

PRACTICE TEST — CLASS 02

Identifying Arguments: Premises - Additional & Counter-Premises - Complex Structures - "Some People Claim..."

OBJECTIVES: Tag every statement in the passage as a Premise (P), Additional Premise (AP), Counter-Premise (CP), Sub-Conclusion (SC), or Main Conclusion (MC). Apply the Conclusion Identification Method when indicators are absent. Distinguish the author's real view from views attributed to "some people".

INSTRUCTIONS: 20 questions across 4 passages. **Section A** (Passages 1-2, Qs 1-10) in class — 20 min. **Section B** (Passages 3-4, Qs 11-20) as homework — 30 min. Circle ONE option per question. Mark skipped questions with "*" and return. Tag each sentence in the margin.

MARKING: +1 for correct, 0 for unattempted, -0.25 for incorrect. Target attempt: 17/20. Benchmark score: $\geq 15/20$ for CLAT 2027 readiness.

SECTION A | IN-CLASS | Qs 1 – 10 | 20 min

PASSAGE 1 (Questions 1 – 5)

The Delhi government should make the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) permanent rather than a seasonal winter measure. The city's PM2.5 load stayed above the national safe limit for 312 days in 2025, meaning the "non-winter" months are no longer clean. **Furthermore**, a permanent GRAP removes the regulatory uncertainty that industry routinely cites as a reason to delay emissions upgrades; industry complies only when rules are permanent. **Moreover**, fresh IIT-Delhi modelling suggests that year-round Stage-I restrictions alone would cut annual mortality from air pollution by 8%. **Admittedly**, critics argue that a permanent GRAP would throttle construction activity and push blue-collar workers into joblessness; real estate lobbies have claimed a 15% output loss under year-round rules. **However**, Bengaluru's phased construction-dust norms have shown that compliance investments are quickly absorbed into builder margins without sustained employment effects. **Besides**, the public-health cost of inaction already exceeds ₹25,000 crore annually, dwarfing the theoretical output loss. The case for seasonal action has therefore run out of both evidence and time.

Q1. Which of the following is the **main conclusion** of the passage?

- (A) Delhi's PM2.5 load stayed above the safe limit for 312 days in 2025. (B) Public-health costs of inaction exceed ₹25,000 crore annually.
(C) Industry complies with pollution rules only when they are permanent. (D) The Delhi government should make GRAP a permanent measure, not seasonal.

Q2. The sentence beginning with "*Furthermore, a permanent GRAP removes the regulatory uncertainty...*" functions as a(n):

- (A) Counter-premise the author dismisses later. (B) Sub-conclusion drawn from the PM2.5 data.
(C) Additional premise reinforcing the main conclusion. (D) Restatement of the main conclusion.

Q3. Which indicator word in the passage most clearly signals a **counter-premise**?

- (A) Furthermore (B) Moreover
(C) Besides (D) Admittedly

Q4. Which of the following, if true, would **most weaken** the author's argument?

- (A) Mumbai's year-round pollution rules also reduced mortality by 7%. (B) Industry in Delhi upgrades emissions equipment even under seasonal rules, citing brand reputation.
(C) IIT-Delhi's modelling did not control for meteorological anomalies in 2025. (D) Construction output in Delhi has been falling since 2023 for unrelated reasons.

Q5. The author's argument in this passage is best described as:

- (A) A simple argument with one premise and one conclusion. (B) A complex argument containing a sub-conclusion about GRAP permanence.
(C) A simple argument with multiple additional premises and two counter-premises raised to be dismissed. (D) A fact set with no real conclusion.

