

# CLAT English Language

## Sample Paper – 5

Duration: 24 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 24

### Instructions

- This paper contains **24** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the English Language section of **CLAT** (Common Law Admission Test).
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. There is a **negative marking of 0.25 marks** for every incorrect answer; unattempted questions carry no penalty.
- The paper has **four passages**, each followed by **six** questions. Only **one** option is correct; choose the most appropriate answer based only on the passage.
- CLAT is an offline pen-and-paper (OMR) test with no sectional time limit; attempt this practice paper in one timed sitting of about **24 minutes**.
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, dictionaries, or electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.

### Passage I

*Directions (Q1–Q6): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers only on what is stated or implied in the passage.*

Not long ago, the information a person generated in the course of an ordinary day vanished almost as soon as it was made. A walk to the shop, a conversation with a friend, a glance at a newspaper headline left no permanent trace. Today, nearly every such act is recorded, timestamped, and stored. The websites we visit, the routes we drive, the words we type and delete before sending, all become entries in vast databases owned by companies most of us have never dealt with directly. Personal data, once a by-product of living, has quietly become one of the most valuable commodities on earth. The business model that turns private life into profit is deceptively simple. Services that appear to be free are paid for with attention and information. A search engine or a social



network gathers signals about what its users want, fear, and desire, and then sells the ability to influence them to whoever is willing to pay. The genius of the arrangement is that the product being traded is not the user's money but the user's future behaviour, predicted and packaged for advertisers. Because no cash changes hands, the transaction feels like a gift rather than a bargain, and few stop to ask what they have surrendered. What is at stake is more than the nuisance of targeted advertisements. When a handful of firms can anticipate our choices, they acquire a subtle power to shape them, nudging us toward one product, one opinion, or one candidate rather than another. Privacy, in this light, is not merely the right to conceal an embarrassing secret; it is the space in which a person forms judgements free from constant observation. A citizen who suspects that every hesitation is being watched and catalogued may, without noticing, begin to think and behave more cautiously, trading a little freedom for the comfort of belonging. Reformers propose various cures, from stricter laws that give people ownership of their data to technologies that let users hide their tracks. Each helps at the margin, yet none dissolves the central difficulty: the very convenience that makes these services irresistible depends on the surveillance we say we deplore. We want the map that knows the traffic and the shop that remembers our size, and both are built on the same watching we claim to resent. Until we are willing to pay, in money or in inconvenience, for what we now buy with our data, the surveillance economy will keep expanding, one small, freely given click at a time.

- Q1.** Which of the following best captures the central argument of the passage?
- (A) Stricter data-ownership laws have already dissolved the problem of surveillance.
  - (B) Personal data has become a valuable commodity, and the convenience of “free” services rests on a surveillance economy that is hard to escape.
  - (C) Targeted advertising is a minor nuisance that consumers can easily ignore whenever they wish.
  - (D) Search engines and social networks ought to be made illegal without delay.
- Q2.** It can be inferred from the passage that the transaction “feels like a gift rather than a bargain” because:
- (A) the companies involved make no profit whatsoever from the arrange-



ment.

- (B) advertisers receive nothing of any value in return.
- (C) users are legally forbidden from paying cash for such services.
- (D) no money changes hands, so users overlook that they are paying with information about their future behaviour.

**Q3.** The author's attitude toward the surveillance economy is best described as:

- (A) critical and concerned.
- (B) amused and light-hearted.
- (C) enthusiastic and admiring.
- (D) entirely neutral and detached.

**Q4.** According to the passage, privacy matters chiefly because it:

- (A) guarantees that advertisements will never be targeted at anyone.
- (B) lets companies predict human behaviour far more accurately.
- (C) provides the space in which a person forms judgements free from constant observation.
- (D) allows people to hide an embarrassing secret and nothing more.

**Q5.** As used in the passage, the word "nudging" ("nudging us toward one product") most nearly means:

- (A) openly forbidding an action.
- (B) loudly protesting against something.
- (C) gently pushing or steering toward a choice.
- (D) forcefully compelling by law.

**Q6.** Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for the passage?

- (A) Paying With Our Data: The Hidden Price of "Free" Services.



