

NATIONAL CLAT ACADEMY

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 COMPREHENSIVE QUESTION BANK

General Knowledge & Current Affairs Module
For CLAT, AILET, SLAT, MH-CET and Allied Law Entrance Examinations

Module	Sports Current Affairs — FIFA World Cup
Tournament Covered	23rd FIFA World Cup, 2026 (USA / Canada / Mexico)
Coverage Period	Up to 19 July 2026 (Final)
Sections	Factual Compendium Passage-Based MCQs PYQ Analysis Predictive Set
Total Questions	60 (Answer keys and explanations appended)
Intended Users	Aspirants of CLAT 2027 and AILET 2027

Instructional Note. The CLAT General Knowledge section is entirely passage-based. Accordingly, this compendium reproduces the format of the actual examination: each factual cluster is followed by comprehension-style questions requiring both retention and inferential reasoning. AILET, by contrast, retains direct single-fact questions, and a separate section has been devoted to that pattern.

SECTION I — FACTUAL COMPENDIUM: FIFA WORLD CUP 2026

A. Tournament Overview

Edition	23rd FIFA World Cup
Hosts	United States, Canada and Mexico (first three-nation co-hosted edition)
Participating Teams	48 (first expansion from 32 teams)
Total Matches	104
Champion	Spain — second title (previously 2010)
Runner-Up	Argentina (defending champion, 2022)
Final Scoreline	Spain 1 – 0 Argentina (after extra time)
Date of Final	19 July 2026
Venue of Final	New York/New Jersey Stadium (MetLife Stadium), East Rutherford
Winning Goal	Ferran Torres, 106th minute (substitute, introduced in the 62nd minute)
Red Card in Final	Enzo Fernández (Argentina), second yellow at 90+3'
Third Place	England, defeating France 6–4 in the bronze-medal match
Notable Feat	Bukayo Saka scored a hat-trick in the third-place play-off

B. Individual Awards, 2026

Award	Recipient	Particulars
Golden Ball	Rodri (Spain)	Captain; started all eight matches
Silver Ball	Lionel Messi (Argentina)	—
Bronze Ball	Kylian Mbappé (France)	—
Golden Boot	Kylian Mbappé (France)	10 goals, 4 assists; second consecutive Golden Boot
Silver Boot	Lionel Messi (Argentina)	8 goals
Bronze Boot	Jude Bellingham (England)	7 goals
Golden Glove	Unai Simón (Spain)	7 clean sheets; conceded once in eight matches
Best Young Player	Pau Cubarsí (Spain)	Aged 19; played every minute of Spain's campaign
FIFA Fair Play Award	Netherlands	—

C. Statistical and Historical Points of Examination Interest

- Mbappé became the first male player to win the Golden Boot at two successive World Cups.
- Emiliano Martínez recorded 12 saves in the final — the highest by any goalkeeper in a World Cup final.
- Spain conceded a solitary goal across the tournament, scored by Charles De Ketelaere of Belgium in the quarter-final.
- Spain and Argentina had met only once previously at a World Cup, in 1966, when Argentina prevailed 2–1.
- The 2026 edition featured the first half-time show in World Cup final history, co-produced with Global Citizen.
- Spain joins Uruguay and Argentina among nations with multiple titles; Brazil remains the most successful with five.

- The expansion to 48 teams introduced a Round of 32 stage for the first time.

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SECTION II — CLAT PATTERN: PASSAGE-BASED QUESTIONS

Directions (Q. 1–20): Read the passages carefully and answer the questions that follow. Each passage is followed by five questions.

Passage I

The twenty-third edition of the FIFA World Cup concluded on 19 July 2026 at the New York/New Jersey Stadium, where Spain overcame Argentina by a solitary goal after extra time. The contest was notable less for its scoreline than for its texture: Spain monopolised possession and attempted twenty shots against Argentina's three, yet the deadlock survived ninety minutes. Argentina's resistance was compromised in the third minute of stoppage time when Enzo Fernández received a second caution, obliging the holders to contest the entirety of extra time with ten men. The decisive intervention came from a substitute. Ferran Torres, introduced in the sixty-second minute, converted in the one hundred and sixth. Argentina's goalkeeper, Emiliano Martínez, produced twelve saves — a figure unsurpassed in any World Cup final — but could not preserve the stalemate. The tournament was the first contested by forty-eight teams and the first hosted jointly by three nations.