PASSAGE 2 (Questions 6 – 10)

The Supreme Court Collegium system is overdue for constitutional reform. In the decade since the NJAC was struck down, three retired Chief Justices have publicly admitted that the current process lacks transparency; a

2024 Vidhi Centre survey found that 71% of High Court judges could not explain why specific colleagues were elevated or passed over. These disclosures establish that the Collegium suffers from a serious legitimacy deficit. A legitimacy deficit in the appointment of the highest judges threatens public faith in the judiciary itself, because citizens who believe judges are chosen by opaque networks cannot reasonably believe those judges will constrain executive power. For that reason, any institution immune to reform on grounds of judicial independence ceases to be a guardian of that very independence — it becomes a closed shop. The argument for continued inaction is therefore exhausted.

Q6. The **main conclusion** of the passage is:

- (A) The Collegium is a closed shop. (B) The NJAC should be revived.
(C) A legitimacy deficit threatens public faith in the judiciary. (D) The Collegium system is overdue for constitutional reform.

Q7. The statement "*the Collegium suffers from a serious legitimacy deficit*" is best described as a(n):

- (A) Premise for the main conclusion, stated as a fact. (B) Main conclusion of the passage.
(C) Sub-conclusion — a conclusion supported by earlier premises, and itself a premise for the main conclusion. (D) Counter-premise the author dismisses.

Q8. Which of the following best captures the structure of the argument?

- (A) Simple: one premise supports one conclusion. (B) Complex: two main conclusions of equal weight.
(C) Complex: premises → sub-conclusion (legitimacy deficit) → main conclusion (reform is overdue). (D) A two-speaker stimulus with competing views.

Q9. Which of the following, if true, would **most strengthen** the main conclusion?

- (A) Every major democracy uses a mixed appointment commission without loss of judicial independence. (B) Public-faith surveys show judicial approval remains above 60%.
(C) The Vidhi Centre survey was conducted only in metropolitan courts. (D) Three retired Chief Justices also endorsed the status quo.

Q10. The argument in the passage assumes which of the following?

- (A) That constitutional reform can reliably remove the legitimacy deficit it identifies. (B) That NJAC was a perfect alternative to the Collegium.
(C) That judges currently appointed are in fact unqualified. (D) That public faith in the judiciary is at an all-time low.

SECTION B | HOMEWORK | Qs 11 – 20 | 30 min

PASSAGE 3 (Questions 11 – 15)

Many commentators insist that UPI's explosive growth has closed India's digital-payment divide and made further financial-inclusion schemes redundant. On this view, when a vegetable vendor in Madhubani accepts a QR-code payment from a customer, the last mile has been solved. **But** this comforting narrative misreads the data. NPCI's 2025 disclosures show that 82% of UPI transaction value continues to originate from the top 50 urban districts; the same disclosures show that 44% of registered UPI handles in tier-3 towns have not completed a single transaction in the previous six months. The problem is not access to the rails but confidence in using them — and that confidence tracks with financial literacy, not smartphone penetration. Consequently, the Reserve Bank of India's proposed Digital Literacy Mission is a necessary next step, not a redundant one; abandoning further inclusion programmes now would entrench, not reduce, the real digital divide. The "UPI-has-solved-it" view is a victory lap taken before the race is over.

Q11. The view that "*UPI's explosive growth has closed India's digital-payment divide*" is in the passage:

- (A) The author's own main conclusion. (B) A view attributed to "many commentators" that the author rejects.
(C) A premise the author uses to support the RBI's Digital Literacy Mission. (D) A sub-conclusion the author partially endorses.

Q12. The author's actual main conclusion is closest to:

- (A) The RBI's Digital Literacy Mission is a necessary next step; abandoning inclusion programmes would entrench the digital divide. (B) Smartphone penetration has outpaced financial literacy.
(C) UPI transaction value is concentrated in urban districts. (D) The "UPI-has-solved-it" view is popular.

Q13. The rhetorical device used to open the passage is best described as:

- (A) A two-speaker stimulus. (B) A conclusion followed by premises in reverse order.
(C) A simple cause-and-effect chain. (D) The "Some People Claim..." device — stating an opposing view to then disagree with it.

Q14. Which of the following, if true, would **most strengthen** the author's position?