- (B) Why Search Engines Should Be Banned.
- (C) The Complete Triumph of Privacy Law.
- (D) The End of Advertising As We Know It.

### Passage II

*Directions (Q7–Q12): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers only on what is stated or implied in the passage.*

There was a time when the word of an expert settled an argument. A doctor, an engineer, or a scientist spoke with an authority that ordinary people were content to accept, partly because the knowledge involved was genuinely beyond them and partly because there was no easy way to check it. That deference has been eroding for years, and today a striking number of people greet the pronouncements of experts not with trust but with suspicion. The reasons are tangled, and blaming public ignorance alone explains very little.

Part of the shift is a matter of access. The internet has placed a library larger than any in history in every pocket, and with it the illusion that a few minutes of searching can rival years of training. A patient arrives at the clinic having already diagnosed himself; a voter forms firm opinions on climate models she has never studied. This flood of information is not the same as understanding, but it feels like it, and the feeling is enough to make expert advice seem like just one more opinion among many.

Yet the experts are not blameless. Trust is a debt that authorities must repay, and it has sometimes been squandered. Confident predictions have failed; advice has been reversed; and on occasion specialists have spoken beyond the limits of what they actually knew, lending their prestige to guesses dressed as certainties. When such lapses come to light, they are seized upon and magnified, and the honest revision that is the lifeblood of science is mistaken for proof that the experts never knew anything at all. A single error is remembered long after a thousand quiet successes are forgotten.

Beneath all this runs a deeper current of resentment. To defer to an expert is to admit that someone else knows better, and in an age that celebrates the sovereign individual, that admission grates. Merchants of misinformation understand this perfectly. They do not so much argue against the evidence as flatter their audience, insisting that ordinary common sense is worth more than the tainted knowledge of distant elites. The message is seductive precisely because it asks nothing difficult and returns a comforting sense of independence. Rebuilding trust, then, cannot be a matter of simply repeating the facts more loudly. It requires experts humble enough to admit uncertainty and a public patient enough to distinguish honest doubt from dishonest denial.

**Q7.** Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?



- (A) The internet has made professional training entirely unnecessary for everyone.
- (B) Public ignorance is the single and sufficient reason people now distrust experts.
- (C) Experts have always been, and still remain, universally trusted by the public.
- (D) Trust in experts has eroded for tangled reasons involving both the public and the experts themselves.

**Q8.** It can be inferred that “a few minutes of searching” causes trouble because:

- (A) the internet contains no reliable information of any kind.
- (B) the feeling of understanding it produces is mistaken for real understanding, making expert advice seem like just another opinion.
- (C) search engines deliberately hide all accurate information from users.
- (D) patients and voters are legally barred from ever consulting experts.

**Q9.** The author’s attitude toward both the public and the experts is best described as:

- (A) even-handed and analytical, faulting both sides.
- (B) bitterly contemptuous of ordinary people.
- (C) wholly admiring of experts and dismissive of every critic.
- (D) indifferent to the whole question.

**Q10.** According to the passage, a single expert error tends to be:

- (A) treated as evidence that misinformation is always harmless.
- (B) quietly forgotten within a few days.
- (C) remembered and magnified long after many quiet successes are forgotten.
- (D) accepted as proof that experts should never revise their views.



- Q11.** As used in the passage, the word “squandered” (“trust . . . has sometimes been squandered”) most nearly means:
- (A) honestly repaid in full.
  - (B) wastefully thrown away.
  - (C) legally protected by statute.
  - (D) carefully saved for later use.
- Q12.** The author’s main purpose in the passage is to:
- (A) prove that experts are always right and should never be questioned.
  - (B) encourage readers to ignore all expert advice from now on.
  - (C) describe in technical detail how search engines actually work.
  - (D) explain why trust in expertise has declined and what rebuilding it would require.

### Passage III

*Directions (Q13–Q18): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers only on what is stated or implied in the passage.*

Somewhere in the North Pacific, currents have gathered a slick of floating debris so vast that it is often described, misleadingly, as an island of rubbish. There is no solid island; the truth is stranger and harder to fight. The plastic is mostly invisible, broken by sun and salt into fragments smaller than a grain of rice, suspended through the water column like a fine, poisonous soup. Every year the ocean receives millions of tonnes more, and almost none of it ever truly goes away.