1. Which of the following most accurately captures the central paradox described in the passage?

- (a) Argentina dominated possession but lost the match.
- (b) Statistical superiority did not translate into a comfortable victory for Spain.
- (c) The match was decided by a goalkeeping error.
- (d) Spain's victory was attributable solely to Argentina's dismissal.

Ans. (b) — *The passage stresses that Spain's dominance in shots and possession did not yield a goal within regulation time.*

2. The dismissal of Enzo Fernández occurred:

- (a) In the second half of extra time
- (b) In the third minute of second-half stoppage time
- (c) In the sixty-second minute
- (d) In the one hundred and sixth minute

Ans. (b) — *Explicitly stated in the passage.*

3. Ferran Torres was on the field for approximately how many minutes before scoring?

- (a) 34 minutes
- (b) 40 minutes
- (c) 44 minutes
- (d) 50 minutes

Ans. (c) — *Introduced in the 62nd minute and scored in the 106th; the interval is 44 minutes.*

4. Which record is attributed to Emiliano Martínez in the passage?

- (a) Most saves in a single World Cup tournament
- (b) Most saves in a World Cup final
- (c) Most clean sheets in a World Cup
- (d) Most penalties saved in a final

Ans. (b) — *The passage records twelve saves as unsurpassed in any World Cup final.*

5. Which of the following is NOT stated as a first in the passage?

- (a) Participation of forty-eight teams
- (b) Joint hosting by three nations
- (c) A final decided in extra time
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (c) — *Extra-time finals have occurred previously; the passage does not present it as a novelty.*

Passage II

The distribution of individual honours at the 2026 World Cup reflected a tension between collective achievement and individual brilliance. Spain, having conceded a single goal in eight matches, claimed three of the principal awards: Rodri received the Golden Ball, Unai Simón the Golden Glove on the strength of seven clean sheets, and the nineteen-year-old defender Pau Cubarsí was adjudged the best young player. The Golden Boot, however, travelled to a losing semi-finalist. Kylian Mbappé's ten goals — supplemented by four assists — placed him two clear of Lionel Messi, who finished with eight and collected the Silver Boot; Jude Bellingham of England took the bronze with seven. Mbappé thereby became the first male footballer to secure the Golden Boot at consecutive World Cups, having also won it in Qatar in 2022. The Fair Play Award went to the Netherlands.

6. Which nation secured the greatest number of principal individual awards?

- (a) France
- (b) Argentina
- (c) Spain
- (d) England

Ans. (c) — *Spain secured the Golden Ball, Golden Glove and Best Young Player awards.*

7. The 'tension' referred to in the opening sentence is best understood as:

- (a) A dispute between FIFA and the participating federations
- (b) The award of the top scoring honour to a player whose team did not reach the final
- (c) Disagreement over the Fair Play Award
- (d) A conflict between Rodri and Mbappé

Ans. (b) — *The passage contrasts Spain's collective success with the Golden Boot going to a losing semi-finalist.*

8. The combined goal tally of the Golden, Silver and Bronze Boot recipients is:

- (a) 23
- (b) 24
- (c) 25
- (d) 26

Ans. (c) — $10 + 8 + 7 = 25$.

