

Daily Practice — Legal Reasoning · Analytical Reasoning · Quantitative Techniques

Darken one bubble per question. Negative marking applies. Answers and detailed explanations are provided in a separate companion sheet.
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SECTION A — LEGAL REASONING

Q1–12 · 12 Marks

PRINCIPLE A — QUASI-CONTRACTS — SECTIONS 68 TO 72, INDIAN CONTRACT ACT 1872 (Q1–6)

Quasi-contracts are obligations imposed by LAW, not by agreement, to prevent UNJUST ENRICHMENT. Chapter V of the Indian Contract Act 1872 codifies five recognised situations. Section 68: a person INCAPABLE of contracting (minor, lunatic) or one for whom he is bound to provide, is supplied by another with necessaries suited to his condition in life; the supplier is entitled to be REIMBURSED from the property of the incapable person — NOT personally. Section 69: a person paying money which another is BOUND BY LAW to pay, and which payment the payer was INTERESTED in making, is entitled to recover from that other. Section 70: where a person LAWFULLY does anything for another, NOT INTENDING to do so gratuitously, and the other ENJOYS THE BENEFIT, the latter must compensate or restore. Section 71: a finder of goods is bound by the same duty as a bailee. Section 72: money or thing paid or delivered by MISTAKE or under COERCION must be REPAYED — applied in *Sales Tax Officer v. Kanhaiya Lal Mukundlal Saraf* (1959) to mistakes of law. *State of West Bengal v. B. K. Mondal* (1962) is the leading Section 70 authority.

1. A 16-year-old orphan, X, is supplied with school uniforms and prescribed textbooks suited to his station by a shopkeeper Y. X refuses to pay, pleading minority under Section 11 ICA. On Section 68:

- A. Y can sue X personally for the price as if X were a major contracting party
- B. Y cannot recover anything because contracts with minors are VOID ab initio under *Mohori Bibee v. Dharmodas Ghose* (1903)
- C. Y is entitled to be REIMBURSED from the PROPERTY of X (if any) for necessaries suited to X's condition in life — but X is NOT personally liable; Section 68 creates a property-charge remedy, not a personal liability against the minor
- D. Y must wait until X attains majority and then sue on the original contract

2. Z owes a municipal property tax of ₹40,000 in respect of a building Z owns. The Municipality threatens to ATTACH AND SELL the building. Z's tenant W, fearing eviction, pays the tax under protest to prevent the sale. W sues Z for recovery. On Section 69:

- A. W can recover the ₹40,000 from Z — Z was BOUND BY LAW to pay the tax, W was INTERESTED in the payment (to prevent the attachment that would terminate his tenancy), and W's payment discharged Z's legal liability; the elements of Section 69 are satisfied
- B. W cannot recover because the obligation to pay was Z's, not W's
- C. W can recover only if Z had expressly authorised the payment in advance
- D. W's payment is treated as a gratuitous gift to Z because there was no contract

3. A contractor LAWFULLY constructs a boundary wall on land owned by the State on the State's INFORMAL ORAL REQUEST, not intending to do so gratuitously. The State refuses to pay, pointing out that no FORMAL WRITTEN CONTRACT complying with Article 299 of the Constitution was executed. On Section 70 read with *State of West Bengal v. B. K. Mondal* (1962):

- A. The contractor's claim FAILS because Article 299 makes informal contracts with the State void and Section 70 cannot revive a void contract
- B. The contractor recovers full contractual profit — Section 70 places him in the position he would have been in had the formal contract been executed
- C. The contractor's claim under Section 70 SUCCEEDS notwithstanding the Article 299 defect — Section 70 is independent of contract; if the work was lawfully done, not gratuitously, and the State enjoyed the benefit, the State must compensate (limited to reasonable value, not contractual profit) — *B. K. Mondal* squarely so held
- D. The contractor must sue in tort for negligent representation by the State officers

4. A bank, by clerical error, credits ₹5,00,000 to the account of customer C under the MISTAKEN belief that an inward remittance is due to C. The mistake is discovered after two months; C has spent ₹2,00,000 and refuses to repay, pleading 'change of position'. On Section 72 and *Kanhaiya Lal Mukundlal Saraf* (1959):

