

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 RES IPSA LOQUITUR IN THE LAW OF NEGLIGENCE (Q1–6)

PRINCIPLE: Res ipsa loquitur, Latin for 'the thing speaks for itself', is an evidentiary doctrine in tort that permits an inference of negligence to be drawn from the very occurrence of an accident, without proof of specific negligent acts. For the doctrine to apply, three conditions must be cumulatively satisfied: (i) the instrumentality causing the harm was within the exclusive control and management of the defendant or its servants; (ii) the accident is of a kind which, in the ordinary course of things, does not happen if those who have such management exercise proper care; and (iii) there is no evidence of the actual cause of the accident. When invoked successfully, the doctrine shifts the evidentiary burden onto the defendant to offer a reasonable explanation consistent with the absence of negligence; it does not reverse the legal burden of proof. The doctrine cannot be invoked where the cause of the accident is fully known, or where the harm is equally consistent with non-negligent causes. Leading authorities: *Byrne v. Boadle* (1863) and *Pushpabai Purshottam Udeshi v. Ranjit Ginning Co.* (1977).

1. While walking past the warehouse of Acme Foods, Reema is struck on the head by a sack of flour that falls from a second-floor opening. There is no eye-witness to the act of loading and the company offers no evidence about how the sack came to fall. Reema sues for negligence. The most accurate position is:

- A. Reema fails because she has not proved a specific act of negligence by any employee
- B. Reema succeeds; the conditions of res ipsa loquitur are satisfied and the company has offered no explanation
- C. Reema must first identify the specific employee responsible before any inference of negligence may be drawn
- D. Reema fails because warehouse operations are inherently dangerous and the doctrine does not apply

2. Which of the following is NOT a condition for the doctrine of res ipsa loquitur to apply?

- A. The instrumentality causing harm was in the exclusive control of the defendant
- B. The accident is of a kind that does not ordinarily happen in the absence of negligence
- C. The plaintiff must prove the exact mechanism of the negligent act
- D. There is no direct evidence of the actual cause of the accident

3. A patient enters a hospital for routine knee surgery and emerges with severe burns to her abdomen, unconnected to the surgical site. The hospital's records do not explain the burns. In her suit, the hospital pleads that the cause of the burns is unknown. The legal position is:

- A. The hospital wins because the cause of the burns is unknown
- B. Res ipsa loquitur applies; such burns do not occur during routine surgery in the absence of negligence, and the patient was within the hospital's exclusive control
- C. The patient must call expert medical testimony before any inference can be drawn
- D. The hospital is automatically liable on a strict-liability basis without any need for the doctrine

4. A bus operated by the State Transport Corporation suddenly veers off the highway and overturns, causing injuries to passengers. The driver dies in the accident. No mechanical defect is identified. Survivors sue. Which is the most accurate analysis?

- A. The Corporation is not liable because the driver, who alone could explain the cause, has died
- B. Res ipsa loquitur applies; a bus does not ordinarily veer off the road absent negligence, and the Corporation, through its driver, was in exclusive control
- C. The Corporation is liable only if passengers can prove the driver was speeding
- D. Liability rests on the highway authority for road design, not the Corporation

5. Which of the following statements is INCORRECT based on the stated principle?

- A. Res ipsa loquitur shifts the evidentiary burden onto the defendant to offer an innocent explanation
- B. Res ipsa loquitur applies even where the precise cause of the accident is fully known and documented
- C. The doctrine requires exclusive control of the harm-causing instrumentality by the defendant
- D. The doctrine does not relieve the plaintiff of the legal burden of proving negligence on a balance of probabilities

6. A factory boiler explodes, killing three workers. An internal inquiry reveals that the boiler had passed its annual safety inspection two weeks before the explosion and that the explosion was caused by an undetectable metallurgical fatigue. The widows sue, invoking res ipsa loquitur. The most likely outcome is:

- A. The suit succeeds because boiler explosions ordinarily do not occur without negligence
- B. The suit fails because the defendant has offered a complete and credible explanation consistent with the absence of negligence, displacing the inference
- C. The suit succeeds because the burden of proof is permanently reversed under the doctrine
- D. The suit succeeds because boiler operation is inherently dangerous attracting strict liability under *Rylands v. Fletcher*