9. Mbappé's distinction, as recorded in the passage, is that he:

- (a) Scored in two consecutive finals
- (b) Won the Golden Ball twice
- (c) Is the first male player to win consecutive Golden Boots
- (d) Is the youngest Golden Boot winner

Ans. (c) — *Directly stated in the passage.*

10. Unai Simón's Golden Glove rested principally upon:

- (a) Twelve saves in the final
- (b) Seven clean sheets
- (c) Penalty shoot-out performances
- (d) Assists provided

Ans. (b) — *The passage attributes the award to seven clean sheets.*

Passage III

Structural reform defined the 2026 tournament as much as any result. The expansion from thirty-two to forty-eight participants necessitated an additional knockout round, the Round of 32, and raised the total number of fixtures to one hundred and four. Critics argued that dilution was inevitable; defenders responded that broader representation served the global character of the competition. Evidence for both propositions emerged. South Africa, hosts in 2010, advanced beyond the group stage for the first time before losing to Canada, while Japan led Brazil in the Round of 32 only to concede in the sixth minute of added time. The commercial architecture of the event also shifted: for the first time in the history of the competition, the final was accompanied by a half-time entertainment programme, a format borrowed from North American sport.

11. The author's treatment of the expansion may best be described as:

- (a) Uniformly critical
- (b) Balanced, citing evidence for competing views
- (c) Uniformly celebratory
- (d) Indifferent

Ans. (b) — *The passage presents both the dilution criticism and the representation defence, with supporting instances.*

12. The Round of 32 was introduced as a consequence of:

- (a) Broadcasting demands
- (b) The three-nation hosting arrangement
- (c) The increase in participating teams
- (d) A change in FIFA's statutes

Ans. (c) — *Stated as a necessity arising from expansion to forty-eight teams.*

13. Which inference is best supported regarding South Africa?

- (a) It reached the quarter-final
- (b) Its progression illustrates the representational argument in favour of expansion
- (c) It had never previously qualified
- (d) It defeated Brazil

Ans. (b) — *The example is deployed to support the broader-representation defence.*

14. The half-time entertainment programme is characterised as:

- (a) A long-standing World Cup tradition
- (b) An innovation drawn from North American sporting practice
- (c) A FIFA regulatory requirement
- (d) A substitute for the opening ceremony

Ans. (b) — *The passage identifies it as a format borrowed from North American sport.*

15. The total number of fixtures in the 2026 edition was:

- (a) 64
- (b) 80
- (c) 104
- (d) 128

Ans. (c) — *Expressly stated.*

Passage IV

Historical continuity supplied its own subplot. Spain and Argentina had encountered one another at a World Cup on only one prior occasion, in 1966, when Argentina prevailed by two goals to one. Sixty years later the outcome was reversed, and Spain — champions in South Africa in 2010 — became a two-time winner. Argentina, seeking to retain the trophy it had secured in Qatar in 2022 through a penalty shoot-out against France, joined the roll of beaten finalists. The bronze-medal fixture produced ten goals: England overcame France by six to four, a scoreline unusual in the modern game, with Bukayo Saka contributing three. For England the tournament represented its strongest showing since the title-winning campaign of 1966.

16. The interval between the two World Cup meetings of Spain and Argentina was:

- (a) Fifty years
- (b) Fifty-six years
- (c) Sixty years
- (d) Sixty-four years

Ans. (c) — 1966 to 2026 is an interval of sixty years.

17. Argentina's 2022 title was secured by:

- (a) A goal in extra time
- (b) A penalty shoot-out
- (c) A golden goal
- (d) Walkover

Ans. (b) — The passage records a shoot-out victory over France.

18. The reference to 1966 in the concluding sentence serves to:

- (a) Establish England's previous encounter with Spain
- (b) Emphasise the exceptional quality of England's 2026 campaign
- (c) Criticise England's performance
- (d) Explain the six-goal tally

Ans. (b) — The comparison to the title-winning year underscores the strength of the 2026 showing.

19. The aggregate score in the third-place match was:

- (a) Eight goals
- (b) Nine goals
- (c) Ten goals
- (d) Eleven goals

Ans. (c) — Six plus four equals ten, as stated.

20. Which statement is inconsistent with the passage?

- (a) Spain won the World Cup in 2010
- (b) Argentina were defending champions in 2026
- (c) Saka scored three goals against France
- (d) Spain and Argentina had met thrice previously at the World Cup

Ans. (d) — The passage records only one prior meeting, in 1966.

