CLAT Gurukul — By Ready For Exam

Daily RC & CR Sheet — Answers, Skills & Examiner Notes — 10 November 2026

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

ANSWER KEY — 10 NOVEMBER 2026

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

READING COMPREHENSION

Q1 B Main idea MED

The passage opens with the puzzle of the robin's night migration and two 'oddities' of its compass: it reads only the dip of the field lines and it needs light (paragraph 1). Paragraph 2 sets out the cryptochrome proposal, in which light creates a linked pair of electron spins that a weak field can 'nudge'. Paragraph 3 offers the radio-noise evidence in its favour, and paragraph 4 qualifies everything: 'None of this amounts to proof', ending with 'a reasonable wager'. The keyed option keeps both halves, the plausible mechanism and the open verdict. The north-or-south option reverses the passage, which says the compass 'does not register whether the field points north or south'. The iron-based option inverts the evidence: the noise experiments count against an iron compass, which 'would have ignored such noise'. The urban-decline option inflates the campus-hut detail into a claim about population decline that the passage never makes.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The iron-based option borrows a term from paragraph 4 and the word 'conclusively' from nowhere; the passage both doubts proof and uses the noise results against an iron compass.

Q2 D Inference HARD

Paragraph 3 says the radio-frequency fields were 'far too weak to heat tissue or to move an ordinary magnet', yet the birds 'lost their sense of direction'. The next sentence draws the contrast: 'An iron-based compass would have ignored such noise; a pair of linked electron spins should not.' So the result fits the spin mechanism and tells against a compass that works only through iron, which is the keyed inference. The heating option contradicts the passage directly, since the fields were too weak to heat tissue. The proof option is ruled out by paragraph 4: 'No one has yet watched the radical pair form inside a living bird's eye.' The beak option reverses the direction of the evidence; the beak is mentioned only as a possible second, iron-based sense that 'works alongside the first', and the noise results, if anything, point to the eye-based mechanism rather than away from it.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The proof option tempts because the evidence is called 'most striking'; but striking evidence is not proof, and the final paragraph says the pair has never been observed in a living eye.

Q3 A Function of a detail HARD

The light requirement is the second of 'those two oddities' that, in the first sentence of paragraph 2, 'led physicists to a proposal'. The proposal begins: 'When light strikes a protein called cryptochrome in the bird's retina…'. So the detail is set up as a clue that the compass is a light-driven chemical process, which is the keyed function. The daytime option contradicts paragraph 1, which says robins 'set off at night'; some light is needed, not daylight flight. The blue-light option turns a condition of the compass into a rival guide; the passage keeps magnetism as the signal and light as what makes the chemistry possible. The north-south option attaches the detail to the wrong oddity: the inability to read polarity is a separate feature, explained by the compass reading only 'the angle at which the field lines dip', not by its need for light.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The north-south option tempts because both oddities sit in the same sentence; but they are two separate features, and only the light requirement points towards cryptochrome.

Q4 C Vocabulary in context MED

The final paragraph begins 'None of this amounts to proof' and lists what is missing: the pair has not been seen in a living eye, and the measured effect is weaker than the bird seems to need. It then says the robin offers 'not a settled answer but a reasonable wager'. The contrast with 'a settled answer' and the qualifier 'reasonable' show that the word means a justified bet on a hypothesis still awaiting confirmation, which is the keyed sense. The money option gives the dictionary meaning but ignores context; nothing in the passage is staked for gain. The firm-conclusion option is the opposite of the intended sense, since a wager is set against 'a settled answer'. The contest option picks up the hint of a rival iron-based sense but misreads the word, which describes the state of the evidence, not a dispute between groups of scientists.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The money option is the literal meaning and catches readers who answer from the dictionary; the phrase 'not a settled answer but a reasonable wager' fixes the figurative sense.