- A. The bank can recover NOTHING — payment once made is final under the common law doctrine of finality
- B. Section 72 applies — money paid by MISTAKE (including mistake of fact and, per *Kanhaiya Lal*, mistake of law) must be REPAYED; the bank can recover the ₹5,00,000; 'change of position' is at most a discretionary equitable consideration and does not defeat the statutory right of restitution on the facts
- C. The bank can recover only the unspent ₹3,00,000; the ₹2,00,000 already spent is irrecoverable in all circumstances
- D. The bank must prove fraud on C's part to recover under Section 72

5. A finder F picks up an expensive watch from a public road. He takes it home but stores it carelessly; the watch is damaged by rain through a leaking roof. The owner traces F. F's liability is governed by:

- A. Section 71 — the finder owes the duty of a BAILEE, which under Sections 151-152 ICA is the duty of REASONABLE CARE; failure to store with reasonable care makes F liable for the damage notwithstanding that no contract of bailment was ever executed
- B. Section 70 only, restricted to the market value of the watch
- C. No duty at all — finders keepers under the common law of treasure trove
- D. Section 68 — necessaries supplied to the owner

6. Which of the following BEST captures the doctrinal NATURE of obligations under Sections 68-72?

- A. They are CONTRACTUAL obligations enforceable by reading in implied terms of agreement
- B. They are TORTIOUS obligations founded on wrongful conduct of the defendant
- C. They are STATUTORY obligations resembling contract — imposed by law independent of agreement, to prevent UNJUST ENRICHMENT — and remedies sound in restitution rather than damages or specific performance
- D. They are CRIMINAL obligations attracting penal consequences under the *Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita*

PRINCIPLE B — FREE CONSENT — COERCION, UNDUE INFLUENCE, MISREPRESENTATION — SECTIONS 14-19, ICA 1872 (Q7–12)

Section 13 ICA defines CONSENT as two or more persons agreeing upon the SAME thing in the SAME SENSE (consensus ad idem). Section 14 declares consent FREE when not caused by COERCION (s.15), UNDUE INFLUENCE (s.16), FRAUD (s.17), MISREPRESENTATION (s.18) or MISTAKE (ss.20-22). Coercion is committing or threatening to commit an act FORBIDDEN BY THE INDIAN PENAL CODE / BNS, or unlawfully detaining property, to cause a person to enter into an agreement. Undue influence arises where one party is in a position to DOMINATE the will of the other (real or apparent authority, fiduciary relations, mental distress) and uses that position to obtain an UNFAIR ADVANTAGE — the burden of proof shifts to the dominant party once domination is shown (s.16(3)). Misrepresentation under s.18 is INNOCENT false statement of material fact; fraud under s.17 requires KNOWLEDGE of falsity or recklessness. An agreement vitiated by coercion, undue influence, fraud or misrepresentation is VOIDABLE at the option of the party whose consent was so caused (s.19). Mannu Singh v. Umadat Pande (1890), Lakshmi Amma v. Talengala Narayana Bhatta (1970) and Subhas Chandra Das Mushib v. Ganga Prosad Das Mushib (1967) are leading.

7. X threatens to FILE A CIVIL SUIT for recovery of an alleged debt against Y, unless Y signs a guarantee for a third party's loan. Y signs under that pressure. Y subsequently pleads coercion under s.15. The plea will MOST LIKELY:

- A. Succeed — any threat that overcomes free will is coercion
- B. FAIL — a threat to take LAWFUL legal action (filing a civil suit) is NOT an act 'forbidden by the IPC/BNS' and does not fall within s.15; pressure must arise from an act that is itself criminally forbidden or from unlawful detention of property to constitute coercion
- C. Succeed only if X's claim against Y was demonstrably false
- D. Succeed only if the threat was communicated in writing

8. A spiritual guru persuades his elderly disciple, suffering from dementia and entirely dependent on the guru, to gift the disciple's entire estate to the guru's ashram. The disciple's family challenges the gift. Per Mannu Singh v. Umadat Pande (1890) and s.16:

- A. The gift is unimpeachable — voluntary transfers are not subject to s.16
- B. The family must affirmatively prove that the guru exercised improper pressure beyond reasonable doubt
- C. The guru stands in a position to DOMINATE the disciple's will (spiritual authority + dependence + mental infirmity); a transaction conferring an UNFAIR advantage triggers the s.16(3) PRESUMPTION — the burden shifts to the guru to prove the transaction was not induced by undue influence, and unrebutted, the gift is voidable
- D. The transaction is governed exclusively by the Hindu Succession Act, not by s.16

9. A seller, honestly believing his statement to be true, tells a buyer that the second-hand car has run only 30,000 km; the actual odometer reading is 1,30,000 km. The seller had received the car from a previous owner whose declaration the seller had not verified. On discovering the truth, the buyer wishes to RESCIND. The seller's statement is:

- A. FRAUD under s.17 because the seller failed to verify
- B. Neither fraud nor misrepresentation — caveat emptor applies absolutely to second-hand goods
- C. Mistake under s.20 — common to both parties — rendering the contract VOID ab initio
- D. MISREPRESENTATION under s.18 — an INNOCENT positive assertion of a material fact that turns out to be false; fraud requires KNOWLEDGE of falsity or RECKLESS disregard which is absent here. Under s.19, the buyer may RESCIND the contract or insist on performance

10. X, acting under coercion that vitiates her consent under s.15, executes a sale deed transferring her ancestral land to Y. Y then sells the land to Z, a bona fide purchaser for value without notice of the coercion. X discovers the coercion two years later. On s.19 read with the rules of voidable contracts:

- A. The original X-Y agreement is VOIDABLE at X's option. UNTIL X avoids it, title passed to Y; Y could pass good title to Z, a BONA FIDE PURCHASER for value WITHOUT NOTICE. X's avoidance now does NOT defeat Z's title; X's remedy is against Y in damages or restitution, not against Z
- B. X cannot challenge the original transfer at all once she signed
- C. X can recover the land from Z absolutely — voidable contracts confer no title at any stage
- D. Z's title depends solely on whether Z paid market value

11. A lender knowingly tells a desperate borrower that the prevailing market rate of interest is 36% per annum (true rate is 12%) to induce the borrower to accept a 30% loan. The borrower accepts. On s.17 (FRAUD) versus s.16 (UNDUE INFLUENCE):

- A. Only s.16 applies because the borrower was financially desperate
- B. Only s.17 applies because the lender lied
- C. BOTH may be argued in the alternative — s.17 fraud is made out by the KNOWING false statement of material fact intended to induce the contract; s.16 undue influence may additionally apply if the lender is in a position to dominate the borrower's will (e.g., monopoly lender in distress sale) and obtained an unconscionable advantage — pleadings under both are permissible, with rescission as the common remedy under s.19
- D. Neither applies — the statement was opinion, not fact

12. Which of the following is NOT, by itself, sufficient to establish UNDUE INFLUENCE under Section 16, per Subhas Chandra Das Mushib (1967)?

- A. A position to dominate the will of the other party
- B. Use of that position to obtain an unfair advantage from the transaction
- C. Mere INEQUALITY of bargaining power, ABSENT both a position to dominate the will AND a transaction showing an unfair advantage — inequality alone does not establish undue influence; the two structural elements are independently required
- D. A fiduciary relation coupled with a transaction conferring unconscionable benefit on the dominant party

SECTION B — ANALYTICAL REASONING

Q13–20 · 8 Marks

PUZZLE 1 — CALENDAR PUZZLE — TWO-MONTH WINDOW SPANNING A LEAP-YEAR BOUNDARY (FEBRUARY-MARCH 2024) (Q13–16)

Six events E1, E2, E3, E4, E5 and E6 are scheduled across February 2024 and March 2024. 2024 is a LEAP YEAR, so February has 29 days. The events must respect every constraint below. Each event occupies exactly one calendar day; no two events share a day.

