



# CLAT Gurukul

## By Ready For Exa

CAT GURUKUL

VARC (RC-heavy)

CAT-VARC-RC · 2026-05-25 · 40 min · +?/?

1.

RC Passage I (read carefully, then answer Qs 1-4):

The revival of interest in Stoic philosophy among contemporary self-help authors rests on a flattering misreading. In its popular form, Stoicism is presented as a toolkit for emotional management: a set of cognitive exercises by which the practitioner learns to distinguish what is within her control from what is not, and to invest her energies accordingly. Marcus Aurelius is recast as a proto-CBT therapist; Epictetus's distinction between things up to us and things not up to us is treated as an early sketch of stimulus-and-response.

What this rendering omits is the metaphysics that gave the ethics its grip. For the ancient Stoics, the dichotomy of control was not a psychological technique but a derivation from a particular picture of the cosmos — a rationally ordered whole, suffused with divine reason, in which every event was already woven into a providential pattern. To accept what one could not change was, in that picture, to align oneself with the structure of reality itself; the equanimity recommended by the school was not a coping mechanism but a recognition of how things ultimately were.

Stripped of this cosmology, the modern Stoic is left with the exercises but not the ground on which they rested. The distinction between what is and is not within our control survives, but as a piece of practical advice rather than as a window onto cosmic order. This is not, in itself, a fatal objection: techniques can survive the worldviews that produced them. But it does mean that the contemporary practitioner is doing something importantly different from what Marcus or Epictetus took themselves to be doing — and that the equanimity she achieves, if she achieves it, is grounded differently, perhaps more fragilely, than its ancient namesake.

The popular literature rarely flags this difference. It borrows the prestige of antiquity while quietly discarding the framework that made the prescriptions intelligible. The result is a Stoicism that travels lightly, but also one that travels alone.

Q1: The author's primary purpose in the passage is to: [rc-main-idea]

- A. Argue that modern Stoicism is psychologically ineffective
- B. Show that the popular revival of Stoicism retains the techniques while discarding the cosmology that originally grounded them
- C. Reject all uses of ancient philosophy in contemporary self-help
- D. Demonstrate that Epictetus anticipated cognitive behavioural therapy

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ROLL NO: \_\_\_\_\_

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2.

Refer to RC Passage I. The author calls the popular reading of Stoicism a 'flattering misreading' chiefly because it: [rc-inference]

- A. Misattributes specific quotations to the wrong Stoic
- B. Treats a metaphysically grounded ethics as if it were merely a psychological toolkit
- C. Overestimates the historical influence of Stoicism on modern psychology
- D. Praises Marcus Aurelius beyond what his writings warrant

3.

Refer to RC Passage I. The author's attitude towards contemporary Stoic self-help is best described as: [rc-tone]

- A. Hostile — the author thinks the techniques cannot work without the metaphysics
- B. Calmly critical — willing to grant that the techniques may survive, while insisting the practice is doing something importantly different from its ancient namesake
- C. Reverent — the author endorses the popular revival as a faithful continuation
- D. Indifferent — the author takes no stance on whether the modern practice is coherent

4.

Refer to RC Passage I. Which of the following, if true, would most STRENGTHEN the author's claim that the contemporary practitioner is 'doing something importantly different'? [rc-strengthen]

- A. Modern Stoic readers report higher life satisfaction than non-readers
- B. Empirical studies show that the equanimity reported by modern Stoics is less stable under sustained adversity than the equanimity reported in classical Stoic biographies
- C. Marcus Aurelius's Meditations remains a bestseller in many languages
- D. Epictetus's Discourses have been translated into more than forty languages

5.

RC Passage II (read carefully, then answer Qs 5-8):

The urban heat island effect — the well-documented tendency of cities to run several degrees warmer than the rural surroundings they replaced — was for decades treated as a curiosity of micro-climatology. Asphalt absorbs solar radiation; buildings trap re-radiated heat; vegetation, with its cooling transpiration, has been displaced. The arithmetic was straightforward, and policy responses, where they existed at all, were modest: paint roofs white, plant some trees, move on.

The last decade has revised the picture in two ways. First, the heat-island differential, once measured in ones and twos of degrees Celsius on summer afternoons, has in several megacities widened to five or six during multi-day heatwaves — the very events in which excess heat translates most directly into mortality. The effect, in other words, is no longer a background nuisance but a tail-risk amplifier, concentrated precisely when populations are most vulnerable.

Second, the burden has been shown to be sharply uneven within the city. Neighbourhoods with denser vegetation, lower building coverage, and lighter surfaces run cooler; those without — typically older, lower-income, historically under-invested districts — run hotter, sometimes by ten degrees within the same metropolitan boundary. The heat island is not a single phenomenon affecting a city uniformly but a redistribution mechanism whose costs fall, with near-perfect regressiveness, on those least equipped to escape them.

