

**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 – DOCTRINE OF PITH AND SUBSTANCE – ARTICLE 246 OF THE CONSTITUTION (Q1–6)**

Under Article 246 of the Constitution of India, Parliament and the State Legislatures derive their law-making power from the three Lists in the Seventh Schedule. When a question arises whether a particular enactment falls within the competence of the enacting legislature, courts apply the doctrine of pith and substance. The court looks at the true nature and character of the impugned law as a whole — its object, scope, and effect — rather than at any incidental feature. If the law, in pith and substance, falls within the entry assigned to the enacting legislature, it remains valid even if it incidentally encroaches upon a field reserved for the other legislature. The doctrine was articulated in *Prafulla Kumar Mukherjee v. Bank of Commerce* (1947) and reaffirmed in *State of Bombay v. F.N. Balsara* (1951). The Lists are not watertight compartments; some overlap is inevitable, and an incidental trespass does not destroy legislative competence. A related but distinct rule prohibits colourable legislation — where the substantial purpose is masked by an apparent one.

**1. Parliament enacts a Banking Regulation Amendment Act which incidentally regulates moneylending businesses owned by banks. A State challenges it on the ground that moneylending is in the State List. The strongest ground to uphold the Act is:**

- A. The State has impliedly consented by failing to legislate on the field earlier.
- B. In pith and substance the law concerns banking; the moneylending impact is incidental.
- C. Article 254 grants Parliament overriding power on every State List subject in any meaningful sense applicable here.
- D. The law is severable and only the moneylending provisions need be struck down.

**2. Which case is most closely identified with the origin and articulation of the pith-and-substance doctrine in Indian constitutional jurisprudence?**

- A. *Indra Sawhney v. Union of India* (1992)
- B. *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala* (1973)
- C. *Prafulla Kumar Mukherjee v. Bank of Commerce* (1947)
- D. *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India* (1978) as discussed in the relevant section of the passage

**3. A State law authorising compulsory acquisition of land for setting up an industrial corridor incidentally affects inter-State trade. Applying pith-and-substance, the law would most likely be:**

- A. Read down to apply only to industrial units within municipal limits under the framework that is conventionally applied.
- B. Struck down because inter-State trade is the Union's exclusive domain.
- C. Held unconstitutional unless ratified by half the States under Article 252.
- D. Upheld; the substantial purpose is acquisition, with trade impact being incidental.

**4. The doctrine of pith and substance is invoked principally to determine:**

- A. Whether a law lies within the legislative competence of its maker.
- B. Whether two laws made on a Concurrent List entry are repugnant under Article 254.
- C. Whether a constitutional amendment violates the basic structure doctrine.
- D. Whether executive action conforms to enabling statutory provisions.

**5. Which of the following statements about pith-and-substance is INCORRECT?**

- A. Incidental encroachment on another List does not by itself invalidate the law.
- B. The doctrine applies only to Concurrent-List repugnancy disputes.
- C. If in pith and substance ultra vires, severability cannot save the law.
- D. The court examines the true nature and character of the impugned law as a whole.

**6. The State of Anantapur passes an Education Cess Act levying a small fee on school admissions but uses the proceeds primarily to fund highway construction. The Act will most likely be:**

- A. Referred to the Inter-State Council under Article 263 for advisory opinion.
- B. Upheld as the levy bears the formal character of an education-related fee.
- C. Struck down as colourable: the pith is highway funding through fee-disguise.
- D. Upheld because Education and highways are both in the State List on a fair reading of the materials provided above.

**PRINCIPLE B – NEGLIGENCE AND CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE – DONOGHUE V. STEVENSON AND THE INDIAN POSITION (Q7–12)**

Negligence in tort consists of (i) a duty of care owed by the defendant to the plaintiff, (ii) a breach of that duty by falling below the standard of a reasonable person, (iii) causation in fact (the 'but-for' test) and in law (proximity / foreseeability), and (iv) actionable damage. The neighbour principle in *Donoghue v. Stevenson* (1932) extended duty beyond contractual privity. Where the plaintiff's own want of care has contributed to the harm, the defence of contributory negligence applies. Indian law, following the Law Reform (Contributory Negligence) Act 1945 in spirit, has moved from the older 'last opportunity' rule to apportionment: damages are reduced in proportion to the plaintiff's share of fault — see *Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay v. Laxman Iyer* (2003). The doctrine of *res ipsa loquitur* reverses the evidentiary burden when the thing speaks for itself, while *volenti non fit injuria* operates as a complete defence where the plaintiff consented to the risk. Children below the age of discretion are generally not held contributorily negligent on adult standards.