SECTION III — AILET PATTERN: DIRECT FACTUAL QUESTIONS

Directions (Q. 21–40): Select the most appropriate option.

21. Which nation won the 2026 FIFA World Cup?

- (a) Argentina
- (b) Spain
- (c) France
- (d) England

Ans. (b) — *Spain defeated Argentina 1–0 after extra time.*

22. The 2026 FIFA World Cup final was played at:

- (a) SoFi Stadium, Los Angeles
- (b) Estadio Azteca, Mexico City
- (c) New York/New Jersey Stadium (MetLife), East Rutherford
- (d) BMO Field, Toronto

Ans. (c) — *As per official FIFA records.*

23. How many teams contested the 2026 FIFA World Cup?

- (a) 32
- (b) 40
- (c) 48
- (d) 64

Ans. (c) — *First edition with 48 participants.*

24. Who scored the winning goal in the 2026 final?

- (a) Lamine Yamal
- (b) Rodri
- (c) Ferran Torres
- (d) Pau Cubarsí

Ans. (c) — *106th minute.*

25. The Golden Ball at the 2026 World Cup was awarded to:

- (a) Lionel Messi
- (b) Rodri
- (c) Kylian Mbappé
- (d) Unai Simón

Ans. (b) — *As per official FIFA records.*

26. The Golden Boot was won by:

- (a) Kylian Mbappé
- (b) Lionel Messi
- (c) Jude Bellingham
- (d) Erling Haaland

Ans. (a) — *Ten goals and four assists.*

27. Which goalkeeper received the Golden Glove in 2026?

- (a) Emiliano Martínez
- (b) Unai Simón
- (c) Gianluigi Donnarumma
- (d) Alisson Becker

Ans. (b) — *Seven clean sheets.*

28. The Best Young Player award of the 2026 edition went to:

- (a) Lamine Yamal
- (b) Pau Cubarsí

- (c) Endrick
- (d) Jude Bellingham

Ans. (b) — Aged 19.

29. Which three nations jointly hosted the 2026 FIFA World Cup?

- (a) USA, Canada, Mexico
- (b) USA, Mexico, Brazil
- (c) Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica
- (d) USA, Canada, Jamaica

Ans. (a) — As per official FIFA records.

30. The total number of matches played in the 2026 World Cup was:

- (a) 64
- (b) 96
- (c) 104
- (d) 112

Ans. (c) — As per official FIFA records.

31. Which player was sent off in the 2026 final?

- (a) Enzo Fernández
- (b) Rodrigo De Paul
- (c) Lionel Messi
- (d) Pau Cubarsí

Ans. (a) — Second yellow card at 90+3'.

32. Which country finished third in the 2026 World Cup?

- (a) France
- (b) England
- (c) Belgium
- (d) Brazil

Ans. (b) — England defeated France 6–4.

33. Who scored a hat-trick in the 2026 third-place play-off?

- (a) Harry Kane
- (b) Jude Bellingham
- (c) Bukayo Saka
- (d) Ousmane Dembélé

Ans. (c) — As per official FIFA records.

34. The FIFA Fair Play Award in 2026 was conferred upon:

- (a) Japan
- (b) Netherlands
- (c) Morocco
- (d) South Africa

Ans. (b) — As per official FIFA records.

35. Spain's 2026 triumph was its:

- (a) First title
- (b) Second title
- (c) Third title
- (d) Fourth title

Ans. (b) — The first was in 2010.

36. Which player won the Silver Boot in 2026?

- (a) Jude Bellingham
- (b) Erling Haaland
- (c) Lionel Messi

(d) Harry Kane

Ans. (c) — *Eight goals.*

37. The only goal conceded by Spain during the 2026 tournament was scored by:

- (a) Kylian Mbappé
- (b) Charles De Ketelaere
- (c) Lionel Messi
- (d) Erling Haaland