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Q5 A Weaken the hypothesis (Stretch) ELITE

The explanation depends on one link: light acting on cryptochrome in the retina creates the spin pair whose chemistry carries the field's direction (paragraph 2). If robins with that protein disabled still orient normally under the very light the mechanism needs, the proposed instrument is not doing the work, so the keyed option strikes the hypothesis at its core. The purified-protein option is a real difficulty, but the author already concedes it in paragraph 4; it shows a gap in measurement, not that the mechanism is absent. The iron-rich-cells option is consistent with the passage, which allows 'a second, iron-based sense' working 'alongside the first'; a second sense does not remove the first. The frequency option is also compatible: a spin pair could be sensitive to some frequencies and not others, so selective disruption does not count against it and may even sharpen the test.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The purified-protein option is the trap: it is a genuine weakness, but one the author has already priced in; a knockout result removes the mechanism rather than merely questioning its strength.

Q6 C Primary purpose MED

Paragraph 1 defines the planning fallacy, paragraph 2 explains its cause in the narrow 'inside view', paragraph 3 offers the 'outside view' of how projects of this kind have gone, paragraph 4 shows that observers use it naturally, and paragraph 5 recommends keeping both views. That is an account of why we misjudge our own projects and how reference to past cases corrects it, which is the keyed option. The optimism option is explicitly rejected: 'It is tempting to treat the fallacy as simple optimism... The research suggests something more specific.' The useless-plans option contradicts the last paragraph, which says 'None of this means that planning should be abandoned' and that a plan 'tells us what to do on Monday morning'. The thesis-study option names a single supporting example from paragraph 1 and mistakes it for the subject of the whole passage.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The useless-plans option attracts readers who stop at paragraph 3; the final paragraph keeps the detailed plan for organising work and objects only to using it for setting dates.

Q7 A Detail / cause HARD

Paragraph 2 locates the weakness precisely: 'Its weakness is not that it is bright rather than gloomy but that it is narrow. The story includes the steps we can foresee and omits the illness, the lost file and the extra round of revisions, each unlikely on its own but, taken together, almost certain to supply at least one delay.' The keyed option restates this point about many small improbable setbacks adding up to a near certainty. The temperament option is the explanation the author introduces only to set aside ('It is tempting to treat the fallacy as simple optimism'). The records option describes the outside view of paragraph 3, the remedy, not the inside view. The observers option also belongs to the remedy: paragraph 4 says observers, lacking 'a detailed story', reach for past cases, which is the opposite of the inside view.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The temperament option tempts because it matches the everyday idea of the fallacy; the author raises it only to replace it with the narrower point about omitted contingencies.

Q8 D Inference HARD

Paragraph 4 says observers are 'more pessimistic, and usually more accurate, than the friend', and explains why: 'The difference is not superior wisdom but distance: the observer has no detailed story to fall in love with and so reaches for the record of past cases.' The keyed option paraphrases this: without a vivid scenario, observers default to the outside view. The experience option introduces a cause the passage does not give and conflicts with 'not superior wisdom'. The pessimism option confuses an effect with a cause; observers' forecasts are more pessimistic, but the passage attributes this to distance, not to temperament, and paragraph 2 has already rejected temperament as the explanation. The detailed-account option is the reverse of the passage: a detailed step-by-step story is exactly the inside view that produces the error.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The pessimism option tempts because the passage calls observers 'more pessimistic'; but that word describes their forecasts, and the stated reason is distance from the story.

Q9 B Author's attitude HARD

The last paragraph states the author's view: 'None of this means that planning should be abandoned. A detailed plan tells us what to do on Monday morning; it is simply a poor instrument for telling us when we will be done.' The sensible planner uses 'the story to organise the work and the statistics to set the deadline'. That is approval with a clear limit, which is the keyed option. The dismissive option ignores this defence of planning and treats the critique of the inside view as a rejection of plans altogether. The enthusiasm option reverses the argument: the detailed plan is the source of the fallacy, not its cure, and the cure is the outside view. The neutrality option fails because the author does take a position; calling a plan useful for Monday morning and 'a poor instrument' for dates is an evaluation in both directions.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The dismissive option catches readers who carry the criticism of the inside view over to all planning; the final paragraph explicitly keeps the plan for organising work.