The scale of the problem is easy to state and difficult to grasp. Plastic production has risen relentlessly for seventy years, and a large share of it is designed to be used once and discarded within minutes. A drinking straw serves its purpose for a single afternoon; the material it is made from may persist for centuries. Much of this waste is carried by rivers from countries whose economies grew faster than their systems for collecting rubbish, so the debris in the sea is, in a sense, a map of uneven development written in polyethylene. What makes the crisis so stubborn is that the damage happens far from the people who cause it. A bottle dropped on a beach becomes, months later, a fragment in the belly of a seabird a thousand miles away. Fish mistake the particles for food, and the toxins the plastic absorbs travel up the food chain until they return, quietly, to our own plates. Because no single nation owns the open ocean, no single government feels bound to clean it, and the familiar logic of the commons, in which a shared resource is ruined by



many hands, plays out on a planetary scale.

Solutions exist, but each runs into an awkward limit. Grand schemes to skim the surface capture only the largest floating pieces and leave the microscopic haze untouched. Bans on single-use items help, yet they address the tap while the flood has already reached the floor. The most honest experts argue that the only real remedy lies upstream, in producing far less plastic in the first place and building the collection systems that many regions still lack. That is slow, unglamorous work, offering no dramatic photograph of a cleared sea. Perhaps the hardest lesson of the plastic ocean is that there is no way to undo what has been done. The fragments already adrift will outlast everyone now alive, and the choice before us is not how to restore the sea to what it was, but how quickly we are willing to stop making it worse.

**Q13.** The central idea of the passage is that:

- (A) the North Pacific contains a solid island of rubbish that could simply be lifted out whole.
- (B) banning drinking straws would, by itself, quickly solve the entire crisis.
- (C) the open ocean is owned and carefully managed by a single responsible government.
- (D) ocean plastic is a vast, largely invisible and near-permanent problem whose only real remedy lies in producing and discarding far less plastic.

**Q14.** As used in the passage, the word “stubborn” (“what makes the crisis so stubborn”) most nearly means:

- (A) easily and quickly resolved.
- (B) persistent and resistant to solution.
- (C) openly hostile and aggressive.
- (D) brightly and unusually coloured.

**Q15.** The author’s tone in the final paragraph is best described as:

- (A) cheerfully optimistic.
- (B) coldly indifferent.



- (C) sober and clear-eyed.
- (D) playful and mocking.

**Q16.** According to the passage, grand schemes to skim the ocean surface are limited because they:

- (A) capture only the largest floating pieces and leave the microscopic fragments untouched.
- (B) are strictly forbidden by international law.
- (C) remove far too much plastic far too quickly.
- (D) only worsen the problem of uneven development.

**Q17.** The phrase “a map of uneven development written in polyethylene” implies that:

- (A) developed nations produce no plastic waste at all.
- (B) rivers are physically unable to carry any rubbish to the sea.
- (C) the plastic in the sea reflects how some economies grew faster than their waste-collection systems.
- (D) polyethylene is used to print actual geographical maps.

**Q18.** The author refers to “the familiar logic of the commons” chiefly in order to:

- (A) explain why a resource shared by all and owned by none tends to be neglected and ruined.
- (B) argue that individual people bear no responsibility whatsoever.
- (C) show that the plastic problem has, in fact, already been solved.
- (D) prove that the open ocean belongs to one wealthy nation.

### Passage IV

*Directions (Q19–Q24): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers only on what is stated or implied in the passage.*



Every generation seems convinced that the world was better when it was young. The music was finer, the summers longer, the streets safer, the people kinder. This warm backward gaze is so common that we rarely question it, yet the past it longs for is largely a construction, assembled less from what actually happened than from what we wish had happened. Nostalgia, on close inspection, tells us far more about the present than about the years it claims to remember.

The mechanism is partly a trick of memory. The mind is a poor archivist, discarding the dull and the painful while polishing a handful of bright moments into something like a golden age. A childhood remembered as endless sunshine was, in fact, rained upon as often as any other, but the grey days leave no monument. What survives is edited, and the editing runs always in the same flattering direction, so that the remembered past grows steadily more perfect the further it recedes.

