UPSC 2026 CSAT - Set D

Revised Answer Key with Detailed Explanations

Prepared from the uploaded question paper. Use the official UPSC key as the final authority whenever released.

Revised Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	B	21	C	41	C	61	A
2	B	22	C	42	B	62	D
3	B	23	B	43	B	63	C
4	A	24	D	44	B	64	D
5	C	25	C	45	A	65	A
6	B	26	C	46	A	66	D
7	B	27	C	47	C	67	A
8	B	28	D	48	A	68	B
9	C	29	B	49	A	69	D
10	B	30	D	50	A	70	D
11	A	31	A	51	D	71	D
12	A	32	C	52	B	72	B
13	D	33	B	53	C	73	D
14	C	34	B	54	A	74	A
15	B	35	D	55	D	75	B
16	A	36	D	56	B	76	A
17	A	37	D	57	D	77	A
18	B	38	B	58	A	78	D
19	B	39	D	59	B	79	B
20	C	40	D	60	D	80	C

Detailed Explanations

Q1. Answer: B

Given 1/3 < x < y < 2. Statement I is not always true because x + 1/x is not monotonic over the whole interval. Statement II is true since sqrt(1+t^2)/t = sqrt(1 + 1/t^2), which decreases as t increases. Therefore only II is correct.

Q2. Answer: B

Target is 298 litres using 1, 6, 25 and 100 litre cans. The best strategy is to over-measure and adjust: 100 + 100 + 100 - 1 - 1 = 298. This needs 5 measurements. Four measurements cannot work because 300 - 1 = 299 and 300 - 6 = 294; exact 298 needs two separate 1-litre corrections.

Q3. Answer: B

Need 20 kg using 1, 2, 5 and 10 kg weights, with 1 kg weights used at least 8 and at most 11. Solve a + 2b + 5c + 10d = 20 for a = 8, 9, 10, 11. Counting valid non-negative solutions gives 8 ways.

Q4. Answer: A

After three straight cuts, identical pieces may be 4, 6 or 8 depending on the cuts. A fourth cut can increase the number, but a single new plane cannot cut all 8 small cubical pieces into 16 identical pieces without moving them. Hence 16 is not possible.

Q5. Answer: C

First correction changes a score from 0 to 100 and raises average by 4, so class strength n = 100/4 = 25. Second correction changes 56 to 81, adding 25 marks, so average rises by 25/25 = 1. Total rise = 5.

Q6. Answer: B

Statement 1 is too strong: the passage says SARS-CoV-2 and HMPV belong to different virus families and have fundamentally different epidemiology. Statement 2 follows from the passage because differences in impact and handling are emphasised. Only 2 is valid.

Q7. Answer: B

The writer mainly compares epidemiological similarities/differences and uses this comparison to better understand HMPV. The passage is not primarily about evolving a methodology for outbreak analysis. Statements 2 and 3 are valid.

Q8. Answer: B

HMPV has longer documentation; the two viruses are different; and their long-term impacts differ. Seasonality is not a shared feature; it is linked to HMPV. Hence statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

Q9. Answer: C

x, y, z are distinct values from 2, 3, 4 and 5. Max of xy + z is 5*4 + 3 = 23. Min is 2*3 + 4 = 10. Difference = 13.

Q10. Answer: B

Since y is directly proportional to x^2, y = kx^2. Given x = 5 and y = 50, k = 2. If y = 98, then x^2 = 49, so x = 7. Also xz = 7/5, hence z = 1/5.

Q11. Answer: A

The passage assumes that economies of scale helped western adoption, affordable local-language AI can help small farmers, and India is already using AI in critical areas. Therefore statements 1, 2 and 3 are valid.

Q12. Answer: A

The question asks for statements that are not correct. Statement 1 is too strong because tech-savvy farmers alone cannot be said to drive future AgTech. Statement 3 is also wrong because the passage says AI tools have started offering precision farming, not replaced traditional agriculture. Therefore 1 and 3 are not correct.

Q13. Answer: D

P is ranked 4 and R is ranked 1. Q, S and T get ranks 2, 3 and 5, with Q not 5, S not 2 and T not 3. Possible arrangements make both conditional statements false. Hence neither I nor II is correct.

Q14. Answer: C

The colour-position matching allows arrangements where Q3 is the middle portion and also arrangements where P2 is at an extreme. Both statements are possible, so both I and II are valid.