These revisions matter because they change what an adequate response looks like. White paint and street trees, however welcome, treat the city as a homogeneous patient. The newer evidence demands an explicitly distributional approach: cooling investment routed first to the hottest, poorest blocks; building codes that internalise the externality of dark, heat-retaining surfaces; emergency-services planning that recognises the heat-island gradient as a public-health gradient. The climatology has caught up with the geography of inequality; policy has yet to.

Q5: Which of the following best captures the central claim of Passage II? [rc-main-idea]

- A. The urban heat island effect is a minor curiosity that has been exaggerated by recent reporting
- B. Recent evidence shows that the urban heat island is both a tail-risk amplifier during heatwaves and a regressive within-city redistribution mechanism, demanding a distributional rather than uniform policy response
- C. Painting roofs white and planting trees are adequate responses to the urban heat island
- D. Rural areas now run hotter than cities during heatwaves

6.

Refer to RC Passage II. The author's use of the phrase 'tail-risk amplifier' is intended to convey that: [rc-inference]

- A. The heat island effect amplifies cold-weather mortality
- B. The heat island matters most precisely in the rare, severe heatwave events where excess heat causes the most deaths
- C. The effect tails off as cities grow larger
- D. The risk is being amplified by media coverage

7.

Refer to RC Passage II. The phrase 'with near-perfect regressiveness' is used to suggest that: [rc-inference]

- A. The heat island effect reverses progress on emissions
- B. The within-city distribution of heat burden falls most heavily on those with the least capacity to mitigate or escape it
- C. Heatwaves are becoming less frequent
- D. Wealthier neighbourhoods are now disproportionately exposed

8.

Refer to RC Passage II. The author would most likely AGREE with which of the following policy positions? [rc-application]

- A. A uniform per-capita cooling subsidy distributed equally across all city neighbourhoods
- B. A cooling-investment programme prioritised by neighbourhood-level temperature data, paired with building-code changes that internalise heat-retention externalities
- C. Abandoning urban heat-island mitigation in favour of long-run emissions reduction alone
- D. Restricting tree-planting to wealthier neighbourhoods that can maintain green infrastructure

9.

RC Passage III (read carefully, then answer Qs 9-12):

The debate over the repatriation of cultural objects from European museums to their countries of origin is often framed as a contest between two absolutes: a universalist view, in which great works belong to humanity and are best curated wherever they can be most widely seen, and a restitutionist view, in which sovereignty over a community's heritage is inalienable and the colonial-era transfers that filled European collections were thefts that time does not legitimise.

Neither position survives close scrutiny intact. The universalist appeal to 'humanity' has always been selective: the same museums that invoke the universal when asked to return a bronze rarely apply the principle when their own holdings might be lent out for decades to institutions in the global South. The principle, in practice, has resolved disputes in only one direction. The restitutionist appeal, conversely, treats provenance as if it were a single moment of dispossession to be reversed, when many objects have passed through multiple hands, jurisdictions, and meanings; the community whose claim is recognised today is rarely the unmediated descendant of the community from whom an object was taken in 1897.

The more productive question, increasingly raised in the literature, is procedural rather than principled. What conditions of dialogue, what shared standards of evidence, what mechanisms for partial return, long-term loan, joint custodianship, and revenue-sharing on travelling exhibitions, would let specific cases be settled without either side having to win the underlying philosophical argument? On this view, restitution is less a judgement to be pronounced than a negotiation to be staffed — with curators, descendant communities, source-country institutions, and, where relevant, the public on both sides at the table.

This procedural turn is sometimes criticised as a hedge: a way of postponing justice by talking. But the alternative — settling each case by reasserting the absolute that the other side rejects — has, by any honest measure, settled almost nothing in fifty years. The hedge, if it is one, is the only thing that has begun to move objects.

Q9: The author's main argument in Passage III is that: [rc-main-idea]

- A. European museums should return all colonial-era acquisitions immediately
- B. Cultural objects belong to humanity and should remain wherever they are most widely seen
- C. Both the universalist and restitutionist positions, as absolutes, fail under scrutiny, and a procedural approach offers a more workable path than either
- D. The descendants of communities from which objects were taken have no legitimate claim today

10.

Refer to RC Passage III. The author's critique of the universalist position is that it: [rc-inference]

- A. Is a recent invention without historical roots
- B. Has been applied selectively — invoked to keep holdings, rarely invoked to lend them
- C. Underestimates the aesthetic value of the objects in question
- D. Ignores the role of curators in shaping public taste

11.

Refer to RC Passage III. The author's critique of the restitutionist position is that it: [rc-inference]

- A. Underestimates the financial cost of returning objects
- B. Treats provenance as a single moment of dispossession when in fact objects have often passed through multiple hands, jurisdictions, and meanings
- C. Confuses cultural heritage with intellectual property
- D. Overestimates the willingness of European museums to negotiate

12.