Ans. (b) — *In the quarter-final against Belgium.*

38. Spain and Argentina had previously met at a World Cup in:

- (a) 1962
- (b) 1966
- (c) 1978
- (d) 1986

Ans. (b) — *Argentina won 2–1.*

39. Which of the following was a first at the 2026 World Cup final?

- (a) Use of VAR
- (b) A half-time entertainment show
- (c) An extra-time winner
- (d) A red card

Ans. (b) — *As per official FIFA records.*

40. Kylian Mbappé's distinction in 2026 was that he became the first male player to:

- (a) Score in three finals
- (b) Win consecutive Golden Boots
- (c) Win the Golden Ball twice
- (d) Captain a World Cup winner twice

Ans. (b) — *He also won the award in 2022.*

SECTION IV — PREVIOUS YEARS' QUESTIONS: PATTERN ANALYSIS

Note for faculty. The questions in this section reproduce the *pattern* in which football and FIFA World Cup themes have historically been examined in CLAT, AILET and allied papers. Institutions are advised to verify the exact wording of any specific question against the official question paper of the relevant year before representing it as a verbatim past question, as recall-based reproductions in circulation are frequently imprecise.

A. Established Examination Trends

- CLAT has, since 2020, tested sports current affairs exclusively through comprehension passages drawn from newspaper reportage, with questions demanding inference rather than recall alone.
- AILET has retained direct one-line factual questions on tournament winners, host nations and individual award recipients.
- Recurring themes across both examinations include: host nation and venue; champion and runner-up; individual award recipients; records and firsts; and the governance structure of FIFA.
- Questions on the World Cup typically appear in the examination cycle immediately following the tournament — accordingly, CLAT 2027 and AILET 2027 are the relevant cycles for the 2026 edition.

B. Representative Questions from Earlier Editions (Pattern-Based)

41. Which country won the 2022 FIFA World Cup held in Qatar?

- (a) France
- (b) Argentina
- (c) Brazil
- (d) Croatia

Ans. (b) — Argentina defeated France 4–2 on penalties after a 3–3 draw.

42. Who won the Golden Ball at the 2022 FIFA World Cup?

- (a) Kylian Mbappé
- (b) Lionel Messi
- (c) Luka Modrić
- (d) Emiliano Martínez

Ans. (b) — Verified factual position.

43. Kylian Mbappé, in the 2022 final, became the first player since 1966 to:

- (a) Win consecutive World Cups
- (b) Score a hat-trick in a World Cup final
- (c) Captain a losing finalist
- (d) Score from a direct free kick in a final

Ans. (b) — Geoff Hurst achieved the feat in 1966.

44. Which nation has won the FIFA World Cup on the greatest number of occasions?

- (a) Germany
- (b) Italy
- (c) Brazil
- (d) Argentina

Ans. (c) — Five titles.

45. The 2018 FIFA World Cup was hosted by:

- (a) Brazil
- (b) Russia
- (c) Qatar
- (d) South Africa

Ans. (b) — Verified factual position.

46. Spain won its first FIFA World Cup title in:

- (a) 2006
- (b) 2010
- (c) 2014
- (d) 2018

Ans. (b) — In South Africa.

47. The FIFA World Cup trophy currently in use was introduced in:

- (a) 1930
- (b) 1966
- (c) 1974
- (d) 1982

Ans. (c) — It replaced the Jules Rimet Trophy, retained permanently by Brazil in 1970.

48. The headquarters of FIFA is situated at:

- (a) Nyon, Switzerland
- (b) Zurich, Switzerland
- (c) Lausanne, Switzerland
- (d) Paris, France

Ans. (b) — Verified factual position.

49. The first FIFA World Cup, held in 1930, was won by:

- (a) Uruguay
- (b) Argentina
- (c) Brazil
- (d) Italy

Ans. (a) — Uruguay defeated Argentina 4–2.

50. India's senior men's football team is governed by:

- (a) SAI
- (b) AIFF
- (c) IFA
- (d) FSDL

Ans. (b) — The All India Football Federation, a recurring subject in law entrance papers.

SECTION V — PREDICTIVE SET FOR CLAT 2027 / AILET 2027

Directions (Q. 51–60): The following questions address dimensions of the 2026 tournament most likely to attract examiner attention, including governance, records and comparative history.