Q15. Answer: B

Only E travels with G, so E-G form one car group. A travels in X with two others, C travels by Z, B is not by Y and A and B do not travel together. Final grouping: X = A, D, F; Y = E, G; Z = B, C. Thus I and III are true.

Q16. Answer: A

If X is correct, W cannot be correct; otherwise W correct would imply X incorrect. If Y were incorrect, W would be correct, causing contradiction. So Y must be correct. Statement I is true; statement II is not necessary.

Q17. Answer: A

Initially X:Y speed ratio is 7:5. After Y reverses, Y's speed doubles, so relative speed becomes 7 + 10 = 17 units. Tracking meetings around the circular track gives 35 meetings before stopping. Hence answer is 35.

Q18. Answer: B

Let correct answers be c and wrong answers be w. Equations: 5c - 2w = 69 and 4c - w = 84. Solving gives c = 33 and w = 48. Total questions = 81.

Q19. Answer: B

Transfer to the adult criminal system is not justified merely because an offence is classified as serious. Statement 2 is correct because the amended Act classifies serious offences based on maximum sentence, not minimum sentence. Only 2.

Q20. Answer: C

Heinous offence under the JJ framework requires minimum punishment of seven years. If there is no minimum punishment, it is not heinous. After amendment, offences with maximum seven years or more but no minimum sentence are serious offences. Both statements are correct.

Q21. Answer: C

The second drone reaches the spot 3 minutes after explosion. Distance = 30 m/s * 180 s = 5400 m. Sound takes 5400/300 = 18 s. First picture at 5:02 PM means explosion time was 3 min 18 sec earlier: 4:58:42 PM.

Q22. Answer: C

Unit digit of 6^129 is always 6. Unit digit cycle of 7 is 7, 9, 3, 1; 307 mod 4 = 3, so digit is 3. Product unit digit = 6*3 = 18, so 8.

Q23. Answer: B

Initial salary = 100, saving = 10, expenditure = 90. New salary = 112. New expenditure = 90*1.10 = 99. New saving = 13. Saving rises from 10 to 13, i.e., 30% increase.

Q24. Answer: D

Q and R are children of P. S is R's spouse. Since P has one son and one daughter, R is the son and Q is the daughter. Therefore Q is sister of S's husband.

Q25. Answer: C

Three-digit powers of 2 are 128, 256 and 512. The next, 1024, is four-digit. Therefore there are 3 such numbers.

Q26. Answer: C

The passage supports that fuel choice is central to clean air and that fiscal pricing support is needed to make clean fuel cheaper. It does not establish public will as the key barrier. Statements 1 and 3 are valid.

Q27. Answer: C

Thermal power stations were required to clean up or shut down, not necessarily all to be summarily shut. CNG supply had to be assured after diesel buses were prohibited. The coal ban statement is not correctly attributed. Only 2.

Q28. Answer: D

Given red -> blue, blue -> green, and green -> yellow. Therefore every blue is yellow, every red is green and every red is yellow. All P, Q and R are correct.

Q29. Answer: B

In two-digit numbers 10 to 99, digit 5 appears 10 times in the tens place (50-59) and 9 times in units place (15,25,...,95). Total = 19.

Q30. Answer: D

X's time = 1/5 + 2/10 + 3/4 hours = 1.15 hours = 69 minutes. Y's time = 1/4 + 2/10 + 3/5 hours = 1.05 hours = 63 minutes. Difference = 6 minutes.

Q31. Answer: A

Use a balance scale. First compare 3 cubes with 3 cubes. If equal, the remaining cube is lighter; if unequal, the lighter cube is among the lighter group of 3. One more weighing identifies it. Minimum = 2.

Q32. Answer: C

The passage suggests AI can free humans from irritating tasks and redirect them towards more creative, rewarding work. Hence the statement about enhanced human intervention through redirection best reflects the passage.

Q33. Answer: B

Statement 1 and 3 use absolute language. Statement 2 matches the passage: if some jobs are lost, alternative engagement channels can emerge. Only 2.

Q34. Answer: B

The common grazing ground exists for village cattle, and the passage contrasts hot winds with later cooler winds. Statements 2 and 4 follow. Statements 1 and 3 are overgeneralised.

Q35. Answer: D

Question asks not correct. Statement 1 about landholdings being saved is unsupported. Statement 2 contradicts the passage because Rai Sahib is contrasted with greedy landlords. Statement 3 is wrong since he could have made money by leasing the land. Hence 1, 2 and 3 are not correct.

