

SLA CLAT SECTIONAL TEST — CURRENT AFFAIRS & GK Set 5

ANSWER KEY WITH
EXPLANATIONS

PASSAGE 1 (Q1–Q6)

- Q1. (B)** The Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) comprises India, the United States, Japan and Australia; the passage deliberately never names the four "Indo-Pacific democracies." (A), (C) and (D) each swap one genuine member for a plausible but incorrect Indo-Pacific country (the UK, South Korea, Indonesia respectively).
- Q2. (A)** The Quad was first formally floated in 2007 by Japan's then Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Australia and the United States are genuine Quad members and Indonesia a major Indo-Pacific democracy, making all three plausible; none of their leaders made the 2007 proposal.
- Q3. (D)** The Quad's informal roots trace to the "Tsunami Core Group," an ad hoc coordination among these four countries after the December 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. The Kashmir earthquake (2005), Cyclone Nargis (2008) and a generic "Bay of Bengal floods" are real or plausible-sounding regional disasters but did not prompt this coordination.
- Q4. (B)** The first in-person Quad Leaders' Summit was hosted in Washington DC in September 2021, not Melbourne, so (B) is the incorrect statement. The first virtual summit (March 2021), the near-decade of dormancy before the 2017 revival, and four-nation participation in the Malabar exercise are all accurate.
- Q5. (C)** The passage's minerals arrangement, though never named in the text, is the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework. The Minerals Security Partnership is a real but separate US-led grouping, the Critical Raw Materials Act is a real EU regulation, and "Quad Rare Earth Minerals Pact" is simply invented — all plausible but wrong bodies.
- Q6. (D)** Palau's selection as trusted-supplier partner for Quad-backed Open RAN telecom cooperation was announced in February 2026 and reaffirmed at this 26 May 2026 meeting. Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu are real Pacific Island states but were not the partner named in this cooperation.

PASSAGE 2 (Q7–Q12)

- Q7. (C)** The passage's ration-card portability initiative "rolled out several years earlier" is One Nation One Ration

Card (ONORC). Antyodaya Anna Yojana targets the poorest beneficiaries rather than enabling portability; DBT (Food) is a different delivery mechanism, and "National Ration Card Portability Scheme" is an invented title with no real counterpart.

- Q8. (A)** The National Food Security Act, 2013 legally entitles a large majority of India's population to subsidised foodgrain, matching the passage's generic reference. The Essential Commodities Act regulates trade in essential goods, the Food Safety and Standards Act governs food quality, and the APMC Act concerns agricultural marketing — none creates this entitlement.
- Q9. (D)** SMART-PDS is the earlier, narrower technology-reform scheme that the passage describes as being merged into the new umbrella scheme. IM-PDS is a real, differently-purposed PDS digitisation initiative (it enables ONORC's portability), making it a strong but incorrect distractor; the other two names do not correspond to any real predecessor scheme.
- Q10. (D)** The restructured scheme runs April 2026–March 2031, aligned to the 16th Finance Commission's award cycle, which the passage describes only as "India's most recently constituted Finance Commission." The 14th, 15th and 17th Finance Commissions are real bodies but govern different, non-matching periods.
- Q11. (C)** Since January 2023, NFSA foodgrain has been supplied free of cost under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), which this restructured scheme funds distribution for. Antyodaya Anna Yojana is an NFSA beneficiary category, not the free-of-cost programme; Ujjwala Yojana and PM-Kisan are unrelated schemes.
- Q12. (A)** "Leakage" is the standard term in PDS policy discussions for grain that leaves warehouses but never reaches the intended cardholder, exactly the gap the passage describes without naming it. "Distribution Slippage," "Diversion Deficit" and "Transit Loss Index" are plausible-sounding but not the term actually used in PDS policy literature.

PASSAGE 3 (Q13–Q18)

- Q13. (D)** The G7 economy that departed a continental bloc and signed this agreement with India is the United Kingdom (Brexit, 2020). Canada, Germany and Japan are all G7 members, making them plausible distractors, but none left a continental trading bloc in the way the passage describes.

