



CLAT GURUKUL | Critical Reasoning | Class 03

Answer Key & Detailed Explanations

Validity, Scope & the Author's Mind — 30 Questions across 4 Passages

QUICK-REFERENCE ANSWER GRID

Fast scan-and-check during in-class discussion. Detailed explanations begin on the next page.

Q#	Ans	Type	Q#	Ans	Type	Q#	Ans	Type
1	C	Main Conclusion	11	D	Counter-Premise role	21	D	Inference
2	B	Counter-Premise role	12	A	Strength grading	22	C	Strengthen
3	D	Indicator: Therefore+since	13	B	Assumption	23	A	Weaken
4	D	Strength grading	14	C	Inference	24	D	Main Conclusion
5	C	Assumption	15	C	Weaken	25	B	Strength of comparison
6	A	Inference	16	B	Main Conclusion	26	D	Q/P shift trap
7	B	Strengthen	17	B	Probability indicator	27	A	Inference
8	A	Weaken	18	A	Probability shift	28	A	Assumption
9	C	Main Conclusion	19	B	Quantity indicator	29	C	Weaken
10	D	Premise role	20	A	Assumption	30	B	Argument structure

ANSWER DISTRIBUTION

(A) = 8 correct | (B) = 8 correct | (C) = 7 correct | (D) = 7 correct — evenly balanced.

SCORING BAND

≥ 26/30 — Excellent (CLAT-99+ trajectory) | 22-25 — On track | 18-21 — Revise concepts | < 18 — Book a doubt session.

PASSAGE 1 — Election Commission's SIR (Qs 1-8)**Q1****Correct Answer: (C)**

Sentence 1 declares the position the rest of the passage defends — the ECI should pause the SIR and release a fuller methodology. Everything else (the 4.6 lakh figure, the CECs, the Lokniti survey, the rebuttal of Form-7) supports this opening claim. Options (A), (B), (D) are premises.

TAKEAWAY *Main conclusion = the position the passage is built to defend, often stated up front in CLAT editorials.*

Q2**Correct Answer: (B)**

The Form-7 challenge argument is presented as "the Commission insists" — a view raised so the author can dismiss it. The Lokniti survey datum and the closing logic ("Therefore, since...") both rebut it. (A) wrong — it's the Commission's view, not the author's. (C) wrong — it isn't reinforcing. (D) wrong — sub-conclusions support the main thread; this OPPOSES it.

TAKEAWAY *Counter-premise: raised to be dismissed. Watch for "the Commission insists / critics argue / supporters claim" patterns.*

Q3**Correct Answer: (D)**

"Therefore" is the conclusion indicator. "Since" then opens a premise clause inside the same sentence. The structure is: "Therefore [conclusion], since [premise that supports the conclusion]." This is the classic "Conclusion/Premise Indicator Form" — one signal of conclusion, one signal of supporting premise, in the same sentence.

TAKEAWAY *When you see "Therefore, since..." — the sentence carries BOTH a conclusion and a premise.*

Q4**Correct Answer: (D)**

The argument's logical structure is: a process needs voter knowledge to be transparent; voters lack that knowledge; therefore the safeguards argument fails on its own terms. The premise tightly produces the conclusion. (A) is wrong — the conclusion DOES follow. (B) and (C) describe the data; they don't grade the logical strength.

TAKEAWAY *Strength grading is about the LINK between premises and conclusion. Tight link = strong, regardless of whether you agree with the conclusion.*

Q5**Correct Answer: (C)**

The argument moves from "voters can't name an objection officer" (premise) to "the safeguards fail on their own terms" (conclusion). This requires the unstated bridge that voter knowledge of officials is necessary for transparency. Negate it — if transparency does NOT require voter knowledge — and the argument collapses. (A), (B), (D) are not required.

TAKEAWAY *Assumption Negation Test: negate the candidate; if the argument breaks, that's the assumption.*

Q6**Correct Answer: (A)**

The passage says "many of them genuine voters" — so AT LEAST SOME of the struck-off voters were genuine. (B) overshoots ("every"); the passage said "many", not "all". (C) overshoots — "three retired CECs", not "all". (D) overshoots — "71% of rural respondents", not "all Indian voters".

TAKEAWAY *Inferences must respect the quantity word the passage actually used. "Many" → "at least some", not "all".*

Q7**Correct Answer: (B)**

The author argues the safeguards fail. (B) shows that even when voters did invoke Form-7, fewer than 12% succeeded — directly evidencing safeguard failure. (A) is generic. (C) is irrelevant to safeguard quality. (D) attacks the rural-knowledge claim and so weakens, not strengthens.

TAKEAWAY *Strengtheners reinforce the load-bearing premise — here, the claim that safeguards are inaccessible.*

Q8**Correct Answer: (A)**

The author's call is to PAUSE until methodology is released. If the ECI has just released a 60-page methodology with state-wise logs, the demand for "fuller methodology before resuming" is largely already met — the conclusion becomes much weaker. (B), (C), (D) are peripheral.