Q10 D Application of the author's principle (Stretch) ELITE

The author's rule is in the last sentence: use 'the story to organise the work and the statistics to set the deadline'. Paragraph 3 even names metro lines as a reference class: 'what share of... metro lines finished on schedule, and by how much the rest overran'. The keyed option does both things, organising by stage and dating from comparable lines. The stage-sum option is the pure inside view the passage blames for the fallacy. The consultant option is the subtle trap: the consultant is an outsider, but the method is still 'a detailed account of how this particular line' will go, which is an inside view; the passage says observers do better because they reach for 'the

record of past cases', not merely because they are different people. The worst-case option fails on the evidence of paragraph 1, where most students 'overran even the date they described as their worst case'.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The consultant option tempts readers who equate the outside view with an outside person; what matters in the passage is using records of past cases, not who tells the story.

CRITICAL REASONING

Q11 A Main conclusion MED

The first paragraph announces the position: the ban 'is the wrong policy' and 'should be retired in favour of an instrument that does not make farmers pay'. Paragraph 4 names that instrument, the buffer stock, and paragraph 5 says its past failures can be fixed. Everything else serves this claim: the Lasalgaon figures show who bears the cost, and the lost contracts show lasting damage. So the conclusion is that bans should give way to a properly run buffer, the keyed option. The retail-price option contradicts the passage, which grants that 'retail prices in the cities ease' within weeks. The traders option is a premise from paragraph 2 used to show that the ban's benefit does not reach consumers. The buffer-failure option is the author's diagnosis in paragraph 5, offered to answer an objection to the buffer, not the point of the argument.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The traders option is the most quotable line in the passage, but it is evidence for the cost of bans, not the policy recommendation that the argument exists to make.

Q12 C Assumption HARD

The author's case for the buffer is that it 'can lower urban prices without shutting the border', and that its past failures were 'problems of scale and storage, not of principle'. For the buffer to replace the ban, a properly sized and properly stored stock must actually be able to move retail prices when they spike; if even a fixed buffer were too small relative to the market, the government would still face the ban. That unstated link is the keyed assumption. The seldom-rise option is not needed; the argument is about what to do when prices do rise. The importers option contradicts the author, who says lost contracts 'do not return when the ban is lifted'. The farmers' preference option is not required: the buffer buys 'when prices are low', and the argument does not depend on farmers preferring the state as a buyer over exporters.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The importers option sounds like part of the author's case, but the author asserts the opposite; an assumption must be something the argument needs, not something it denies.

Q13 B Weaken HARD

Paragraph 3 claims 'The damage outlasts the season': after each ban, buyers sign longer contracts with Pakistan, Egypt and China, 'contracts that do not return when the ban is lifted', so 'a market built over decades is surrendered'. The evidence is exporters' reports. If export volumes regained their pre-ban level within a year every time, the market was not in fact surrendered, and the lasting-damage claim fails; that is the keyed weakener. The several-countries option is consistent with the author, since buyers who already spread their purchases can easily shift share away from an unreliable supplier. The other-vegetables option is irrelevant to whether onion buyers return. The Mumbai-price option concerns the domestic retail effect of the ban, which bears on whether the ban works for consumers, not on whether foreign buyers come back after it is lifted.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The Mumbai-price option is attractive because it seems to embarrass the ban, but it addresses domestic prices; the claim under attack is about foreign buyers and long-run exports.

Q14 D Strengthen HARD

The claim in paragraph 2 is that the gap between a wholesale fall of 'more than a third' and a retail fall of 'barely a tenth' went to traders, 'who bought cheaply from growers after the ban and sold at retail prices that had barely moved'. The mechanism needs traders to have bought heavily at the depressed post-ban wholesale price while holding their own selling prices near the old level. Evidence that their Lasalgaon purchases rose sharply after the ban while their selling prices held shows exactly that widening margin in traders' hands, which is the keyed option. The tripled-price option describes why the ban was imposed, not who gained from it. The planting option concerns farmers' later response and says nothing about the margin. The other-markets option shows that the wholesale fall was widespread, which confirms the size of the gap but not who captured it.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The other-markets option tempts because it makes the wholesale fall look robust; but a wider gap is not evidence about who pocketed it, which is what the claim asserts.

