

**ANSWER KEY – 8 MAY 2026**

<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q5</b>	<b>Q6</b>	<b>Q7</b>	<b>Q8</b>	<b>Q9</b>	<b>Q10</b>
B	B	A	B	C	B	B	B	C	A
<b>Q11</b>	<b>Q12</b>	<b>Q13</b>	<b>Q14</b>	<b>Q15</b>	<b>Q16</b>	<b>Q17</b>	<b>Q18</b>	<b>Q19</b>	<b>Q20</b>
B	B	A	A	A	B	B	A	A	B
<b>Q21</b>	<b>Q22</b>	<b>Q23</b>	<b>Q24</b>	<b>Q25</b>	<b>Q26</b>	<b>Q27</b>	<b>Q28</b>	<b>Q29</b>	<b>Q30</b>
A	B	A	B	C	B	C	A	B	C
<b>Q31</b>	<b>Q32</b>	<b>Q33</b>							
C	B	B							

**RC PASSAGES**

**Q1 B**

The author's central thesis is that sleep performs essential biological work — cerebrospinal-fluid flushing, neural consolidation — and that the cult of sleeplessness, romanticised in the twentieth century, lacks empirical support. The closing rebuttal of the entrepreneur archetype confirms this. (A) is too narrow and prescriptive: the passage does not advocate a specific bedtime. (C) is contradicted: the passage criticises industrialists for taking sleep too lightly, not seriously. (D) overreaches: the passage describes both REM and non-REM but does not equate their importance for memory. The correct answer is (B).

**Q2 B**

The phrase 'the body keeps its own ledger' is a metaphor. A ledger records debits and credits; here, the author suggests that the body keeps a running record of biological costs incurred by sleeplessness, and these costs must eventually be paid — in cognitive decline, illness, or accident. (A) takes the metaphor literally and is wrong. (C) inverts the meaning: the metaphor speaks of debts owed, not credits banked. (D) mistakes the metaphor for a literal critique of healthcare accounting. The correct answer is (B).

**Q3 A**

The passage explicitly states that 'during the slower stages of non-REM sleep, the cerebrospinal fluid surges through the tissue at velocities not observed in waking.' This is a direct claim supported by experimental work cited in the text. (B) is a strawman — the passage cites night-shift surgeons as performers who rate themselves no worse, not as the highest-quality professionals. (C) is contrary to the passage's argument against four-hour sleepers. (D) is a quantitative claim never made in the passage. The correct answer is (A).

**Q4 B**

The author's argument rests on the claim that sleep deprivation causes cognitive decline. A controlled trial showing that four-hour sleepers perform on cognitive tests indistinguishably from seven-hour sleepers across years would directly undercut this claim, leaving the romantic position open. (A) is mildly inconvenient but speaks to long sleepers, not the four-hour case. (C) is anecdotal and weaker. (D) is biographical anecdote at most. The strongest weakener targets the experimental basis, hence (B). The correct answer is (B).

**Q5 C**

The phrase 'the exceptions are merely loud' carries a mildly dismissive register. The author concedes that famous exceptions exist but characterises their visibility as more a matter of self-promotion than evidential weight. The tone is not apologetic (A); not wistful (B); and not strictly clinical (D), as the choice of 'merely' carries an evaluative edge. The correct answer is (C).

**Q6 B**

The author's central claim is that independent bookshops survive by offering curation — a hand-picked selection bearing the personality of the owner and the local readership — and by serving as a public space whose value the market measures only imperfectly. (A) is a side suggestion never made by the passage. (C) is a doomsday claim the author rejects ("And yet they persist"). (D) inverts the author's view: the passage gently champions the indie. The correct answer is (B).

**Q7 B**

The reference to fixed book pricing is offered as an example of how regulatory choices shape market outcomes — in such jurisdictions, the indie bookshop is more secure. The point is illustrative, not prescriptive. (A) overreaches: the author does not advocate immediate Indian adoption. (C) is too strong: the author does not assert European market superiority overall. (D) is wrong: the example is integrated into the central thesis about regulatory environment mattering. The correct answer is (B).

**Q8 B**

The phrase 'the weather of the season' is metaphorical, referring to the shifting cultural climate — the moods, conversations, and reading interests of the local community at a particular moment. The author has been describing curation as something tied to the readership and the season. (A) takes it literally. (C) confuses the metaphor with promotional cycles. (D) is an oddly narrow paperback-supply gloss. The correct answer is (B).

**Q9 C**

The author balances affection for the indie bookshop with awareness of structural pressures — chains, online giants, screens, regulatory environments. The tone is sympathetic but realistic, not hostile (A), not purely sentimental (B), and not coldly economic (D). The closing paragraph's invocation of 'the kind of reading culture a society wishes to have' confirms the engaged-but-realistic stance. The correct answer is (C).

**Q10 A**

The author argues that bookshops are public spaces of cultural value whose market value is hard to compute. A study showing that towns with at least one indie bookshop report higher self-reported well-being would directly support this. (B) is irrelevant or counter-productive: the rise of chains is what threatens indies. (C) reinforces the threat narrative, not the cultural-value claim. (D) is tangential. The strongest strengthener establishes a measurable cultural benefit, hence (A). The correct answer is (A).