Societies do this collectively as well as individually, and here the stakes are higher. A nation that persuades itself of a lost golden age acquires a powerful and dangerous story: that its troubles are the fault of some recent fall from grace, and that salvation lies in returning to how things used to be. Politicians have always understood the appeal of such tales, promising to restore a greatness that, examined closely, was never quite as glorious as the longing supposes. The imagined past becomes a weapon in present quarrels, wielded against whatever change the nostalgic most dislike.

None of this means the impulse is simply a flaw to be corrected. Nostalgia can console the grieving, bind a scattered community with shared memory, and remind a restless society of things genuinely worth preserving. The danger lies not in feeling it but in believing it, in mistaking a comforting story for an accurate record and then trying to govern the future by its light. The healthier response is neither to indulge the golden age nor to sneer at it, but to ask what a particular longing reveals. When a society suddenly aches for a vanished past, it is usually confessing something about its present discontents: an anxiety about change, a fear of the unfamiliar, a hunger for a security it feels slipping away. Read honestly, nostalgia is less a memory than a mirror, and what it reflects is not the world we have lost but the one we are struggling to live in now.

**Q19.** Which of the following best captures the central idea of the passage?

- (A) Nostalgia is nothing more than a harmless personal quirk of no consequence.
- (B) Nostalgia is largely a construction that reveals more about present anxieties than about the past it claims to remember.
- (C) Politicians alone invented, from nothing, the entire idea of a lost golden age.
- (D) The past really was better than the present in almost every measur-



able way.

- Q20.** As used in the passage, the word “polishing” (memory “polishing a handful of bright moments”) most nearly means:
- (A) physically cleaning a metal surface.
  - (B) harshly criticising a mistake.
  - (C) completely erasing a record.
  - (D) improving and idealising until they shine.
- Q21.** It can be inferred from the passage that a childhood “remembered as endless sunshine”:
- (A) actually included as many grey days, which memory has quietly discarded.
  - (B) proves that the weather really was better in the past.
  - (C) was recorded with perfect accuracy by a faithful mind.
  - (D) contained no pleasant moments at all.
- Q22.** The author’s attitude toward nostalgia is best described as:
- (A) uncritically sentimental and admiring.
  - (B) entirely indifferent to it.
  - (C) wholly hostile, urging readers to abolish it.
  - (D) balanced, recognising both its comforts and its dangers.
- Q23.** According to the passage, a nation that believes in a lost golden age is especially at risk because it may:
- (A) remember its own past with excessive and painful accuracy.
  - (B) blame its troubles on a recent “fall” and seek salvation in returning to a past that never truly existed.
  - (C) abandon all shared memory and community feeling.
  - (D) preserve far too many things that are genuinely worth keeping.



- Q24.** The closing image of nostalgia as “a mirror” chiefly serves to:
- (A) prove that the past was objectively superior to the present.
  - (B) recommend that societies ignore their own history entirely.
  - (C) suggest that a longing for the past mainly reflects present discontents and anxieties.
  - (D) argue that memory records the past with photographic precision.



**Detailed Solutions**

Q1.

**Solution**

**Concept — Main idea:** The central argument is the single claim the whole passage is built to support, not one detail within it.

**Passage support:** The passage says personal data “has quietly become one of the most valuable commodities on earth,” explains how “free” services are “paid for with attention and information,” and closes that “the surveillance economy will keep expanding.” So it ties the value of data to a hard-to-escape surveillance economy.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: Stricter laws “help at the margin” but do not dissolve the problem.
- Option C: The passage says the stakes are “more than the nuisance of targeted advertisements,” not a minor thing to ignore.
- Option D: It never calls for making these services illegal.

**Final Answer:** Data is a commodity and “free” services rest on a hard-to-escape surveillance economy ⇒ **B**

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q1](#)

Q2.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Read the stated reason the deal feels like a gift and restate it.

**Passage support:** “Because no cash changes hands, the transaction feels like a gift rather than a bargain,” and the product traded is “the user’s future behaviour.” So users miss the payment because it is made in information, not money.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The firms clearly do profit; they “sell the ability to influence.”
- Option B: Advertisers gain predicted behaviour, which is valuable to them.
- Option C: No legal ban on paying cash is mentioned.

**Final Answer:** No money changes hands, so users overlook that they pay with information ⇒ **D**



Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q2](#)

Q3.