Q15 B Flaw: inconsistent standard (Stretch) ELITE

The author condemns the ban because a price spike is 'the one moment in the cycle' when the grower can earn enough, and a ban removes buyers 'at exactly that moment', depressing wholesale prices. But a buffer works by releasing onions into the market 'when they climb', which also adds supply at the spike and pulls down the prices farmers receive then. The author claims the buffer 'pays farmers rather than penalising them' without noticing that it too erodes the spike income on which the case against the ban rests. That inconsistency is the keyed criticism. The single-market option may be a weakness of the Lasalgaon evidence, but the stem asks about the case for the buffer. The size-and-storage option misreads paragraph 5, which lists the two problems separately. The poor-consumers option contradicts the text, which calls the concern 'a fair point'.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The single-market option is the trap: it is a fair point about the evidence against bans, but it does not touch the buffer argument, whose flaw is that it repeats the harm it condemns.

Q16 D Main conclusion MED

The first paragraph accepts the agency's aim but says 'the route the agency has chosen to that aim will do harm, and it should be changed'. Paragraphs 2 and 3 give the harms of paying 'gold' fees, paragraph 4 proposes the 'green' alternative of a rule 'requiring every grantee to deposit the accepted manuscript', and paragraph 5 answers objections. The conclusion is therefore that deposit should replace fee payment, the keyed option. The taxpayers option is the shared aim, which the author calls 'admirable' and does not dispute; it is a starting point, not the conclusion. The fees option is a premise from paragraph 2. The standards option overstates paragraph 3, which says only that growth has been fastest where standards are 'hardest to verify'; 'inevitably' is the option's addition, and in any case the point supports the conclusion rather than being it.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The taxpayers option is tempting because it is stated first and with approval; but the author shares that aim with the agency and argues only about the route.

Q17 B Assumption HARD

Paragraph 2 reasons that, because the budget is fixed, 'every rupee paid to publishers is a rupee not spent on laboratories, fellowships or field work'. That follows only if the money actually comes out of the grant budget. If universities or other bodies already paid, or would pay, these fees, the agency's reimbursement would not displace research spending in the way claimed. The keyed option states this necessary link; negate it and the cost estimate of 'a tenth' collapses. The grantees option is not required, since the argument concerns the rule the agency itself proposes. The rising-fees option would make the problem worse but is not needed; the harm follows even at today's prices. The peer-review option compares spending on review, which is not part of the budget argument; paragraph 3 makes a separate point about incentives, not costs of review.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The rising-fees option feels supportive, but the argument works at current fee levels; an assumption is what the reasoning needs, not what would make it stronger.

Q18 C Weaken HARD

The green route's promise is that deposit 'would make the research free to read at once', and the author dismisses the deposit restriction as affecting only 'a few publishers', who can be avoided. If most journals in the agency's main fields impose a twelve-month embargo, the route fails to deliver day-one access, which is the agency's stated aim, and avoiding those journals would mean avoiding most of the field. That is the keyed weakener. The repository-staff option is consistent with the author, who says the route 'costs the agency almost nothing beyond running the repository'; a small staff is part of running it. The layout option strengthens the argument by supporting the reply that readers can use the accepted manuscript. The internet option affects both gold and green routes equally, so it does not favour one route over the other.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The repository-staff option tempts because it adds a cost; but the author already allows for running costs, while an embargo in most journals defeats the route's central promise.

Q19 A Strengthen HARD

Paragraph 3 claims that under author fees a journal 'earns by publishing more', and that growth has been fastest where 'standards of review are hardest to verify'. The worry is that volume, not quality, becomes the goal. If fee-funded journals accepted a larger share of submissions as they grew, that is direct evidence that they expanded by lowering the bar, which supports the incentive claim; this is the keyed option. The total-articles option shows that fee titles are large but not why; growth could come from more submissions with steady standards, so it does not show a change in incentive. The subscription-price option bears on the cost of the old model, if anything a reason some favour gold access, and says nothing about fee incentives. The university-founded option concerns who owns the journals, which is irrelevant to whether fees reward volume.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The total-articles option tempts because it restates growth; but growth alone was already granted, and only the acceptance-rate rise shows that volume came at the expense of selectivity.