TAKEAWAY *Weaken by attacking the conclusion's MOTIVATION. If the demand is already satisfied, the conclusion fails.*

PASSAGE 2 — Heatwave & Solar (Qs 9-15)**Q9****Correct Answer: (C)**

The passage builds up to "Consequently, the RTC tender is the only realistic short-term policy...". (A), (B) are premises. (D) overshoots — the author says rooftop should be DEPRIORITISED IN ORDER, not entirely.

TAKEAWAY Look for the prescriptive statement after "Consequently / Therefore / Hence" — that's usually the main conclusion.

Q10**Correct Answer: (D)**

The sentence reports a fact (concentration of capacity in 3 states) used to set up the demand-supply mismatch. It is a premise. (B) wrong — author endorses it. (C) wrong — main conclusion is the RTC recommendation. (A) wrong — it's stated, not assumed.

TAKEAWAY Premises are factual statements that the author uses to build the case.

Q11**Correct Answer: (D)**

"Critics argue rooftop systems must be incentivised first" is exactly the "Some People Claim..." device — opposing view raised, then rebutted with "but rooftop addition has, since 2022, never exceeded 4 GW per year". (A) wrong — it's the critics' view. (C) wrong — author actively rebuts. (B) wrong — it OPPOSES, not supports.

TAKEAWAY Critics' arguments raised in the body of an editorial are almost always counter-premises being set up for rebuttal.

Q12**Correct Answer: (A)**

The author's case rests on (i) RTC needed because of evening peak; (ii) rooftop too slow. The historical 4 GW cap on rooftop is real data that tightens the link. Strong argument. (B) and (C) miss the structure; (D) is wrong — there IS evidence.

TAKEAWAY When premise data directly caps the alternative the author is dismissing, the argument is strong.

Q13**Correct Answer: (B)**

The conclusion ("RTC tender is the only realistic SHORT-TERM policy") implicitly assumes RTC procurement can happen FAST. If storage-paired solar takes 5+ years to procure, the conclusion fails. Negate (B) — argument breaks. (A), (C), (D) are not required.

TAKEAWAY A "realistic short-term" policy requires the assumption that the policy can scale within the relevant timeframe.

Q14**Correct Answer: (C)**

The passage states: "rooftop addition has, since 2022, never exceeded 4 GW per year". This is a direct premise we can infer from. (A) wrong — passage doesn't compare Karnataka and Rajasthan irradiance. (B) overshoots. (D) overshoots.

TAKEAWAY Inference must be SUPPORTED by the passage's actual words — not extrapolated.

Q15**Correct Answer: (C)**

The conclusion is that RTC is the only realistic SHORT-TERM policy. If storage-paired tenders found NO qualified bidders in two prior auctions, the practicality of RTC is itself in question. (A) is irrelevant. (B) addresses capacity but not RTC viability. (D) supports the author.

TAKEAWAY Weaken by attacking the FEASIBILITY of the recommended action.

PASSAGE 3 — Coaching Industry Regulation (Qs 16-23)**Q16****Correct Answer: (B)**

The author explicitly states: "the Guidelines are likely to lower entry-age admissions without measurably reducing student stress" and that "a serious regulatory framework would have to cap class size and audit fees as well". (A) wrong — passage doesn't claim unconstitutionality. (C) overshoots. (D) is irrelevant.

TAKEAWAY Main conclusion is what the author wants you to BELIEVE about the policy — not a side observation.

Q17**Correct Answer: (B)**

"Might" is on the LOW end of the probability slider — possibility, not certainty. (A) wrong — quantity vs probability mix-up. (C) wrong — "might" doesn't oppose. (D) wrong — additional premises don't depend on probability words.

TAKEAWAY Probability indicators rank: must / will → should → likely → could / might → not necessarily.

Q18**Correct Answer: (A)**

The passage says "might be a necessary first step". An option that says "WILL ELIMINATE" upgrades "might" → "will" AND adds "ELIMINATE" (an extreme outcome) — a textbook probability-slider shift. (B), (C), (D) are not the failure mode.

TAKEAWAY Watch for silent upgrades: "could" → "will", "may" → "must", "might" → "definitely".

Q19**Correct Answer: (B)**

In standard CLAT usage, "most" = a majority (51-100%). It does NOT mean "all", does NOT mean "few", does NOT mean "none".

TAKEAWAY "Most" can include "all" but does NOT require it. Treat "most" as "a majority, possibly all".

Q20**Correct Answer: (A)**

The conclusion (Guidelines won't reduce stress because they don't address class size and fees) requires the unstated premise that class size matters MORE than entry age. Negate it — if entry age was the dominant driver, the Guidelines WOULD reduce stress.