### Solution

**Concept — Tone / attitude:** Judge the emotional colour the author brings to the subject.

**Passage support:** The author warns of “a subtle power to shape” our choices, of trading “a little freedom,” and of an economy that keeps “expanding, one small, freely given click at a time.” The steady note of warning marks a critical, concerned stance.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: The serious tone is the opposite of light-hearted.
- Option C: Nothing here is admiring of the surveillance economy.
- Option D: The pointed warnings rule out pure neutrality.

**Final Answer:** A critical and concerned attitude ⇒

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q3](#)

Q4.

### Solution

**Concept — Argument / detail:** Locate the sentence that states why privacy matters.

**Passage support:** Privacy “is not merely the right to conceal an embarrassing secret; it is the space in which a person forms judgements free from constant observation.” That defining clause is the author’s reason.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: It never claims privacy stops all targeting.
- Option B: Prediction is what firms do; it is not why privacy matters to the citizen.
- Option D: The passage explicitly says privacy is “not merely” hiding a secret.

**Final Answer:** It gives space to form judgements free from constant observation ⇒

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q4](#)



Q5.

**Solution**

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** Substitute each meaning into the sentence and keep the one that fits.

**Passage support:** Firms “acquire a subtle power to shape” choices, “nudging us toward one product, one opinion, or one candidate.” Paired with “subtle,” “nudging” means gently steering, not forcing.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: “Forbidding” reverses the sense of steering toward a choice.
- Option B: “Protesting” is unrelated to guiding a choice.
- Option D: “Compelling by law” is too forceful for a “subtle” power.

**Final Answer:** Gently pushing or steering toward a choice ⇒

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q5](#)

Q6.

**Solution**

**Concept — Best title:** A good title names the whole theme, not one stray detail.

**Passage support:** The passage’s thread is that “free” services are really “paid for with attention and information,” so the “hidden price” of such services is our data. Option B captures that thread directly.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: A ban on search engines is never proposed.
- Option C: Privacy law is shown to help only “at the margin,” not to triumph.
- Option D: The passage does not announce the end of advertising.

**Final Answer:** “Paying With Our Data: The Hidden Price of Free Services” ⇒

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q6](#)



Q7.

**Solution**

**Concept — Main idea:** Choose the option that spans the whole passage rather than one cause.

**Passage support:** The passage says “the reasons are tangled, and blaming public ignorance alone explains very little,” then faults both the public (“a few minutes of searching”) and the experts (“the experts are not blameless”). So both sides share the blame.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: It says searching “is not the same as understanding,” not that training is needless.
- Option B: The passage denies that ignorance alone is the reason.
- Option C: It says deference “has been eroding,” not that trust is universal.

**Final Answer:** Trust eroded for tangled reasons involving both public and experts ⇒ **D**

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Draw out why quick searching misleads people.

**Passage support:** This “flood of information is not the same as understanding, but it feels like it, and the feeling is enough to make expert advice seem like just one more opinion.” So the false feeling of understanding is the trouble.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage never says the internet holds no reliable information.
- Option C: No deliberate hiding of information is mentioned.
- Option D: No legal bar on consulting experts appears.

**Final Answer:** A false feeling of understanding makes advice seem like just another opinion ⇒ **B**

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q8](#)



Q9.

**Solution**

**Concept — Tone / attitude:** See whether the author leans toward one side or weighs both.

**Passage support:** The author examines the public's illusion of knowledge and also insists "the experts are not blameless," assigning fault on both sides in measured terms. That balanced diagnosis is even-handed and analytical.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: The tone is analytical, not contemptuous of ordinary people.
- Option C: The author criticises experts too, so is not wholly admiring of them.
- Option D: The careful argument shows engagement, not indifference.

**Final Answer:** Even-handed and analytical, faulting both sides ⇒

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q9](#)

Q10.

**Solution**

**Concept — Argument / detail:** Read what the passage says happens to a single mistake.

**Passage support:** "A single error is remembered long after a thousand quiet successes are forgotten," and such lapses "are seized upon and magnified." So one error is magnified and long remembered.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage treats misinformation as harmful, not harmless.
- Option B: The passage says the error is remembered, not quickly forgotten.
- Option D: Honest "revision" is praised, not condemned.