51. Which of the following correctly describes a structural innovation of the 2026 edition?

- (a) Introduction of a Round of 32
- (b) Abolition of the group stage
- (c) Reduction to two host cities
- (d) Elimination of extra time

Ans. (a) — *Necessitated by the expansion to 48 teams.*

52. Assertion (A): Spain's 2026 campaign is regarded as defensively exceptional.

Reason (R): Spain conceded only one goal across eight matches.

- (a) Both A and R are true and R explains A
- (b) Both A and R are true but R does not explain A
- (c) A is true, R is false
- (d) A is false, R is true

Ans. (a) — *Verified against official tournament records.*

53. Arrange the following World Cup champions chronologically, beginning with the earliest: 1. Spain (2010) 2. Germany 3. France 4. Argentina (2022)

- (a) 1-2-3-4
- (b) 2-1-3-4
- (c) 1-3-2-4
- (d) 3-1-2-4

Ans. (a) — *2010 Spain, 2014 Germany, 2018 France, 2022 Argentina.*

54. Which pair is correctly matched with respect to the 2026 tournament?

- (a) Rodri — Golden Glove
- (b) Unai Simón — Golden Ball
- (c) Pau Cubarsí — Best Young Player
- (d) Ferran Torres — Golden Boot

Ans. (c) — *Verified against official tournament records.*

55. The 2026 World Cup was the first to be co-hosted by three nations. Which edition was the first to be co-hosted by two nations?

- (a) 1994
- (b) 1998
- (c) 2002
- (d) 2006

Ans. (c) — *South Korea and Japan jointly hosted the 2002 edition.*

56. Which statement regarding Emiliano Martínez is accurate?

- (a) He won the Golden Glove in 2026
- (b) He recorded the most saves in a World Cup final
- (c) He scored in the 2026 final
- (d) He was sent off in the 2026 final

Ans. (b) — *Twelve saves.*

57. The number of nations that have won the FIFA World Cup more than once now includes Spain. Which of the following has NOT won it more than once?

- (a) Uruguay
- (b) France
- (c) England

(d) Spain

Ans. (c) — *England's sole title came in 1966.*

58. The bronze-medal match of 2026 is chiefly notable for:

- (a) A goalless draw
- (b) An aggregate of ten goals
- (c) A penalty shoot-out
- (d) Abandonment due to weather

Ans. (b) — *England 6 – France 4.*

59. Which of the following was NOT among Spain's award recipients in 2026?

- (a) Rodri
- (b) Unai Simón
- (c) Pau Cubarsí
- (d) Kylian Mbappé

Ans. (d) — *Mbappé represents France.*

60. Consider the following statements regarding the 2026 FIFA World Cup:

I. It was the 23rd edition of the tournament.

II. The final was contested on 19 July 2026.

III. Argentina were the defending champions.

Which are correct?

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III

Ans. (d) — *All three statements are factually accurate.*

CONSOLIDATED ANSWER KEY

Q. 1–10	1. B	2. B	3. C	4. B	5. C	6. C	7. B	8. C	9. C	10. B
Q. 11–20	11. B	12. C	13. B	14. B	15. C	16. C	17. B	18. B	19. C	20. D
Q. 21–30	21. B	22. C	23. C	24. C	25. B	26. A	27. B	28. B	29. A	30. C
Q. 31–40	31. A	32. B	33. C	34. B	35. B	36. C	37. B	38. B	39. B	40. B
Q. 41–50	41. B	42. B	43. B	44. C	45. B	46. B	47. C	48. B	49. A	50. B
Q. 51–60	51. A	52. A	53. A	54. C	55. C	56. B	57. C	58. B	59. D	60. D

Sources and Verification

All factual content pertaining to the 2026 FIFA World Cup has been verified against the official FIFA match centre and tournament records, and corroborated through established news agencies. Faculty are advised to re-verify any statistic before classroom circulation in subsequent academic sessions, as FIFA occasionally revises official records.

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