7. A pedestrian crosses a road outside the zebra crossing and is hit by a speeding car. The driver was on his mobile phone. The court finds both at fault. Which doctrine governs apportionment of damages?

- A. Volenti non fit injuria — the pedestrian assumed the risk by jaywalking.
- B. Last opportunity rule — only the driver pays since he had the final chance to avoid.
- C. Res ipsa loquitur — the burden shifts entirely to the driver.
- D. Contributory negligence — damages are reduced in proportion to each party's fault.

8. The 'neighbour principle' in *Donoghue v. Stevenson* essentially holds that a person owes a duty of care to those:

- A. Whom one can reasonably foresee as likely to be affected by one's acts or omissions.
- B. Who reside within the territorial jurisdiction of the same High Court.
- C. Who are in a contractual relationship with that person regardless of the precise factual matrix involved.
- D. Whose harm is the proximate and direct legal cause of the act.

9. A four-year-old child runs into the road and is hit by a driver who was driving within the speed limit but distracted. The defence of contributory negligence raised against the child will most likely:

- A. Fail — children below the age of discretion are not held to adult standards of care.
- B. Succeed in full — the child failed to exercise reasonable care.
- C. Be referred to the Juvenile Justice Board for finding of fault.
- D. Succeed partially — damages will be apportioned at 50:50 as a matter of settled doctrinal exposition.

10. X, a passenger, knowingly boards Y's car despite knowing Y is drunk. Y crashes the car. In an action by X against Y, the most appropriate defence for Y is:

- A. Inevitable accident, since the crash could not have been avoided by reasonable care.
- B. Contributory negligence reducing damages by such percentage as the court finds fit.
- C. Act of God, the drunkenness being beyond Y's conscious control at the time.
- D. Volenti non fit injuria, as X voluntarily accepted the risk of intoxicated driving.

11. A sugar bag falls from a warehouse window and injures a passer-by; no witnesses are available. The plaintiff invokes *res ipsa loquitur*. The doctrine operates by:

- A. Creating a presumption of intent equivalent to a criminal *mens rea* finding.
- B. Allowing the plaintiff to claim aggravated damages without proof of injury.
- C. Shifting the burden of explanation onto the defendant, who must rebut the inference of negligence.
- D. Imposing strict liability on the warehouse owner regardless of fault in the orthodox treatment of the subject.

12. Which of the following is NOT an essential ingredient that the plaintiff must establish in an action for negligence?

- A. A duty of care owed by the defendant without reference to any external or extraneous considerations.
- B. A motive on the part of the defendant to cause harm.
- C. Damage caused as a legal consequence of the breach.
- D. A breach of that duty by the defendant.

## SECTION B — ANALYTICAL REASONING

Q13–20 · 8 Marks

### PUZZLE 1 — BOX STACKING — SIX BOXES, SIX COLOURS, TOP TO BOTTOM (Q13–16)

Six boxes labelled P, Q, R, S, T and U are stacked one above the other in a single vertical column. Each box is of a different colour from among Red, Blue, Green, Yellow, White and Black. Position 1 is the top of the stack; position 6 is the bottom. All clues are mutually consistent and lead to a unique arrangement. (i) Box U is Blue and is at position 2. (ii) Box S is at position 1 and S is Yellow. (iii) Box T is White and is at position 3. (iv) Box R is at position 6. (v) Box P is immediately above box Q. (vi) The Red box is immediately above the Green box in the stack. (vii) Box P is not Red.

