MEGA GK 25+

MG 26 | Advanced GK Sectional

CLAT 2027 • 30 Questions • 6 Mixed-Topic Passages

Duration: 30 minutes | Scoring: +1 correct, -0.25 incorrect, 0 unattempted

Passage 1

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals Report 2026 evaluates progress towards the 2030 Agenda, adopted in 2015. Its broad finding is neither that the SDGs have failed completely nor that they are comfortably on track: gains have been made in areas including access to essential services, but overall progress is insufficient and uneven. The report emphasises conflict, climate pressures, debt distress and constraints on development finance as obstacles. It also calls for better international cooperation, improved data and targeted investment. The 17 SDGs form a framework that links social, economic and environmental dimensions rather than a single poverty-reduction programme.

Q1. A national SDG report shows progress toward Goal 7 but little change in Goal 13. Which global review arrangement can scrutinise these together without converting national voluntary reporting into a legally binding compliance proceeding?

(A) The ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum, which undertakes binding country-by-country SDG compliance determinations.

(B) The UN High-level Political Forum informed by national voluntary reviews

(C) The UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review, which is the formal universal SDG monitoring mechanism.

(D) The UN General Assembly Sixth Committee, acting as the dedicated voluntary national review forum.

Q2. A minister uses improvement in one poverty indicator to claim the state fulfilled the Agenda's commitment to leave no one behind. Which independently established SDG reporting principle makes that inference particularly vulnerable?

(A) Disaggregation by relevant income and geographic groups

(B) The UN replaces domestic statistical offices with a single global census

(C) A goal is completed automatically when its national average first becomes positive

(D) All 169 SDG targets require identical definitions and denominators worldwide

Q3. A researcher treats the annual Secretary-General SDG progress report as if it were an assessment under a binding human-rights treaty. What essential distinction should govern the researcher's conclusion?

(A) All SDG goals became enforceable through the ICJ upon their adoption in 2015

(B) Only states that ratified the Kyoto Protocol can submit SDG progress reports

(C) The 2030 Agenda relies on voluntary, country-led review rather than creating that treaty's enforcement machinery

(D) The HLPF is empowered to award compensation against governments failing individual targets

Q4. A development agency proposes financing expansion of electricity access and climate resilience under a single programme. Which pair of SDGs most directly captures the two distinct policy objectives?

(A) SDG 4 and SDG 12

(B) SDG 8 and SDG 14

(C) SDG 9 and SDG 16

(D) SDGs 7 and 13

Q5. A state submits a glowing Voluntary National Review but fails to collect trustworthy regional-level indicators. Which institution is principally charged with producing and coordinating official national statistics rather than adjudicating SDG compliance?

(A) The International Court of Justice acting through its Registry

(B) National statistical systems under country-led review

(C) The WTO Secretariat through its national treatment database

(D) The ICC Office of the Prosecutor through country reports

Passage 2

On 10 December 2025, UNESCO announced that Deepavali had been inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The listing concerns a living social practice: rituals, festive traditions, community participation and the knowledge transmitted across generations. It does not declare a particular temple, neighbourhood or monument a World Heritage property. Tangible cultural heritage includes physical sites and buildings; intangible cultural heritage emphasises practices, expressions and know-how that communities recognise as heritage. UNESCO's announcement described Deepavali under the domain of social practices, rituals and festive events and identified it as the sixteenth Indian element on UNESCO's intangible heritage lists at that time.

Q6. An authority seeks UNESCO recognition for a living religious festival while refusing to involve practising communities in management. Which specific obligation in the 2003 Convention is most directly engaged?

(A) Safeguarding requires recognition and participation of the communities concerned, with their free, prior and informed consent in the nomination process.

(B) Article XXIV of GATT on regional trade agreements

(C) Article 15 on participation of communities, groups and individuals

(D) State authorities may substitute expert documentation for community participation whenever a festival has broad national recognition.

Q7. A heritage board mistakes a proposal for the Representative List for an urgent international rescue request. Which UNESCO mechanism is expressly dedicated to elements needing urgent safeguarding?

(A) The 2003 Convention's Urgent Safeguarding List (Article 17)

(B) The Memory of the World Register as a substitute for nominations under the 2003 Convention

(C) The World Heritage List in Danger under Article 11(4) of the 1972 Convention

(D) The Register of Good Safeguarding Practices as a list exclusively for endangered monuments

Q8. A government says a Deepavali-related practice is automatically protected as a World Heritage monument following its intangible-heritage inscription. Which pairing correctly identifies the separate treaty frameworks?

(A) 1972 Convention for intangible practices; 2003 Convention for natural sites

(B) 1992 Biodiversity Convention for practices; 1970 UNESCO Convention for property inscriptions

(C) 2005 Cultural Diversity Convention for temples; 1954 Hague Convention for festivals

(D) The 2003 and 1972 UNESCO Conventions, respectively

Q9. A community wishes to document changes in a traditional practice without freezing it in an alleged original form. Which element of UNESCO's definition most directly supports that approach?