PRINCIPLE B – NECESSITY AS A GENERAL DEFENCE UNDER THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (Q7–12)

PRINCIPLE: Section 81 of the Indian Penal Code provides that nothing is an offence merely by reason of its being done with the knowledge that it is likely to cause harm, if it be done without any criminal intention to cause harm, and in good faith for the purpose of preventing or avoiding other harm to person or property. The defence requires the cumulative satisfaction of four elements: (i) absence of criminal intention to cause harm; (ii) good faith on the part of the actor; (iii) the act must be done to prevent or avoid harm to person or property; and (iv) the harm sought to be prevented must be greater than the harm actually caused — a proportionality requirement read into the section by case-law. The classic English authority *R v. Dudley and Stephens* (1884) refused necessity as a defence to murder of an innocent person to save the lives of others, suggesting that necessity cannot generally justify the intentional taking of innocent life. The Indian section is wider than the English common-law defence, but courts have read in proportionality. Necessity is distinguished from private defence (Sections 96-106), which responds to a human aggressor, and from compulsion under Section 94 (apprehension of instant death of the actor).

7. The captain of a vessel, in a sudden squall, deliberately runs the ship onto a sandbank to prevent it from sinking and drowning all on board. The owner of the cargo sues the captain for the resulting damage. The most accurate position under Section 81 is:

- A. The captain is criminally liable because he intentionally caused damage to the cargo
- B. The captain has a valid defence of necessity; the harm to cargo was caused in good faith to prevent the greater harm of loss of life
- C. The defence of necessity does not apply to merchant ship captains under any circumstances
- D. The defence applies only if the captain himself was at risk of drowning

8. Which of the following is NOT a requirement for the defence under Section 81 IPC?

- A. Absence of criminal intention to cause harm
- B. Good faith on the part of the actor
- C. The act must be done to prevent or avoid greater harm
- D. The actor must have been physically compelled by another person to act

9. During a building fire, X breaks open the door of Y's locked apartment to rescue Y's infant trapped inside. The door is destroyed in the process. Y sues X for damage to property. The most accurate analysis is:

- A. X is liable because no one expressly authorised the breaking of the door
- B. X has a valid defence under Section 81; the act was done in good faith to prevent grievous harm to a person, and is proportionate
- C. X is liable because rescue of a child is the duty of the fire service alone
- D. X has a valid defence only if X is a relative of Y

10. Which authority is most directly relevant to the proposition that necessity is generally not a defence to the intentional taking of an innocent person's life?

- A. *R v. Dudley and Stephens* (1884)
- B. *Donoghue v. Stevenson* (1932)
- C. *Rylands v. Fletcher* (1868)
- D. *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India* (1987)

11. Which of the following statements is INCORRECT based on the stated principle?

- A. Necessity under Section 81 is distinct from private defence under Sections 96-106
- B. The harm sought to be prevented must be greater than the harm actually caused
- C. The defence applies even where the actor harbours a criminal intention to harm, so long as some good comes of the act
- D. Good faith is an essential component of the defence under Section 81

12. A motorist, faced with a child suddenly running onto the road, swerves sharply to avoid the child and unavoidably damages a parked car. The owner of the parked car sues for criminal mischief. Under Section 81 IPC, the motorist's position is:

- A. The motorist is criminally liable because he caused damage knowingly
- B. The motorist has a complete defence; the act was done in good faith, without criminal intention, to prevent the greater harm of injuring the child
- C. The motorist is liable because the parked car owner was not party to the emergency
- D. The defence applies only if the motorist himself was physically in danger of the impact

SECTION B — ANALYTICAL REASONING

Q13-20 · 8 Marks

PUZZLE 1 — DAY-SUBJECT SCHEDULING — SIX LECTURES ACROSS A WEEK (Q13-16)

A coaching institute schedules exactly six lectures — on Constitutional Law, Torts, Contracts, Jurisprudence, Criminal Law and English — across six different days of a week from Monday to Saturday (no two lectures on the same day; no day is empty). The following conditions hold: (1) The Constitutional Law lecture is delivered on a day immediately after the Contracts lecture. (2) The Jurisprudence lecture is delivered on Wednesday. (3) The English lecture is not delivered on Monday or Saturday. (4) The Torts lecture is delivered on a day before the Criminal Law lecture, with exactly two lectures between them. (5) The Contracts lecture is delivered on an even-numbered day of the week (treating Monday as Day 1). (6) The Criminal Law lecture is not delivered on Friday. Use the conditions to deduce the unique schedule. Treat 'between' as the number of days strictly between the two lectures in question.