**Final Answer:** It is magnified and remembered long after quiet successes are forgotten ⇒

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q10](#)



Q11.

**Solution**

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** Fit the meaning to “trust . . . has sometimes been squandered.”

**Passage support:** Trust is called “a debt that authorities must repay,” and squandering it is illustrated by failed predictions and reversed advice. To squander is thus to waste something valuable.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: “Repaid” is what should have happened, not what squandering means.
- Option C: “Legally protected” has nothing to do with wasting trust.
- Option D: “Saved” is the opposite of squandered.

**Final Answer:** Wastefully thrown away ⇒

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q11](#)

Q12.

**Solution**

**Concept — Purpose:** Ask what the whole essay is trying to do.

**Passage support:** It diagnoses why “deference has been eroding” and ends that rebuilding trust “requires experts humble enough to admit uncertainty and a public patient enough” to tell honest doubt from denial. So its purpose is to explain the decline and what a repair would need.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The author faults experts, so does not claim they are always right.
- Option B: It seeks to rebuild, not abandon, trust in expertise.
- Option C: The workings of search engines are never technically described.

**Final Answer:** To explain the decline of trust and what rebuilding it would require ⇒

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q12](#)



Q13.

**Solution**

**Concept — Main idea:** Find the claim the passage keeps returning to.

**Passage support:** The plastic is “mostly invisible,” “almost none of it ever truly goes away,” and “the only real remedy lies upstream, in producing far less plastic.” So the theme is a vast, near-permanent problem cured only by making less plastic.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage says “there is no solid island” to lift out.
- Option B: Bans on single-use items “help,” but do not by themselves solve it.
- Option C: “No single nation owns the open ocean,” so it is not carefully managed.

**Final Answer:** A vast, near-permanent problem cured only by producing far less plastic ⇒

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q13](#)

Q14.

**Solution**

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** Read “what makes the crisis so stubborn” alongside its explanation.

**Passage support:** The crisis is “stubborn” because the damage happens “far from the people who cause it,” and elsewhere solutions keep hitting “an awkward limit.” So “stubborn” means persistent and hard to solve.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: “Easily resolved” is the opposite of the difficulty described.
- Option C: “Hostile and aggressive” misreads a problem, not a person.
- Option D: “Brightly coloured” has nothing to do with the crisis.

**Final Answer:** Persistent and resistant to solution ⇒

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q14](#)



Q15.

**Solution**

**Concept — Tone:** Read the emotional colour of the closing lines.

**Passage support:** The final paragraph admits “there is no way to undo what has been done” and frames the choice as “how quickly we are willing to stop making it worse.” Facing hard facts squarely without despair or cheer is a sober, clear-eyed tone.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: “Cheerfully optimistic” clashes with “no way to undo.”
- Option B: The urgent call to act rules out cold indifference.
- Option D: There is nothing playful in the grave close.

**Final Answer:** Sober and clear-eyed ⇒  C

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q15](#)

Q16.

**Solution**

**Concept — Argument / detail:** Read the stated shortcoming of surface-skimming schemes.

**Passage support:** “Grand schemes to skim the surface capture only the largest floating pieces and leave the microscopic haze untouched.” That is the exact limit the author names.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: No legal prohibition on skimming is mentioned.
- Option C: The problem is that they capture too little, not too much.
- Option D: Uneven development describes the source of waste, not the skimming limit.

**Final Answer:** They catch only large pieces and miss the microscopic fragments ⇒  A

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q16](#)



Q17.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Unpack the metaphor using the sentence that frames it.

**Passage support:** Waste is “carried by rivers from countries whose economies grew faster than their systems for collecting rubbish,” so the debris is “a map of uneven development written in polyethylene.” The image means the plastic mirrors gaps between growth and waste systems.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage does not claim rich nations produce no waste.
- Option B: Rivers are said to carry the rubbish, so they clearly can.
- Option D: “Map” is a metaphor, not a literal printed map.

**Final Answer:** The plastic reflects economies that outgrew their waste-collection systems ⇒

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q17](#)

Q18.