13. What is the colour of box P?

- A. Yellow
- B. Green
- C. Black
- D. Red

14. What is the colour of box Q?

- A. Black
- B. Red
- C. Yellow
- D. Green

15. How many boxes are placed strictly between the Red box and box T?

- A. Three
- B. Four
- C. Two
- D. One

16. If the Black box were removed from the stack and all boxes below it moved up by one position, the new bottom-most box would be:

- A. R
- B. S
- C. T as the question is ordinarily understood
- D. Q

### PUZZLE 2 — TOURNAMENT RANKING — FIVE PLAYERS, ROUND-ROBIN POINTS (Q17–20)

Five players — Aarav, Bhavna, Chetan, Divya and Esha — played a single round-robin chess tournament in which every player played every other player exactly once. A win earned 2 points, a draw 1 point and a loss 0 points. At the end of the tournament the final points were five distinct integers between 0 and 8 inclusive. All clues below are mutually consistent and the final standing is uniquely determined by them. (i) Aarav finished first with strictly more points than every other player. (ii) Bhavna and Chetan together scored exactly the same number of points as Aarav and Divya together. (iii) Esha lost to Aarav but drew her game against Bhavna. (iv) Divya finished above Esha but below Chetan in the final standings. (v) Chetan won exactly two of his four games and drew none. (vi) The total number of drawn games in the tournament was exactly two.

17. How many points did Aarav score in the tournament?

- A. 8 on the standard view of the matter
- B. 6
- C. 7
- D. 5

18. Which player finished last (with the lowest points)?

- A. Divya
- B. Chetan
- C. Bhavna
- D. Esha

19. Which of the following pairs played a drawn game?

- A. Aarav and Divya
- B. Chetan and Divya
- C. Bhavna and Esha
- D. Aarav and Bhavna

20. If the result of the game between Aarav and Chetan had been reversed (without altering any other result), which player would now top the standings?

- A. Chetan alone
- B. Aarav and Chetan tied
- C. Aarav alone
- D. Bhavna alone

**SECTION C – QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES**

**Q21–30 · 10 Marks**

**DATA SET 1 – INSTALLED RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY IN INDIA BY SOURCE, FY24 AND FY25 (IN GW) (Q21–25)**

The table below shows installed renewable energy capacity in India for the financial years 2023-24 (FY24) and 2024-25 (FY25), disaggregated by source. India's overall renewable target by 2030 is 500 GW. Capacity additions during FY25 reflect strong solar growth, modest wind additions, and a small contraction in small-hydro capacity due to plant decommissioning. The 'Mix FY25' column shows each source as a percentage of total FY25 renewable capacity, rounded to the nearest whole percentage. Use the data in the table to answer the questions that follow. All figures are accurate to the nearest 0.5 GW unless stated otherwise; percentages are rounded values.

Source	FY24 (GW)	FY25 (GW)	YoY change (GW)	Mix FY25 (%)
Solar	82.0	104.5	+22.5	51%
Wind	45.0	49.0	+4.0	24%
Biomass	10.5	11.0	+0.5	5%
Small Hydro	5.0	4.5	-0.5	2%
Large Hydro	37.5	37.0	-0.5	18%
Total	180.0	206.0	+26.0	100%

21. By approximately what percentage did India's total renewable capacity grow from FY24 to FY25?

- A. 13.0%
- B. 11.5%
- C. 14.4%
- D. 16.2% across the range of plausible interpretations

22. Solar capacity in FY25 was approximately what percentage of India's 2030 renewable target of 500 GW?

- A. 24.1%
- B. 20.9%
- C. 28.3%
- D. 17.5% when read in light of subsequent authority

23. What is the ratio of the YoY capacity addition in Solar to the YoY addition in Wind?

- A. 9 : 2
- B. 5 : 1 in the usual run of comparable situations
- C. 11 : 2
- D. 45 : 8

24. If India is to reach the 500 GW target by FY30 and continues to add the same total renewable capacity each year as it did in FY25, by how many GW will it FALL SHORT of the target at the end of FY30?