Q36. Answer: D

Movement: 4 km East, then 3 km South, then 2 km East, then 3 km North. Final displacement is 6 km East, and the final facing direction is North.

Q37. Answer: D

Each number after the first two is the sum of the preceding two: 4, 7, 11, 18, 29, 47. Sixth number = 47.

Q38. Answer: B

Female workers are equal. Company A ratio 13:10 gives total 23 parts. Company B ratio 7:5 gives total 12 parts, and matching female parts gives total ratio A:B = 23:24.

Q39. Answer: D

Product of HCF and LCM equals product of the two numbers. An even product only means at least one number is even. Difference need not be even, and one number need not be a perfect square. Neither statement follows.

Q40. Answer: D

For 4x5y90 to be divisible by 11, (4+5+9) - (x+y+0) = 18 - x - y must be divisible by 11. Thus x+y can be 7 or 18, and both leave remainder 7 when divided by 11.

Q41. Answer: C

The passage praises Hugh Grant's nap as surrender to bodily wisdom and resistance to performance pressure. Radical action, refusal of ego, and the ironic idea of a leading man who does little all fit. All three statements are correct.

Q42. Answer: B

Statement 1 is wrong because the passage refers to men's singles quarterfinals, not semifinals. Statement 2 is wrong because the act is not viewed with opprobrium. Statement 3 is correct. Only 3.

Q43. Answer: B

In breakaway phase, followers remain slow; in catch-up, followers close the gap; in fine-tuning, benefits are refined; and the historical order is scavenging, hunting, farming and industrial technology. All statements are correct.

Q44. Answer: B

The model divides eras, not nations, into phases, so statement 1 is wrong. The core is closing labour-productivity gap, and technology leaders arrive earlier. Statement 4 treats historical years as duration, which is incorrect. Statements 2 and 3.

Q45. Answer: A

Let P:Q = p:q. Copper percentage: $(20p + 60q)/(p+q) = 50$. This gives $20p + 60q = 50p + 50q$, so $q = 3p$. Therefore P:Q = 1:3.

Q46. Answer: A

Let $A = 10x + y$ and $B = 10y + x$. $A - B = 9(x-y) = 27$, so $x-y = 3$. Valid pairs are (4,1), (5,2), (6,3), (7,4), (8,5), (9,6). Total = 6.

Q47. Answer: C

ZERO -> ADSN follows +1, -1, +1, -1 letter shifts. Applying to STOP gives S->T, T->S, O->P, P->O, i.e., TSOP.

Q48. Answer: A

Cover length 100 using tiles of lengths 3, 7 and 11. Maximum tile count is 32; minimum tile count is 12. Difference = 20.

Q49. Answer: A

Let original speed be v. In one scenario time is $2600/v$; in the other it is $3400/v$. Difference is 4 hours, so $800/v = 4$ and $v = 200$ km/h.

Q50. Answer: A

Weighted score = 0.2*C1 + 0.3*C2 + 0.5*C3. Scores: candidate 1 = 5.2, 2 = 5.1, 3 = 5.2, 4 = 4.5, 5 = 5.0. Top three cutoff is 5.1.

Q51. Answer: D

S3 is not a counterpoint to S1 and is connected with environmental discussion. S2 can explain S3 because disagreement about contribution to climate change may create alarmism or denial. Only statement 3 is correct.

Q52. Answer: B

Captain-team is informal and firm; judge-lawyer formal and firm; VC-registrar formal and open-ended; peers-coworkers informal and open-ended. Mapping A-1, B-4, C-3, D-2.

Q53. Answer: C

Memo is used for directives; flyer gives non-targeted information; Bcc is used for confidential communication; minutes record decisions. Mapping A-3, B-4, C-2, D-1.

Q54. Answer: A

In culturally diverse conflict, learning cultural markers and encouraging perspective-taking are constructive direct actions. Letting conflict resolve naturally is weak. Statements 1 and 3.

Q55. Answer: D

Semantic barrier: word meaning; cognitive barrier: information overload; organisational barrier: lack of feedback; affective barrier: fear of social stigma. Mapping A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3.

Q56. Answer: B

For a family vacation resort questionnaire, relevant heads are family size, budget and food allergies/dietary restrictions. Number of earners is not essential and may be intrusive. Statements 1, 2 and 4.

Q57. Answer: D

Circular letters are usually addressed to a group. They are not customised, not meant for individual appraisals, and not less cost-effective than personalised letters. Only statement 1.