**Solution**

**Concept — Author’s purpose:** Ask why the “commons” idea is introduced.

**Passage support:** “Because no single nation owns the open ocean, no single government feels bound to clean it,” which is “the familiar logic of the commons, in which a shared resource is ruined by many hands.” The idea explains why an unowned, shared sea gets neglected.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: The commons idea concerns shared neglect, not zero individual blame.
- Option C: The passage stresses the problem is unsolved, not solved.
- Option D: The point is that no one nation owns the ocean.

**Final Answer:** To explain why a resource owned by none and shared by all is neglected and ruined ⇒

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q18](#)



Q19.

**Solution**

**Concept — Main idea:** Select the option that unites the passage's central claim.

**Passage support:** The remembered past “is largely a construction,” and “nostalgia . . . tells us far more about the present than about the years it claims to remember.” The close calls nostalgia “a mirror” of present struggles.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: It warns of nostalgia's “powerful and dangerous” collective effects, so it is not inconsequential.
- Option C: Politicians exploit the golden-age story; they did not invent the impulse.
- Option D: The passage denies the past was truly better, calling the memory “edited.”

**Final Answer:** Nostalgia is a construction that reveals present anxieties ⇒ **B**

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q19](#)

Q20.

**Solution**

**Concept — Vocabulary in context:** Read “polishing a handful of bright moments into something like a golden age.”

**Passage support:** The mind discards “the dull and the painful” while polishing bright moments, so the past “grows steadily more perfect.” Here polishing means improving and idealising until they shine.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The mind polishes memories, not a literal metal surface.
- Option B: “Criticising” is the reverse of making memories glow.
- Option C: Polishing improves the moments; it does not erase them.

**Final Answer:** Improving and idealising until they shine ⇒ **D**

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q20](#)



Q21.

**Solution**

**Concept — Inference:** Read what the passage says lies behind the sunny memory.

**Passage support:** A childhood “remembered as endless sunshine was, in fact, rained upon as often as any other, but the grey days leave no monument.” So the grey days happened but were quietly dropped by memory.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option B: The passage says it rained as often, so the weather was not really better.
- Option C: Memory is called “a poor archivist,” the opposite of perfect accuracy.
- Option D: The sunshine shows there were pleasant moments, not none.

**Final Answer:** It had as many grey days, which memory has discarded ⇒ **A**

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q21](#)

Q22.

**Solution**

**Concept — Tone / attitude:** Weigh whether the author only praises, only condemns, or holds both.

**Passage support:** Nostalgia “can console the grieving” and bind a community, yet “the danger lies . . . in believing it,” mistaking story for record. Naming both the comfort and the danger is a balanced attitude.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The warnings rule out uncritical sentimentality.
- Option B: The careful weighing shows engagement, not indifference.
- Option C: The author grants real comforts, so is not wholly hostile.

**Final Answer:** Balanced, recognising both its comforts and its dangers ⇒ **D**

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q22](#)



Q23.

**Solution**

**Concept — Argument / detail:** Locate the stated danger of a collective golden age.

**Passage support:** Such a nation adopts the “powerful and dangerous story: that its troubles are the fault of some recent fall from grace, and that salvation lies in returning to how things used to be.” That is the risk the author names.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The danger is inaccurate memory, not excessive accuracy.
- Option B: Nostalgia is said to “bind” community, not abandon it.
- Option D: Preserving worthwhile things is a benefit, not the danger.

**Final Answer:** It blames a recent “fall” and seeks return to a past that never existed ⇒  B

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q23](#)

Q24.

**Solution**

**Concept — Summary / purpose:** Read the closing image and what it is meant to show.

**Passage support:** “Nostalgia is less a memory than a mirror, and what it reflects is not the world we have lost but the one we are struggling to live in now,” revealing “present discontents.” The mirror image points to today’s anxieties, not the real past.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option A: The passage denies the past was objectively superior.
- Option B: The author urges reading nostalgia honestly, not ignoring history.
- Option D: Memory is called poor and edited, not photographic.

**Final Answer:** Longing for the past mainly reflects present discontents and anxieties ⇒  C

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q24](#)



## Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	B	2	D	3	A	4	C	5	C
6	A	7	D	8	B	9	A	10	C
11	B	12	D	13	D	14	B	15	C
16	A	17	C	18	A	19	B	20	D
21	A	22	D	23	B	24	C		