Q20 C Flaw: overlooked cost (Stretch) ELITE

The author answers the deposit objection by saying the agency 'is well placed to tell grantees not to publish in journals that refuse'. This treats the choice of journal as costless. But researchers' careers, hiring and promotion often depend on publishing in particular leading journals, and if those are the ones that refuse, the remedy imposes a real cost on grantees and may push their work into weaker outlets. The reply overlooks this, which is the keyed criticism. The concession option misreads the passage: the author grants that the objections are 'true' but argues they are not 'decisive', which is a coherent move, not a self-defeating one. The readers'-preference option is wrong because the author never dismissed readers' preferences earlier; it answers them only in the final paragraph. The legal-power option reverses the reply, which assumes the agency does have that power.

> **Examiner's note — the trap:** The concession option tempts because the author calls both objections 'true'; but conceding a fact while denying its weight is legitimate, and the real gap is the unweighed cost to researchers.

RAPID FIRE — ANSWERS

1. Where do the European robins in the passage spend the summer? — **Scandinavia**

2. Towards which region do the robins migrate in autumn? — **The Mediterranean**

3. At what time of day do the robins set off on migration? — **At night**

4. Since which decade have experiments linked robin navigation to magnetism? — **The 1960s**

5. Can the robin's compass tell magnetic north from south? — **No**

6. What does the robin's compass actually register? — **The angle at which field lines dip towards the ground**

7. Which end of the spectrum does the robin's compass need? — **The blue end**

8. Which retinal protein is central to the proposed compass? — **Cryptochrome**

9. Light on cryptochrome may create a pair of molecules carrying what? — **A single unpaired electron each**

10. What can the weak magnetic field 'nudge' in the radical pair? — **The rate at which it flips between two states**

11. How might the bird perceive the chemical signal? — **As a pattern laid over its vision**

12. What 'modest source' gave the most striking evidence? — **Electrical (radio-frequency) noise**

13. Were the radio fields strong enough to heat tissue? — **No, far too weak**

14. Which kind of compass would have ignored the radio noise? — **An iron-based compass**

15. Where were robins kept when city hum disoriented them? — **Wooden huts on a university campus**

16. What restored the hut robins' sense of direction? — **Screening the huts from electrical hum**

17. Has anyone watched the radical pair form in a living bird? — **No**

18. Is the effect in purified protein stronger or weaker than needed? — **Weaker**

19. Where might a second, iron-based sense be located? — **In the beak or the inner ear**

20. 'Wager' in the robin passage most nearly means? — **A reasonable bet on an unconfirmed hypothesis**

21. The robin passage calls the radical-pair process too delicate for what? — **Warm, wet tissue**

22. 'Fanciful' (as the proposal once sounded) means? — **Imaginative but unlikely**