Q58. Answer: A

Profit shares depend on capital*time. A = (1/3)*(1/3) = 1/9; B = (1/4)*(1/4) = 1/16; C = 5/12. Ratio = 16:9:60. C's share = 60/85 of 17000 = Rs. 12000.

Q59. Answer: B

After each replacement, the fraction of A left is multiplied by 9/10. After three replacements, A left = (9/10)^3 = 0.729. Therefore B = 1 - 0.729 = 0.271, about 27%.

Q60. Answer: D

Income is 5 times deliveries plus Rs. 2 per km. Distance is variable and only capped at 100 km. Therefore deliveries alone cannot definitely determine whether the target is met. Insufficient data.

Q61. Answer: A

Statement I, m is not prime, is insufficient. Statement II, sum of digits of m is greater than 5, forces a combination involving Rs. 5 coin in this denomination set. Hence only one statement alone is sufficient, namely II.

Q62. Answer: D

Statement I alone allows both xy. Statement II alone also allows both. Even together they do not determine which is bigger. Hence cannot be answered.

Q63. Answer: C

Statement I says at least one of x or y is even. Statement II says x and y have same parity. Together, both must be even, so x is even. Both together are sufficient.

Q64. Answer: D

Statement I implies all numbers in T have the same parity. Statement II also allows both all-even and all-odd possibilities. Together they still do not prove that every number of T belongs to Y. Cannot be answered.

Q65. Answer: A

From statement I: xy^2 = 116 = 4*29. Since y>1, y=2 and x=29, a prime. Statement II alone leaves several possibilities for x. Only I is sufficient.

Q66. Answer: D

The passage supports that seven Sanskriti Angans represented different regions and that 230 artisans demonstrated age-old techniques. Other statements are not adequately supported. Statements 1 and 3.

Q67. Answer: A

Question asks not correct. The passage mentions Pattachitra painting from Bengal and Thanjavur painting from Tamil Nadu, but not paintings from four states. Hence statement A is not correct.

Q68. Answer: B

From A+B+C+D=17 and A+C=6, B+D=11. Using P=R and Q=S in the other equations gives 3P+3Q+B+D=32, so P+Q=7. Thus P+Q is greater than A+C=6.

Q69. Answer: D

In QUEUE, Q must always be followed by U. Treat QU as one block. Remaining objects are QU, U, E, E. Arrangements = 4!/2! = 12.

Q70. Answer: D

They land together every LCM(4,6,5)=60 marks. From 199 to 979 inclusive, number of common landings is ((979-199)/60)+1 = 14.

Q71. Answer: D

The passage supports sport as a way of life, sport helping youth problems, and job opportunities through sport quota. The statement that corporate skills cannot be learnt through sport is false. Statements 1, 2 and 3.

Q72. Answer: B

The passage supports that participation in sport develops life skills and helps society. It does not directly say parents do not encourage enough. Statements 2 and 3.

Q73. Answer: D

Let forward jumps be f and backward jumps be b. f+b=31 and 5f-2b=15. Solving gives f=11 and b=20. Difference = 9.

Q74. Answer: A

Applying the circular seating restrictions produces the unique relative placement in which Q crosses 5 persons clockwise before meeting W. Answer = 5.

Q75. Answer: B

Each 2.5 by 8 blue rectangle must touch exactly two edges, so it must occupy a corner-style placement. There are four valid non-overlapping arrangements. Answer = 4.

Q76. Answer: A

Statement 1 is correct: real value added should not change when output value/quantity do not change. Statement 2 is false because separate deflators are used by most countries, not necessarily every economy. Only 1.

Q77. Answer: A

Wrong/single deflation can make manufacturers appear more productive. Double deflation means separate deflation of inputs and outputs, not using a single input price. Only statement 1.

Q78. Answer: D

The repeating pattern is abbab. Repeating it gives abbababbab..., so the 7th and 8th positions are b and b. Answer = bb.

Q79. Answer: B

RHS = 75^25 * 25^32 * 32^75 = 3^25 * 5^114 * 2^375. The limiting power for 10 is 5^114. Since 1000 = 10^3, m+3=114, so m=111.

Q80. Answer: C

Same-direction relative speed = 100-4 = 96 km/h = 26.67 m/s. Train length = 26.67*15 = 400 m. Opposite-direction relative speed = 104 km/h = 28.89 m/s. Time = 400/28.89 = 13.85 sec.