(A) Only written manuscripts more than a century old count as intangible heritage

(B) A state may determine authenticity without considering community recognition

(C) International inscription transfers ownership of community practices to UNESCO

(D) Intangible heritage is continually recreated by communities in response to their environment and history

Q10. If a nominated living tradition is practised across borders, which approach best matches the 2003 Convention's international cooperation logic?

(A) The ICJ must first allocate legal ownership of the tradition to one government

(B) A cross-border tradition is automatically ineligible for either UNESCO intangible list

(C) Only the state with the oldest extant inscription may nominate the whole tradition

(D) Cooperative multinational nomination by the states concerned

Passage 3

COP30 met in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025. One of the notable outcomes in the UNFCCC's summary is a call to triple adaptation finance by 2035; the wording matters because a political call is not the same as evidence that the money has already been delivered. Parties also adopted Belém Adaptation Indicators as a framework for monitoring progress towards the global goal on adaptation. Climate adaptation differs from mitigation: adaptation seeks to reduce vulnerability to actual or expected impacts, while mitigation aims to limit greenhouse-gas emissions or increase removals. Climate finance also involves questions of responsibility, needs and implementation.

Q11. A finance announcement at a climate conference is described as a change in countries' Nationally Determined Contributions. Which Paris Agreement provision principally governs successive communication of NDCs?

(A) Article 4 of the Paris Agreement

(B) Article 6

(C) Article 7

(D) Article 13

Q12. An adviser proposes using Article 6 carbon-market transfers as proof that a flood-resilience project has delivered adaptation benefits. Which governance distinction is decisive?

(A) The Paris Agreement requires every adaptation project to generate Article 6 units

(B) An Article 6 authorisation automatically satisfies all project-level safeguard tests

(C) Article 6 cooperation and accounting are distinct from the global goal on adaptation under Article 7

(D) Adaptation is assessed solely through the collective mitigation target in Article 2

Q13. Two states announce equal adaptation pledges, but one reports only loans and the other grants. Which treaty provision most directly frames developed-country duties to provide financial resources to assist developing states?

(A) Article 36 of the ICJ Statute

(B) Article 9 of the Paris Agreement

(C) Article 5 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations

(D) Article 17 of the Montreal Protocol on membership

Q14. A country presents adaptation planning as a substitute for Paris Agreement transparency reporting. Which provision establishes the enhanced transparency framework for action and support?

(A) Article 8

(B) Article 13 of the Paris Agreement

(C) Article 15

(D) Article 21

Q15. A negotiator attributes the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement to COP30 itself. Which distinction is correct?

(A) The first stocktake was concluded by the UN Security Council in 2015

(B) A global stocktake is identical to the IPCC's periodic assessment report

(C) The first global stocktake concluded at COP28 in 2023; COP30 occurred later

(D) The stocktake is conducted only after all Parties reach net-zero emissions

Passage 4

A Ministry of Defence release dated 7 May 2025 announced Operation Sindoor and said Indian armed forces had struck nine sites described by the government as terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-administered areas of Jammu and Kashmir. In the initial release, India characterised the strikes as focused, measured and non-escalatory, and stated that Pakistani military facilities had not been targeted at that stage. The government linked the operation to the 22 April 2025 Pahalgam attack, in which 26 people were killed.

Q16. When assessing cross-border force claimed as self-defence, which UN Charter provision governs the inherent right and its reporting duty to the Security Council?

(A) Article 51 of the UN Charter

(B) Article 2(7)

(C) Article 33

(D) Article 42

Q17. A commentator treats a Security Council statement condemning terrorism as equivalent to a Chapter VII authorisation of military force. Which institutional fact is decisive?

(A) Every public condemnation by the Council automatically triggers Article 42

(B) The General Assembly exercises the Council's Chapter VII authorisation power by default

(C) A condemnation is not a Chapter VII authorisation

(D) All Council press statements have the same binding force as Chapter VII decisions

Q18. A legal assessment claims international humanitarian law governs only wars formally declared by states. Which authoritative feature of the 1949 Geneva Conventions displaces that claim?

(A) Common Article 2 also applies to declared war or any other armed conflict between High Contracting Parties

(B) The Hague Regulations apply exclusively to conflicts formally notified to the UN

(C) Additional Protocol I requires an ICJ judgment before hostilities become armed conflict

(D) Common Article 3 is limited to disputes over territorial sea baselines

Q19. A claim of lawful self-defence rests entirely on the fact that a weapon struck its declared military target. Which separate jus ad bellum tests still require examination?

(A) Only the weapon manufacturer's export-authorisation rules

(B) Necessity and proportionality under the law of self-defence

(C) Whether the adversary gave a formal declaration of war beforehand

(D) Whether domestic news coverage described the strike as successful

Q20. Which distinction best prevents confusion between a state's responsibility for wrongful conduct and individual criminal liability after an armed conflict?

(A) The ICC prosecutes states, whereas the ICJ exclusively sentences natural persons

(B) Separate state and individual responsibility regimes

(C) The law of state responsibility applies only after Security Council sanctions

(D) An ICJ ruling automatically convicts each military commander under the Rome Statute

Passage 5

On 12 February 2026, the UN Secretary-General welcomed the General Assembly's appointment of 40 members to an Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence for three-year terms. The appointed experts would act in their personal capacities and contribute scientific assessments of AI opportunities, risks and impacts. The panel is intended to help countries build a shared evidence base, including for a global dialogue on AI governance. It is important to distinguish scientific assessment from legislation: such a panel does not automatically create binding AI rules for every country. Its role is advisory and knowledge-oriented.