23. What does 'disoriented' mean? — **Having lost one's sense of direction**

24. What is the robin passage's final verdict on the cryptochrome idea? — **Not proof, but a reasonable wager**

25. Name the robin passage's two 'oddities' of the compass. — **No polarity sense; needs light**

26. What name do psychologists give to underestimating one's own projects? — **The planning fallacy**

27. The planning fallacy underestimates which three things? — **Time, cost and risk**

28. In the thesis study, what share finished by their predicted date? — **Fewer than a third**

29. Did most students beat their own worst-case date? — **No, most overran it**

30. Which explanation of the fallacy does the author set aside? — **Simple optimism**

31. Who coined the term 'inside view' in the passage? — **Daniel Kahneman**

32. How does the inside view judge a task's length? — **By how smoothly its imagined story runs**

33. The inside view's weakness is that it is what? — **Narrow**

34. Name one setback the inside view omits. — **Illness, a lost file or extra revisions**

35. What does the outside view ask about? — **How projects of this kind have gone**

36. Name one reference class listed with theses. — **Kitchen renovations or metro lines**

37. Three words the author uses for the outside view's answer? — **Dull, statistical, indifferent**

38. Who are more accurate about a friend's finishing date? — **Observers**

39. Why are observers more accurate, per the passage? — **Distance: no detailed story to love**

40. Does the author say planning should be abandoned? — **No**

41. What does a detailed plan tell us, per the author? — **What to do on Monday morning**

42. What is the plan 'a poor instrument' for? — **Telling us when we will be done**

43. What should the story be used for? — **To organise the work**

44. What should the statistics be used for? — **To set the deadline**

45. 'Indifferent to' (the planner's hopes) means? — **Unaffected by**

46. What does 'overran' mean in the planning passage? — **Went beyond the planned time**

47. Observers' forecasts are more ___ than the planner's own. — **Pessimistic**

48. Is the planning fallacy, per the passage, about temperament? — **No, about narrow scenario thinking**

49. Taken together, small unlikely setbacks are almost ___ to occur. — **Certain**

50. The sensible planner keeps how many views? — **Both (inside and outside)**

51. How many onion export bans in five years, per the passage? — **Three**

52. What does an onion export ban achieve within weeks? — **Retail prices in cities ease**

53. Name two destinations of diverted onion exports. — **Dubai and Dhaka**

54. When can an onion grower cover the lean seasons? — **During a retail price spike**

55. In most years, near what price does the grower sell? — **Near the cost of production**

56. Which is India's largest onion market, per the passage? — **Lasalgaon**

57. By how much did Lasalgaon prices fall after the 2023 ban? — **More than a third in a fortnight**

58. By how much did Mumbai retail prices fall? — **Barely a tenth**

59. Who captured the gap between wholesale and retail falls? — **Traders**

60. Which regions' importers need reliable onion suppliers? — **West Asia and South-East Asia**

61. Name the three rival suppliers buyers turned to. — **Pakistan, Egypt and China**

62. Do lost export contracts return after a ban is lifted? — **No, per the author**

63. What does the author say is surrendered for a few weeks? — **A market built over decades**

64. What do the ban's defenders call onions? — **A staple of the poor**

65. Does the author accept the defenders' concern? — **Yes, as a fair point**

66. Which instrument does the author propose instead of bans? — **A buffer stock**

67. When does the buffer buy from farmers? — **When prices are low**

68. When does the buffer release onions? — **When retail prices climb**

69. Why did the buffer fail in the past? — **Too small and badly stored**

70. The buffer's failures were problems of what, not principle? — **Scale and storage**

71. 'The kitchen and the field' stand for whom? — **Consumers and farmers**

72. Flaw in the buffer case: releasing stock at a spike does what? — **Lowers farmers' spike prices too**

73. 'Retired' (a policy) most nearly means? — **Withdrawn from use**

74. What does 'penalising' farmers mean here? — **Making them bear a loss**

75. Is the onion passage an argument or a neutral report? — **An argument against export bans**

76. What must research from the agency's grants be on publication? — **Free to read on day one**

77. Whose library cannot afford a thousand subscriptions? — **A student's small college**

78. What is the author-fee model of open access called? — **Gold open access**

79. Roughly how much do leading journals' fees run to? — **Several lakh rupees per article**

80. From which budget will the agency reimburse fees? — **Its fixed grant budget**

81. Name one thing the money is diverted from. — **Laboratories, fellowships or field work**

82. Advisers' estimate of the annual fee cost? — **About a tenth of new-project money**

83. Under subscriptions, how does a journal earn? — **By being worth reading**

84. Under author fees, how does a journal earn? — **By publishing more**

85. Where has fee-title growth been fastest? — **Where review standards are hardest to verify**

86. What is the repository-deposit route called? — **Green open access**

87. Which version of a paper goes into the repository? — **The accepted, peer-reviewed manuscript**

88. Is the deposited version typeset by the publisher? — **No, it is pre-typesetting**

89. What does the green route cost beyond the repository? — **Almost nothing**

90. What does the author want every grantee to deposit? — **The accepted manuscript**

91. Name one objection to the green route. — **Readers prefer the polished version**