1. February 2024 begins on a THURSDAY (this is a given fact for 2024).
2. E1 is scheduled on the LAST DAY of February 2024.
3. E2 is scheduled exactly TEN DAYS after E1 (counting E1 as day 0, so E2 falls on day 10 thereafter).
4. E3 is scheduled on a SUNDAY in March 2024, but NOT the first or the last Sunday of March.
5. E4 is scheduled on the day immediately AFTER E3.
6. E5 is scheduled exactly ONE WEEK BEFORE E1.
7. E6 is scheduled on a Wednesday in March 2024, and the date number of E6 is a PERFECT SQUARE (1, 4, 9, 16 or 25).
8. No two events share the same day of the week unless explicitly required.

13. On which date does E1 fall?

- A. February 28, 2024 (Wednesday)
 B. February 29, 2024 (Thursday)
 C. February 29, 2024 (Friday)
 D. March 1, 2024 (Friday)

14. Which day of the week does E2 fall on?

- A. Sunday B. Saturday
 C. Monday D. Tuesday

15. What is the date of E6, given constraint 7 (Wednesday in March + date is a perfect square)?

- A. March 4, 2024
 B. March 9, 2024
 C. March 16, 2024
 D. Cannot be determined — multiple Wednesdays in March 2024 have perfect-square dates

16. Which of the following statements is DEFINITELY TRUE on the eight constraints?

- A. E5 falls on February 22, 2024 (Thursday) and E3 falls on March 17, 2024 (Sunday)
 B. E5 falls on March 1, 2024
 C. E3 and E6 fall on the same week
 D. E4 falls in February 2024

PUZZLE 2 – MATHEMATICAL OPERATOR SUBSTITUTION PUZZLE (BODMAS REMAP) (Q17–20)

In a coded numeric system, the four standard arithmetic operators have been REMAPPED. The symbols below mean exactly what the right-hand column states; ordinary BODMAS (brackets first, then division/multiplication, then addition/subtraction) applies to the REMAPPED operations:

- + means MULTIPLY (×)
 − means DIVIDE (÷)
 × means ADD (+)
 ÷ means SUBTRACT (−)

Thus, for example, '6 + 2 − 3 × 1' decodes to '6 × 2 ÷ 3 + 1' which equals (6×2)÷3 + 1 = 4 + 1 = 5.

Further rules:

1. All numerals in the questions are their ordinary decimal values.
2. BODMAS applies to the DECODED operators (so decoded × and ÷ bind tighter than decoded + and −).
3. Parentheses, where present, bind first as usual.
4. Each question gives an encoded expression and asks for the decoded numerical value.

Where a unique value cannot be determined from the constraints (e.g., an option matches a different decoding convention), select 'Cannot be determined'.

17. Evaluate the decoded value of: 8 + 4 − 2 × 3

- A. 13 B. 19
 C. 21 D. 27

18. Evaluate the decoded value of: (10 − 2) × 5 + 1

- A. 10 B. 9
 C. 6 D. 21

19. Evaluate the decoded value of: 12 ÷ 4 + 3 − 2

- A. 10.5 B. 13
 C. 11.5 D. 7

20. Evaluate the decoded value of: 6 × 3 + 2 − 4 × 1

- A. 10.5 B. 7.5
 C. 5.5 D. 4.5

SECTION C – QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

Q21–30 · 10 Marks

DATA SET 1 – DEFENCE EXPORTS VS IMPORTS – TOP 4 PARTNER COUNTRIES BY PRODUCT CATEGORY, FY24 (₹ CRORE) (Q21–25)

The table summarises India's defence trade in FY24 with its top four partner countries — France, USA, Russia and Israel — split across three product categories: Aircraft & Components (A), Missiles & Munitions (M), and Naval Systems (N). For each country, the table reports India's EXPORTS to that country and India's IMPORTS from that country in ₹ crore, totalled across the three categories shown. The Net-Trade column is Exports minus Imports (a positive number means India is a net exporter to that partner; a negative number means India is a net importer). All figures are in ₹ crore and are FY24 provisional. Use the table to compare bilateral trade balances, identify the dominant category in each direction, and compute aggregate trade metrics across the four partners.