13. On which day is the Constitutional Law lecture delivered?

- A. Tuesday
- B. Wednesday
- C. Friday
- D. Saturday

14. Which lecture is delivered on Monday?

- A. Torts
- B. Contracts
- C. English
- D. Criminal Law

15. Which of the following pairs of lectures is delivered on consecutive days?

- A. Torts and Jurisprudence
- B. Contracts and Jurisprudence
- C. English and Criminal Law
- D. Jurisprudence and Criminal Law

Sector	Allocation (%)	Fund Return (%)	Benchmark Return (%)
IT	25%	12%	10%
FMCG	15%	9%	8%
Pharma	10%	20%	16%
Auto	10%	25%	22%
Others	10%	8%	7%

26. What is the AUM (in ₹ crore) allocated to the Financials sector?

- A. ₹1,000 crore B. ₹1,100 crore
 C. ₹1,200 crore D. ₹1,500 crore

27. What is the weighted average GROSS return of the fund across all sectors (rounded to one decimal place)?

- A. 13.7% B. 14.5%
 C. 15.1% D. 16.4%

28. What is the fund's NET return after subtracting the 1.2% expense ratio from the gross weighted return?

- A. 13.3% B. 13.6%
 C. 14.0% D. 14.4%

29. By how many percentage points did the fund's gross weighted return outperform the weighted benchmark return?

- A. 1.6 pp B. 2.0 pp
 C. 2.4 pp D. 2.8 pp

30. Which sector delivered the LARGEST absolute outperformance over its benchmark (Fund return minus Benchmark return)?

- A. Financials B. Pharma
 C. Auto D. IT

SECTION D – RAPID-FIRE MIXED REASONING & GK

Q31-40 · 10 Marks

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

31. In a certain code, BENCH is written as CFODI. How is JUDGE written in the same code?

- A. KVEHF B. KVDHF
 C. KVEHE D. KVFHF

32. Pointing to a woman, Anil said, 'She is the daughter of the only daughter of my grandfather.' How is the woman related to Anil?

- A. Sister B. Cousin
 C. Mother D. Aunt

33. Find the missing term in the series: 3, 7, 15, 31, 63, ?

- A. 95 B. 120
 C. 127 D. 131

34. A father is three times as old as his son. In 12 years, the father will be twice as old as the son. The son's present age is:

- A. 10 years B. 12 years
 C. 15 years D. 16 years

35. A shopkeeper marks his goods 50% above cost and offers a discount of 20% on the marked price. His profit percentage is:

- A. 15% B. 20%
 C. 25% D. 30%

36. If a sum of money doubles itself in 8 years at simple interest, in how many years will it triple itself at the same rate?

- A. 12 years B. 14 years
 C. 16 years D. 18 years

37. Statements: All advocates are lawyers. Some lawyers are arbitrators. Conclusions: (I) Some advocates are arbitrators. (II) Some arbitrators are lawyers. Which conclusion follows?

- A. Only I B. Only II
 C. Both I and II D. Neither I nor II

38. Which constitutional Article empowers the Supreme Court to issue writs for the enforcement of fundamental rights?

- A. Article 32 B. Article 136
 C. Article 226 D. Article 142

39. The Basic Structure doctrine was first authoritatively laid down by the Supreme Court of India in:

- A. Golaknath v. State of Punjab (1967)
 B. Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973)
 C. Minerva Mills v. Union of India (1980)
 D. Indira Nehru Gandhi v. Raj Narain (1975)

40. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 came into force replacing which earlier criminal law statute?

- A. The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973
 B. The Indian Evidence Act, 1872
 C. The Indian Penal Code, 1860
 D. The Indian Contract Act, 1872