unclaimed because it needs a form; therefore the tax office,

which holds the returns, should compute and credit it automatically. The library option changes the mechanism from a request to a penalty and its remedy to abolishing fines, which has no counterpart in the original. The company report option concerns readability, not an entitlement that has to be claimed. The school option moves the calendar to avoid a cause and says nothing of an entitlement that the institution can compute from its own records. Only the correct option has an entitlement, a request barrier and an institutional record.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option C is the closest rival because it also changes a procedure to raise participation; but there is no entitlement being claimed, and the remedy is not driven by existing records.

Q16 B Main conclusion MED

The third paragraph carries the conclusion. After conceding that the alternative to compensation is worse, the author says 'the charge is not that compensation should be abolished; it is that the unit in which it is reckoned conceals the loss', and goes on to propose valuing forest 'by what it does' and locating compensation 'in the same landscape'. Everything earlier, including the description of the legal design and the contrast between a forest and a plantation, supports that claim. B therefore captures the conclusion. The option on abolition is expressly rejected by the author. The option on the 2016 Act failing misreports the first paragraph, which says plantations have grown steadily, a point the author does not dispute. The option on never diverting forests is a much stronger claim than the author makes, since the author accepts diversion with proper compensation and only asks that the compensation be measured honestly.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option A attracts students who read the sceptical second paragraph as a call for abolition; the author rejects abolition in so many words.

Q17 A Necessary assumption HARD

The author predicts that 'developers will be pushed toward the cheapest land that satisfies the count, which is usually the land of least ecological value'. The word 'usually' joins two ideas, cheapness and low ecological value, and the prediction that area-based accounting causes poor compensation depends on their being linked. That is what A states. Negate it: if the cheapest land were typically rich in biodiversity, the pressure toward cheap land would not produce poor compensation, and this step of the argument would fail. The net present value option compares costs the author never compares. The option on single-species plantations overstates the earlier phrase 'often of a few fast-growing species' and is not needed, because the argument holds even if some plantations are mixed. The option about Parliament versus the executive concerns who may set a valuation, which the author does not address at all.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option C tempts students who recall 'a few fast-growing species'; the argument needs only 'often', not 'always', and does not depend on it.

Q18 D Weaken HARD

The author argues that a hectare planted is not equivalent to a hectare lost, because a distant plantation of few species 'does not restore the streams that the original forest fed or the species that sheltered in it'. To weaken that claim, the evidence should show that plantations in fact do restore these functions. D does so: if plantations are raised in the same basin, with mixed native species, and match natural regeneration in survival and biodiversity, then the area measure would not conceal much loss. The option on delayed spending reports a fault of administration, not a defect in the unit of measure, and may even support the author's doubts. The option on the committee's calculation describes how the net present value is set and leaves untouched the question of whether area is a sound measure. The option on forest cover figures including orchards and parks, if anything, supports the author's closing remark that cover 'looks stable on paper'.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option A is attractive to students who think any criticism of the scheme helps the defenders; delayed spending in fact reinforces the author's doubts.

Q19 C Strengthen HARD

The heart of the argument is that equal area does not mean equal ecological worth. Evidence that plantations carry only a small fraction of the native species found in the forests they replace directly supports this: the area is equal, but the biodiversity is not, which is just the gap that the author says the hectare count conceals. That is C. The option on rising costs is about money, not about whether the unit of account measures what is lost. The option on developer attitudes is irrelevant to whether the measure is sound, and a developer's view that the condition is reasonable says nothing on the matter. The option on stable recorded forest area does not strengthen the author and even matches the author's remark that cover 'looks stable on paper' while the forests that matter are traded away. To strengthen the argument, the evidence must show that equal area hides a difference in function.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** Option D is the attractive wrong answer because the author mentions stable cover; but stable totals are what the author says is misleading, not what proves the case.

Q20 B Flaw ELITE

The author's remedy is to 'value the diverted forest by what it does, such as the water it regulates, the carbon it holds and the species it supports'. The author criticises area for being a poor ruler but offers no account of how water regulation, carbon and species could be measured for a specific stand, compared across landscapes and audited. Area has the virtue of being easy to verify; a functional measure may be contested and manipulated, and the argument leaves that untouched. That is the gap named in B. The option on attacking officials is wrong because the author discusses no officials and keeps to the design of the accounting. The option on plantations having no value misreports the second paragraph, which grants that plantations may 'yield timber and stored carbon'. The option on cover figures misreads the last sentence, which does not accept the figures as accurate but says they mislead about quality.

Examiner's note — the trap: Option C tempts students who think the author is too hard on plantations; the second paragraph explicitly concedes that they yield timber and carbon.

RAPID FIRE — ANSWERS

1. Plural of 'criterion'? — **criteria**

2. Meaning of 'res ipsa loquitur'? — **The thing speaks for itself**

3. Fallacy: B followed A, so A caused B? — **Post hoc ergo propter hoc**

4. Synonym of 'ephemeral'? — **Short-lived**

5. Meaning of 'mens rea'? — **Guilty mind**

6. Article guaranteeing equality before the law? — **Article 14**

7. Article 21 protects what? — **Life and personal liberty**

8. Which 2017 judgment declared privacy a fundamental right? — **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India**

9. Antonym of 'candid'? — **Evasive / guarded**

10. Meaning of 'obiter dictum'? — **A passing remark by a judge, not binding**

11. In CR, the unstated premise the conclusion needs is called? — **An assumption**

12. Who introduced the Permanent Settlement, and when? — **Lord Cornwallis, 1793**

13. Ryotwari settlement is associated with which official in Madras? — **Thomas Munro**

14. Which article gives the right to constitutional remedies? — **Article 32**

15. Meaning of 'habeas corpus'? — **You may have the body (produce the person)**

16. Meaning of 'ubiquitous'? — **Found everywhere**

17. Which is the verb meaning 'to influence': affect or effect? — **affect**

18. Year of the Forest (Conservation) Act? — **1980**

19. Meaning of 'stare decisis'? — **Stand by what has been decided (follow precedent)**

20. Meaning of 'sardonic'? — **Mockingly cynical**

21. Meaning of 'sine die'? — **Without fixing a day**

22. A weaken question asks for the option that does what? — **Undermines the link between premise and conclusion**

23. What did the 'sunset law' of 1793 provide? — **Estate sold if revenue unpaid by sunset on due date**

24. Meaning of 'prima facie'? — **On first appearance**

25. Which 2016 Act governs the compensatory afforestation fund? — **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016**

26. Meaning of 'pragmatic'? — **Practical, concerned with results**

27. Meaning of the idiom 'burn the midnight oil'? — **Work late into the night**

28. Which article abolishes untouchability? — **Article 17**

29. Hussainara Khatoon (1979) stressed which right under Article 21? — **Speedy trial**

30. Writ of 'mandamus' means and does what? — **'We command': orders a public duty performed**

31. Meaning of 'pro bono'? — **For the public good, without fee**

32. Fallacy: refuting a distorted version of the opponent's claim? — **Straw man**