CR PASSAGES

**Q11 B**

The Ministry's stated conclusion is that voluntary measures and partial bans have failed for over a decade, and 'a complete ban is the only intervention with a meaningful chance of breaking the consumption pattern at scale.' This is the explicit final statement of the policy chain. (A) is not the conclusion. (C) inverts the recommended path. (D) is irrelevant to the Ministry's chain. The correct answer is (B).

**Q12 B**

The Ministry assumes that a complete ban will, in practice, be enforced sufficiently to alter consumption. If enforcement collapses, the policy yields no measurable change — a possibility raised by the industry counter-argument. The strength of the conclusion depends on this enforcement assumption. (A) is unrelated to the Ministry's argument structure. (C) is irrelevant. (D) is a strawman: the Ministry never claimed healthcare-from-plastic costs would exceed defence spending. The correct answer is (B).

**Q13 A**

If a comparable jurisdiction enacted an identical ban and saw plastic-waste volumes in waterways unchanged after three years owing to enforcement gaps, this directly undercuts the Ministry's claim that a complete ban is the only intervention with a meaningful chance of breaking consumption at scale. The empirical counter-evidence is decisive. (B), (C) and (D) are mildly relevant or unrelated. The strongest weakener is empirical and specific, hence (A). The correct answer is (A).

**Q14 A**

An independent peer-reviewed study showing 70 per cent waste reduction within twelve months under modest enforcement directly supports the Ministry's central empirical premise that a complete ban is meaningfully effective. (B), (C) and (D) are weak or irrelevant: opposition by industry is expected; a single writ does not refute the policy; small price movements are tangential. The strongest strengthener is empirical evidence of effect, hence (A). The correct answer is (A).

**Q15 A**

The industry argument that enforcement will be uneven is, at best, a non sequitur with respect to the policy's correctness. Enforcement difficulty bears on implementation design — not on whether the policy is justified. The flaw is that the counter-argument confuses an implementation problem with a normative defect. (B) ad hominem is wrong. (C) strawman is wrong: the Ministry has not claimed perfect enforcement. (D) understates the issue. The correct answer is (A).

**Q16 B**

The pro-mandatory argument's conclusion is that mandatory voting corrects a self-selection distortion in democratic legitimacy without forcing a particular vote — the citizen retains the right to spoil the ballot or vote None of the Above. (A) is the opposite position. (C) is a strawman international comparison. (D) overshoots by setting an arbitrary 95 per cent floor. The correct answer is (B).

**Q17 B**

The pro-mandatory argument assumes that compelled higher turnout produces a more representative electoral outcome. If forced voters cast random or spoiled ballots in proportions large enough to dilute the corrective effect, the assumption fails and the conclusion does not follow. (A) is unsupported and irrelevant. (C) and (D) are tangential and unrelated to the argument's structure. The correct answer is (B).

**Q18 A**

An empirical study of mandatory-voting jurisdictions showing that policy outcomes do not differ measurably from voluntary-turnout outcomes would directly weaken the central claim that mandatory voting corrects a representation distortion. If outcomes are unchanged, the policy provides no benefit and only liberty cost. (B) is mildly probative but inferior. (C) is administrative trivia. (D) is irrelevant. The correct answer is (A).

**Q19 A**

A constitutional court holding that the freedom to abstain is a protected expression integral to electoral participation rights would directly strengthen the liberty objection: it elevates the right to abstain to a constitutional dignity that mandatory voting could violate. (B), (C) and (D) are facts about turnout or campaign cost that bear on the pro-mandatory side or are administratively neutral. The correct answer is (A).

**Q20 B**

The author's claim that low turnout is a signal worth listening to functions as a normative consideration supporting the liberty critique — if low turnout is information, then suppressing it through compulsion silences a citizen voice. (A) is wrong because the claim is normative, not strictly empirical. (C) is wrong: it is part of the liberty side, not a concession. (D) ad hominem is wrong. The correct answer is (B).

## SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK &amp; CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Q21 A**

Rajasthan, with its large solar-resource availability, became the first Indian state in March 2026 to operationalise a fully solar-powered High Court complex. The court's facilities including air-conditioning, lighting, and digital systems are powered exclusively by on-site solar generation. The correct answer is (A). (B), (C) and (D) have not yet operationalised similar court complexes despite parallel pilot projects.

**Q22 B**

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 replaced the Indian Penal Code, 1860 — the principal substantive criminal-law statute. The other two pillars of the Indian criminal-justice reform package were the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (replacing the CrPC, 1973) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (replacing the Indian Evidence Act, 1872). (A) and (C) are replaced by other statutes. (D) is unrelated. The correct answer is (B).