Refer to RC Passage III. The author's response to the criticism that the procedural turn is 'a hedge' is, in essence: [rc-inference]

- A. To concede that the criticism is correct and abandon the procedural turn
- B. To argue that the procedural turn is the only approach that has actually moved objects, where the alternative of asserting absolutes has settled almost nothing
- C. To deny that there is any real disagreement between the universalist and restitutionist camps
- D. To recommend that decisions be made by source-country governments alone

13.

Q13 (TITA — enter the correct 4-letter sequence, e.g. ABCD):

Para-jumble. Arrange A, B, C, D in the most logical order:

- A. Yet the genre's reputation as 'mere entertainment' has, until recently, kept it outside the canon of literary scholarship.
- B. Detective fiction, born in the magazines of the mid-nineteenth century, has been one of the most widely read forms of prose ever produced.
- C. Recent criticism has begun to repair this omission, reading the form as a serious record of urban anxiety, evidentiary culture, and the changing shape of public trust.
- D. Sales figures, library records, and reading-room logs all attest to this popularity across more than a century. [para-jumble]

14.

Q14 (TITA — enter the correct 4-letter sequence):

Para-jumble. Arrange A, B, C, D in the most logical order:

- A. The result was a network that, for the first time, allowed news to travel faster than the people carrying it.
- B. Before the telegraph, the speed of information was bounded by the speed of horses, ships, and human couriers.
- C. The political and commercial consequences of this inversion were felt within a decade — newspapers reorganised, markets became continental, and diplomacy acquired a new tempo.
- D. The first practical electric telegraph lines, strung along railway routes in the 1840s, broke this constraint by carrying coded pulses at the speed of electricity. [para-jumble]

15.

Q15 (TITA — enter the correct 4-letter sequence):

Para-jumble. Arrange A, B, C, D in the most logical order:

- A. The notion that the visual arts and the sciences are sharply distinct enterprises is a relatively modern prejudice.
- B. For most of the early modern period, the same workshops that produced anatomical drawings also produced devotional paintings, and the same patrons commissioned both.
- C. The split, when it came, was as much institutional as intellectual: universities, academies, and museums slowly sorted what had previously been entangled.
- D. To read a Vesalius or a Leonardo notebook now is to encounter a mind for which observation, draftsmanship, and theory were a single practice. [para-jumble]

16.

Q16: Para-summary. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the paragraph below:

"The standard defence of long copyright terms appeals to the incentive they provide for creation. But almost no creator alive today is making decisions on the basis of revenues that will accrue seventy years after her death; the marginal effect on present creation is, on any plausible model, vanishingly small. The real beneficiaries of long terms are the holders of existing back-catalogues, whose incomes are protected by a policy whose stated rationale — encouraging new work — has almost no purchase on their decisions." [para-summary]

- A. Copyright should be abolished entirely because it discourages new creation.
- B. The incentive-to-create defence of long copyright terms is poorly aligned with how living creators actually decide what to make; the policy's real beneficiaries are the holders of existing back-catalogues.
- C. Living creators are uniformly opposed to long copyright terms.
- D. Seventy years is the correct length for copyright protection in all jurisdictions.

17.

Q17: Para-summary. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the paragraph below:

"It is tempting to read the history of vaccination as a straight line of scientific advance overcoming popular resistance. The historical record is messier. Some of the most effective nineteenth-century campaigns succeeded only because they were paired with sanitary reform, free clinics, and trusted local intermediaries; campaigns that relied on coercion or on the prestige of metropolitan medicine alone often produced backlash that set programmes back by years. The science was necessary; it was rarely sufficient." [para-summary]

- A. Nineteenth-century vaccination campaigns failed because the underlying science was inadequate.
- B. Coercion is always the most effective public-health strategy.
- C. Successful vaccination campaigns historically required not just scientific validity but pairing with sanitary reform, accessible clinics, and trusted local intermediaries; science was necessary but rarely sufficient.
- D. The history of vaccination is a simple story of science overcoming resistance.

18.

Q18: Odd-one-out. Four sentences are given. Three together form a coherent paragraph; one does NOT belong. Identify the odd sentence.

- (1) The argument that markets reward virtue is, in its strong form, a piece of moral cosmology rather than economics.
- (2) Markets reward whatever the marginal buyer is willing to pay for, which can include cruelty, scarcity engineered for its own sake, and the systematic externalisation of harm.
- (3) That this distribution sometimes coincides with virtue is a contingent fact about what buyers happen to want, not a structural feature of markets themselves.
- (4) The Mumbai Stock Exchange was founded in the nineteenth century under a banyan tree. [odd-one-out]

- A. Sentence 1
- B. Sentence 2
- C. Sentence 3
- D. Sentence 4

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