- (A) Tier-3 UPI handles with higher literacy scores show transaction rates comparable to urban handles. (B) Urban UPI volumes have plateaued in 2025.
(C) The RBI has never previously run a literacy programme. (D) QR-code acceptance in Madhubani is at an all-time high.

Q15. Which of the following, if true, would **most weaken** the author's main conclusion?

- (A) NPCI's 2025 disclosures were based on a sample of only 10 districts. (B) Rigorous trials show that literacy programmes of the RBI's proposed type have no measurable effect on first-use confidence.
(C) A Reserve Bank dashboard tracks active UPI users at 450 million. (D) Most UPI users report being "comfortable" with the interface.

PASSAGE 4 (Questions 16 – 20)

India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 has a single, quiet failure the public conversation has not yet registered. The Act empowers a Data Protection Board, but the Board's members are appointed entirely by the Union government. A regulator drawn wholly from the political executive cannot credibly hold that same executive to account when the state itself is the largest processor of citizen data. Every mature data-protection regime — from the GDPR in Europe to Japan's APPI — insulates its regulator through parliamentary or judicial appointment layers. The Act was sold to Parliament as India's answer to Puttaswamy; it delivers instead a regulator on a leash. Amendments restoring appointment neutrality must follow in the next session, or the statute will ossify into a privacy promise the state cannot be forced to keep.

Note: this passage contains no explicit indicator words. Apply the Conclusion Identification Method.

Q16. The **main conclusion** of the passage is closest to:

- (A) The DPDP Act is India's answer to Puttaswamy. (B) Amendments restoring appointment neutrality to the Data Protection Board must follow in the next session.
(C) The Union government is the largest processor of citizen data. (D) Every mature data-protection regime insulates its regulator.

Q17. Using the Conclusion Identification Method, which sentence is best understood as a **premise**, not a conclusion?

- (A) "Amendments restoring appointment neutrality must follow in the next session."
(B) "A regulator drawn wholly from the political executive cannot credibly hold that same executive to account..."
(C) "Every mature data-protection regime — from the GDPR to Japan's APPI — insulates its regulator."
(D) "...or the statute will ossify into a privacy promise the state cannot be forced to keep."

Q18. Which of the following best describes why the passage contains **no indicator words** such as "therefore" or "because"?

- (A) It is a fact set, not an argument. (B) It is a two-speaker stimulus, so each speaker's logic is implicit.
(C) The author has made a drafting error that undermines the passage. (D) Editorial-style arguments often rely on the logical flow between sentences instead of explicit indicators.

Q19. Which of the following, if true, would **most weaken** the argument?

- (A) Japan's APPI regulator is, in practice, appointed through a process closer to executive discretion than formal law suggests. (B) The GDPR has faced criticism for heavy-handed enforcement.
(C) The DPDP Act has received praise from the industry for clarity. (D) Puttaswamy recognised privacy as a fundamental right.

Q20. Which of the following **most accurately summarises the structure** of the passage?

- (A) A simple fact set of four statements with no conclusion. (B) A complex argument: comparative-regime premise + appointment-structure premise → sub-conclusion about the Act → main conclusion demanding amendments.
(C) A "Some People Claim..." device ending in a neutral assessment. (D) A main conclusion stated first, followed only by additional premises.

YOUR ANSWER GRID — circle ONE option per question.

Q	A	B	C	D	Q	A	B	C	D
1	■	■	■	■	11	■	■	■	■
2	■	■	■	■	12	■	■	■	■
3	■	■	■	■	13	■	■	■	■
4	■	■	■	■	14	■	■	■	■
5	■	■	■	■	15	■	■	■	■
6	■	■	■	■	16	■	■	■	■
7	■	■	■	■	17	■	■	■	■
8	■	■	■	■	18	■	■	■	■
9	■	■	■	■	19	■	■	■	■
10	■	■	■	■	20	■	■	■	■

Submit Section A answers before the 20-minute bell. Section B is due at the next class. **Answer key and detailed explanations** will be shared after discussion. | *End of Practice Test*