TAKEAWAY Assumption Negation: negate (A) → "class size is NOT a stronger driver than entry age" → argument fails.

Q21**Correct Answer: (D)**

"NCERT survey found that most students who reported chronic stress were enrolled in centres with class sizes above 200" — this directly identifies class size as a stress driver. (A), (B), (C) overshoot or invent.

TAKEAWAY Inferences are supported by direct passage statements, not by extrapolation.

Q22**Correct Answer: (C)**

The author's case is that class-size reduction matters more than entry-age. (C) provides direct empirical confirmation that class-size reduction reduces reported stress by 28% — exactly what the author needs. (A), (B), (D) are tangential.

TAKEAWAY The best strengthener confirms the author's MECHANISM — the "why" the recommendation will work.

Q23**Correct Answer: (A)**

The author claims the under-16 bar alone won't measurably reduce stress. If a randomised pilot of just the under-16 bar cuts reports by 41%, the conclusion fails directly. (B), (C), (D) are tangential.

TAKEAWAY Weaken by showing the EXACT lever the author dismissed actually works.

PASSAGE 4 — Emergency Contraception OTC (Qs 24–30)**Q24****Correct Answer: (D)**

The passage closes with "Consequently, the Ministry should reclassify the pill to OTC, while concurrently funding pharmacist-training so that the Tamil Nadu pattern of pharmacist-mediated guidance scales nationwide." (A), (B), (C) miss the prescriptive form.

TAKEAWAY Editorial main conclusions are typically prescriptive ("should X") and follow "Consequently / Therefore".

Q25**Correct Answer: (B)**

Comparator-country evidence is genuinely informative but not binding — Indian context can differ. The argument's strength is moderate. (A) overshoots — outcomes don't always transfer. (C) wrong — it has logical relevance. (D) overshoots negatively.

TAKEAWAY Comparator-country premises should be graded as moderate evidence, not as proof.

Q26**Correct Answer: (D)**

"Most" → "all" is a textbook quantity shift. (A) is a within-band reframing (could ↔ might); (B) is a synonym; (C) is a synonym. Only (D) crosses a quantity boundary.

TAKEAWAY Quantity shifts cost the most marks: "most" → "all", "many" → "every", "some" → "all".

Q27**Correct Answer: (A)**

"Most first-time users were women aged 19-24" → AT LEAST SOME first-time users were women aged 19-24. Inference upheld. (B) overshoots. (C) overshoots. (D) is invented.

TAKEAWAY When passage uses "most", inference can fairly say "at least some" — inheritance down the quantity ladder is legal.

Q28**Correct Answer: (A)**

The recommendation pairs OTC reclassification with pharmacist-training. If pharmacist-training cannot scale, the policy package fails — so the argument requires the assumption that it can. Negate it: training cannot scale → argument breaks.

TAKEAWAY When the prescription is a PACKAGE, the assumption usually involves the FEASIBILITY of one component.

Q29**Correct Answer: (C)**

The author argues the misuse worry is unfounded. (C) directly cites comparator-country data showing misuse DID rise — and was concentrated in regions WITHOUT pharmacist-training. This both reverses the comparator evidence AND attacks the training-scales assumption. Strongest weakener. (A), (B), (D) are weaker.

TAKEAWAY Strongest weakeners attack TWO load-bearing premises at once.

Q30**Correct Answer: (B)**

Structure: comparator-country premise + Tamil Nadu pilot premise → counter-premise (misuse worry, dismissed) → main conclusion (reclassify with concurrent training). (A) wrong — there IS a conclusion. (C) wrong — single author voice. (D) wrong — it argues to a conclusion, doesn't assume it.

TAKEAWAY Diagram first, answer second. The diagram exposes the structure.

STRATEGY NOTES FROM ANURAG SIR

Three patterns that recurred across this practice set:

Pattern 1 — Indicator Slider Vigilance

Five questions (Q17, Q18, Q19, Q26) tested whether you can hold the passage's exact quantity / probability word against an option that silently shifted it. CLAT favours these traps because they are invisible to skimmers.

Pattern 2 — Counter-Premise as Bait

Passages 1 and 2 each carried a counter-premise (Form-7 challenges, rooftop critics) that is the AUTHOR'S TARGET, not the author's view. Wrong-answer options often parrot the counter-premise verbatim — read past the pivot before assigning authorship.

Pattern 3 — Strength as a Slider, not a Switch

Q4, Q12, Q25 forced you to grade strength as Strong / Weak / Moderate, not just Valid / Invalid. CLAT increasingly tests degree of support rather than binary validity.

Next Class: The 13 Question Types — Question Stems • Q-Families • Prephrasing.

Before Class 04: complete Section B (Qs 16-30), memorise the indicator lists, re-read your Class 03 notes.