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- Q14. (C)** Under the CETA, the UK removes tariffs on roughly 99% of its tariff lines covering Indian exports immediately, while India phases in smaller concessions on sensitive items like Scotch whisky and automobiles over a longer period. The reversed-direction, simultaneous and sunset-clause alternatives do not match the agreement's actual structure.
- Q15. (C)** India has concluded comprehensive agreements with the UAE (CEPA, 2022), Australia (ECTA, 2022) and the EFTA bloc (TEPA, 2024); the India-Canada CEPA, still in active negotiating rounds as of this passage's date, has not yet been concluded, making it the one that does NOT belong on this list.
- Q16. (B)** The Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Commerce) negotiates and administers India's trade agreements, including the one described. The Ministry of External Affairs handles diplomacy rather than trade negotiation, while Finance and Corporate Affairs are unconnected to negotiating this specific pact.
- Q17. (D)** The companion social-security pact described in the passage is formally the Double Contribution Convention (DCC). "Totalization Agreement" is a real term used for comparable US social-security pacts, making it a strong but incorrect distractor; the other two names do not correspond to the actual instrument.
- Q18. (A)** The CETA was signed 24 July 2025, when Keir Starmer was UK Prime Minister; Carney, Ishiba and Meloni then led Canada, Japan and Italy, not the UK. Starmer left office 20 July 2026, days after the deal took effect — the question is anchored to the signing date, not current officeholders.

PASSAGE 4 (Q19–Q24)

- Q19. (B)** Fatehpur Sikri is Uttar Pradesh's earlier "abandoned capital city" on the World Heritage list, alongside the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort (the "mausoleum" and "Mughal-era fort" the passage also leaves unnamed). Champaner-Pavagadh, Hampi and Mandu are all real abandoned/historic capitals elsewhere in India, making them plausible but wrong-state distractors.
- Q20. (D)** The Chaukhandi Stupa at Sarnath commemorates the spot where the Buddha reunited with his five former ascetic companions before delivering his first sermon, matching the passage's unnamed "solitary brick mound." Dhamekh Stupa, Dharmarajika Stupa and Mulagandhakuti Vihara are all real structures within Sarnath's wider archaeological zone, but mark different events, not this reunion.

- Q21. (A)** Sarnath was inscribed at the 48th WHC session, held in Busan, South Korea, in July 2026. All four options are recent host cities: Riyadh hosted the 45th (extended) session, while New Delhi (46th, 2024) and Paris (47th, 2025) hosted the two sessions preceding this one, making the distractors genuinely strong.
- Q22. (C)** Of the four sites tied to the Buddha's birth (Lumbini), enlightenment (Bodh Gaya), first sermon (Sarnath) and death (Kushinagar), only Kushinagar remains without UNESCO inscription. Lumbini (1997) and Bodh Gaya's Mahabodhi Temple (2002) are already listed, and Sarnath is the site this passage describes as newly inscribed, so neither fits "not yet inscribed."
- Q23. (A)** India's World Heritage nomination dossiers, including this site's, are prepared by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the nodal heritage body under the Ministry of Culture. INTACH is a privately-run heritage trust, the Ministry's "UNESCO Cell" is not the drafting body, and the ICHR is an unconnected historical-research council.
- Q24. (D)** Sarnath's inscription made it India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site. 39th, 41st and 43rd are plausible nearby counts but do not match India's actual tally at the time of this inscription.

PASSAGE 5 (Q25–Q30)

- Q25. (C)** The Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, is a government-funded but autonomous body established in March 1954. Sangeet Natak Akademi and Lalit Kala Akademi are real sister cultural academies for performing and visual arts respectively, and the National Book Trust is a publishing body, not a literary-honours academy, making all three plausible but wrong.
- Q26. (A)** The Sahitya Akademi is headquartered at Rabindra Bhavan in New Delhi. "Sahitya Bhavan" and "Kala Kendra" are plausible-sounding but non-existent building names, and Vigyan Bhavan is a real Delhi venue used for government events, not the Akademi's headquarters.
- Q27. (D)** The Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honour for a lifetime body of work, is administered by the privately-run Bharatiya Jnanpith trust, matching the passage. Vyas Samman and Saraswati Samman are real honours also run by a private trust (K.K. Birla Foundation), making them strong distractors; Padma Shri is a civilian honour, not literary.

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Q28. (B) Navtej Sarna, a retired career diplomat, won the English-language award for his historical novel, matching the passage's unnamed description. Shashi Tharoor's own diplomatic background makes him a strong distractor, but he was not this year's recipient; Ghosh and Seth are prominent authors unconnected to this award.

Q29. (C) Beyond the Eighth Schedule's 22 languages, the Sahitya Akademi separately honours English and Rajasthani. Sanskrit, Bhojpuri and Tulu are all real Indian languages with strong literary traditions, making them plausible but incorrect substitutes for the actual two.

Q30. (B) The Sahitya Akademi functions as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture. Education, Information & Broadcasting and External Affairs are all real ministries handling adjacent domains (schooling, broadcasting, diplomacy) but do not administer this academy.

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