- A. 164
- B. 104
- C. 144
- D. 124 given the established analytical conventions

25. Which of the following statements is NOT supported by the table?

- A. FY25 saw the largest absolute capacity addition in Solar among all sources.
- B. Solar accounted for more than half of total renewable capacity in FY25.
- C. Wind and Large Hydro together accounted for more than 40% of FY25 capacity.
- D. Every renewable source recorded a positive YoY capacity addition in FY25.

**DATA SET 2 – PER-STUDENT ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON HIGHER EDUCATION ACROSS FIVE INDIAN STATES, FY25 (₹ THOUSAND) (Q26–30)**

The data below presents per-student annual public expenditure on higher education in five Indian States in FY25, disaggregated across four broad expense heads — Teaching salaries, Infrastructure (buildings and equipment), Research grants, and Student welfare (scholarships, hostels, mess). All figures are in thousand rupees per enrolled student per year. Total enrolment in higher education is also given for context. Use the data to answer the questions; in all questions, 'per-student spend' refers to the figures in this table unless stated otherwise. Percentages should be rounded to the nearest whole number where applicable, and all rupee figures are nominal FY25 values without adjustment for inflation across States or scheme variation.

State	Teaching	Infra	Research	Welfare	Enrolment ('000)
Karnataka	42	18	15	10	1,800
Tamil Nadu	48	20	12	12	2,200
Maharashtra	38	22	18	8	2,500
Kerala	55	12	10	18	900
Bihar	32	10	4	6	1,400

26. What is the total per-student annual expenditure on higher education in Kerala?

- A. ₹95,000  
 B. ₹85,000 in any meaningful sense applicable here  
 C. ₹90,000  
 D. ₹98,000

27. Across the five States, which State spends the highest share of its per-student expenditure on Research?

- A. Karnataka  
 B. Kerala as discussed in the relevant section of the passage  
 C. Maharashtra  
 D. Tamil Nadu

28. Approximately what is the total annual public spend on Teaching salaries in Tamil Nadu?

- A. ₹11,440 crore  
 B. ₹10,560 crore  
 C. ₹12,160 crore  
 D. ₹8,800 crore under the framework that is conventionally applied

29. Bihar's total per-student expenditure is approximately what percentage of Kerala's total per-student expenditure?

- A. 65%  
 B. 60%  
 C. 55%  
 D. 48% on a fair reading of the materials provided above

30. If Maharashtra increases its per-student Research spend by 50% and Welfare spend by 25%, while other heads remain unchanged, the new total per-student expenditure becomes:

- A. ₹99,000  
 B. ₹1,01,000  
 C. ₹95,000  
 D. ₹97,000

**SECTION D — RAPID-FIRE MIXED REASONING & GK**

**Q31–36 · 6 Marks**

*Standalone questions covering blood relations, direction sense, syllogism, coding-decoding, simple arithmetic and basic GK. No passage required.*

31. If 'PEN' is coded as 'RGP', then 'INK' is coded as:

- A. GLI regardless of the precise factual matrix involved  
 B. KPM  
 C. JOL  
 D. KOM

32. Pointing to a photograph, Mira says, 'The lady in the picture is the only daughter of my mother's mother.' How is the lady in the picture related to Mira?

- A. Mother  
 B. Aunt as a matter of settled doctrinal exposition  
 C. Sister  
 D. Cousin

33. A man walks 4 km east, then 3 km south, then 8 km west, then 3 km north. How far is he now from his starting point and in which direction?

- A. 5 km south-west  
 B. 4 km east  
 C. 3 km north-east  
 D. 4 km west

34. Statements: All teachers are readers. Some readers are writers. Conclusion I: Some teachers are writers. Conclusion II: All writers are readers. Which follows?

- A. Neither I nor II follows  
 B. Both I and II follow  
 C. Only I follows in the orthodox treatment of the subject  
 D. Only II follows

35. Find the next term in the series: 7, 13, 25, 49, 97, ?

- A. 201 without reference to any external or extraneous considerations  
 B. 193  
 C. 169  
 D. 181

36. Article 21 of the Constitution of India guarantees:

- A. Right to constitutional remedies  
 B. Right to freedom of speech and expression  
 C. Right to life and personal liberty  
 D. Right to equality before the law