Q21. A government cites an assessment of the UN independent AI scientific panel as if it were a binding global regulation. Which official instrument establishes the panel's mandate without giving it general lawmaking authority?

(A) UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/79/325

(B) UN Security Council resolution 1540

(C) The panel's scientific findings acquire force as Security Council resolutions upon presentation to Member States.

(D) The panel's assessments automatically become treaty annexes binding every state that attends the Global Dialogue.

Q22. Which prior UN initiative most directly supplied the political architecture from which the independent AI panel was subsequently developed?

(A) The International Telecommunication Regulations of 1988 alone

(B) The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Review Process

(C) The Sendai Framework's Disaster Loss Accounting System

(D) The Global Digital Compact of the Pact for the Future

Q23. An official conflates the UN AI Global Dialogue with a treaty conference adopting enforceable technical standards. Which statement preserves their institutional distinction?

(A) The Dialogue automatically incorporates any expert report into every member state's criminal law

(B) A nonbinding multi-stakeholder dialogue forum

(C) The scientific panel directly licenses commercial AI systems for every UN member

(D) The Dialogue has the same coercive jurisdiction as the Security Council under Chapter VII

Q24. A policymaker wants to compare environmental risks and labour effects of AI across states without importing a single national law as universal. Which feature of the panel's mandate makes it institutionally suitable?

(A) It is mandated to rewrite the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties

(B) Its primary role is to settle bilateral investment disputes concerning AI chips

(C) Its annual report is confined to military automation and battlefield command systems

(D) Its evidence-based assessment covers cross-cutting opportunities, risks and impacts across domains

Q25. Which pair correctly captures the separate functions of the UN AI panel and the Global Dialogue envisaged in resolution 79/325?

(A) Technology patents issued by the panel; customs sanctions imposed by the Dialogue

(B) Panel assessments and Dialogue deliberations

(C) Peacekeeping mandates drafted by the panel; military enforcement by the Dialogue

(D) Binding judgments by the panel; appeals to the Dialogue

Passage 6

In July 2026, UNESCO inscribed the Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath, in Uttar Pradesh, on the World Heritage List. UNESCO reported that it became India's 45th World Heritage property at that point. Sarnath is especially significant in Buddhist history as the place traditionally associated with the Buddha's first sermon after enlightenment, often linked with the setting in motion of the wheel of Dharma. The site comprises archaeological and sacred remains associated with centuries of Buddhist religious activity. The 2026 inscription was a World Heritage decision about a physical cultural site; it should not be confused with the earlier inscription of Deepavali as an intangible cultural practice.

Q26. An administrator argues that ICOMOS itself inscribed a cultural site on the World Heritage List. Under the 1972 Convention, which body actually decides inscription?

(A) The World Heritage Committee

(B) The International Court of Justice

(C) The UNESCO Institute for Statistics

(D) The General Assembly of the United Nations

Q27. A conservation plan is praised for protecting the famous Dhamek Stupa while ignoring a nearby site associated with Ashoka's Buddhist patronage. Which Sarnath artefact-site association deserves separate historical scrutiny?

(A) The Ashokan lion-capital tradition associated with the pillar at Sarnath

(B) The Great Stupa at Sanchi erected in the Deer Park at Sarnath

(C) The Gandhara Kanishka reliquary excavated exclusively at Sarnath

(D) The Mauryan rock edicts of Girnar located within the Sarnath precinct

Q28. If a World Heritage property is nominated for cultural significance, which pair of advisory bodies is most accurately distinguished within UNESCO's heritage system?

(A) IUCN exclusively advises on all cultural properties; ICOMOS licenses wildlife reserves

(B) WHO evaluates archaeological authenticity; ICAO assesses monument conservation

(C) ICOMOS for culture and IUCN for nature

(D) UNDP advises on inscription criteria; UNESCO's General Conference independently decides each case

Q29. A tour guide describes Sarnath as the place where the Buddha attained enlightenment. Which historically accepted four-site distinction corrects the claim?

(A) Enlightenment at Vaishali; first sermon traditionally associated with Nalanda

(B) Enlightenment at Kushinagar; first sermon traditionally associated with Rajgir

(C) Bodh Gaya for enlightenment; Sarnath for the first sermon

(D) Enlightenment at Sarnath; first sermon traditionally associated with Lumbini

Q30. A state proposes restoring only the monument and excludes consideration of the surrounding setting and associated historic layers. Which heritage test is most relevant to judging whether the nominated property communicates its recognised value?

(A) The rule that monument interiors alone constitute every cultural property's boundary

(B) Automatic substitution of intangible-heritage safeguards for conservation conditions

(C) Exclusive reliance on tourism arrivals as the criterion for value

(D) Integrity and authenticity assessed in relation to the attributes conveying outstanding universal value