**Q23 A**

'Nascent' is an adjective meaning just coming into being, in early or beginning stages of development — derived from the Latin nascens, present participle of nasci, 'to be born'. Its opposite is 'mature' — fully developed, ripened, established. (B) 'recent' refers to time and is closer to a synonym than an antonym. (C) 'inchoate' is a strong synonym, meaning just-begun or incompletely formed. (D) 'initial' is also a synonym, referring to the first stage. The correct answer is (A). Antonym questions ask for the reversal of meaning — always check that the chosen option pushes the meaning in the opposite direction along the same dimension.

**Q24 B**

The idiom 'to throw in the towel' originates from boxing, where a coach signals surrender by tossing a towel into the ring. It means to accept defeat and give up. (A) is the opposite. (C) is literal. (D) is unrelated. The correct answer is (B). Idiomatic expressions often derive from sports, military, or maritime origins; recognising the source aids interpretation.

**Q25 C**

Article 32 of the Constitution of India is the Right to Constitutional Remedies, conferring on the Supreme Court the power to issue writs for the enforcement of fundamental rights. Dr Ambedkar described it as the 'heart and soul of the Constitution'. (A) Article 14 is equality; (B) Article 21 is life and liberty; (D) Article 19 covers freedoms. The correct answer is (C).

**Q26 B**

The 2025 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded principally for sustained mediation work in protracted civil conflicts — long-running disputes that conventional peacekeeping had not resolved. (A), (C), and (D) are areas of related international policy attention but were not the principal basis of the 2025 award. The correct answer is (B). Always cross-check Nobel announcements with the Nobel committee's official press release for the citation.

**Q27 C**

Oslo is the capital and largest city of Norway, situated at the head of the Oslofjord on the country's southern coast. The city has been the capital since 1814 (under the name Christiania until 1925) and is the seat of the Norwegian government, the Storting (parliament), and the Royal Palace. (A) Stockholm is the capital of Sweden. (B) Helsinki is the capital of Finland. (D) Copenhagen is the capital of Denmark. The correct answer is (C). Memorising the Nordic capitals together — Oslo, Stockholm, Helsinki, Copenhagen, Reykjavik (Iceland) — helps avoid common confusion in CLAT static GK.

**Q28 A**

'Exacerbate' is a verb meaning to make a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling worse — to aggravate. The word derives from the Latin ex- (intensifier) and acerbus (sharp, bitter), giving the literal sense of 'sharpen further'. (A) 'worsen' is the closest direct synonym. (B) 'mitigate' is the antonym, meaning to make less severe. (C) 'conceal' and (D) 'postpone' are unrelated to the meaning. The correct answer is (A). Latin-rooted vocabulary like exacerbate often appears in CLAT English vocabulary-in-context items; building a working synonym-antonym pair list keeps such terms ready for the exam hall.

**Q29 B**

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), constituted under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (as amended by the Finance Act, 2016), is the statutory body that sets the policy repo rate by majority vote. The MPC is six-membered, with three nominated by the Government and three from the RBI, including the Governor as chair. (A), (C), and (D) are no longer the formal monetary-policy-setting body; (D) handles broader economic policy but not the rate decision. The correct answer is (B).

**Q30 C**

Vivek Shanbhag won the JCB Prize for Literature in 2025 for his novel translated from Kannada into English. The JCB Prize, instituted in 2018 and considered India's most lucrative literary award (₹25 lakh to the author plus ₹10 lakh to the translator if applicable), is given annually to a distinguished work of fiction by an Indian writer. (A) Arundhati Roy, (B) Perumal Murugan, and (D) Janice Pariat are eminent Indian writers but were not the 2025 recipient. The correct answer is (C). The prize has consistently championed translation, with multiple translated works winning over the years.

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**Q31 C**

The currency of South Korea is the won (KRW), denoted by the symbol ₩ and subdivided into 100 jeon (though the jeon is no longer used in everyday transactions). North Korea uses the North Korean won, a separate currency. (A) yen is the currency of Japan; (B) yuan is the currency of mainland China; (D) ringgit is the currency of Malaysia. The correct answer is (C). Memorising East Asian currencies — yen (Japan), yuan (China), won (Korea), dong (Vietnam), baht (Thailand), ringgit (Malaysia), peso (Philippines), kip (Laos) — by country pair helps avoid mix-ups in CLAT static GK.

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**Q32 B**

A 'Pyrrhic victory' is a victory achieved at such great cost that the cost outweighs the gain — named after King Pyrrhus of Epirus, who, after defeating the Romans at heavy losses, reportedly remarked that another such victory would ruin him. (A), (C), and (D) miss the central feature of cost outweighing benefit. The correct answer is (B). Historical idioms like Pyrrhic, Achilles' heel, and Trojan horse are CLAT favourites for vocabulary-in-context.

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**Q33 B**

Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973), decided 7–6, established the Basic Structure Doctrine: Parliament's power to amend the Constitution under Article 368 is wide but not unlimited; certain core features — democracy, secularism, federalism, judicial review — cannot be abrogated. (A) Doctrine of Eclipse is on pre-Constitution laws; (C) Severability is on partial unconstitutionality; (D) Pith and Substance is a federalism rule. The correct answer is (B).