

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.
 Free daily practice — clatgurukul.com/daily · Pass this sheet to a friend.

SECTION A — LEGAL REASONING
Q1-12 · 12 Marks
PRINCIPLE A — STRICT LIABILITY AND ABSOLUTE LIABILITY (Q1-6)

Under the rule in *Rylands v Fletcher* (1868), a person who, for his own purposes, brings onto his land and keeps there anything likely to do mischief if it escapes, is answerable for all damage which is the natural consequence of its escape, even without negligence. The rule applies only to a non-natural use of land and requires an actual escape of the dangerous thing from the defendant's premises. Recognised exceptions include an act of God (*vis major*), the unforeseeable act of a stranger, the plaintiff's own default, the plaintiff's consent, and statutory authority. In *M.C. Mehta v Union of India* (1987), the Supreme Court of India fashioned the stricter doctrine of absolute liability: an enterprise engaged in a hazardous or inherently dangerous activity owes an absolute and non-delegable duty to the community. This liability admits none of the *Rylands* exceptions, does not depend on an escape beyond the premises, and the measure of compensation may be correlated to the magnitude and capacity of the enterprise.

1. Devraj builds a very large private reservoir on his estate to irrigate his orchards. Owing to a latent defect left by his independent contractor, the reservoir bursts and floods Hari's adjoining coal mine. Devraj himself was not negligent. Decide.

- A. Devraj is not liable, because he was not personally negligent and had engaged a competent independent contractor.
- B. Devraj is liable, because storing a huge water body is a non-natural use and the escape caused damage; fault is irrelevant.
- C. Devraj is not liable, because the damage flows from the contractor's default, and the contractor alone must compensate Hari.
- D. Devraj is liable, but only if Hari first proves that Devraj knew of the latent defect when the reservoir was built.

2. A chemical company stores a toxic gas in its factory. The gas leaks and severely injures forty workers inside the factory premises; nothing crosses the factory boundary. The workers sue. Decide.

- A. The company is not liable, because the rule in *Rylands v Fletcher* requires an escape of the dangerous thing beyond the boundary of the defendant's premises.
- B. The company is liable only if the injured workers prove negligence in the maintenance of the storage tanks.
- C. The company is not liable, because workers impliedly consent to ordinary industrial risk by accepting employment.
- D. The company is liable absolutely, because a hazardous enterprise owes a non-delegable duty even where nothing escapes its premises.

3. Which of the following statements BEST distinguishes absolute liability from strict liability?

- A. Absolute liability admits none of the recognised exceptions and applies even without an escape of the dangerous thing.
- B. Absolute liability applies only to government undertakings, while strict liability governs private enterprises in every case.
- C. Absolute liability requires proof of negligence, while strict liability dispenses with proof of fault altogether.
- D. Absolute liability protects only the employees of the enterprise, while strict liability protects only neighbouring landowners.

4. A neem tree growing naturally on Kishan's land for forty years is uprooted in a violent storm and falls on his neighbour Mira's parked car. Mira sues Kishan under strict liability. Decide.

- A. Kishan is strictly liable, because the tree escaped from his land and caused physical damage to the property of his immediate neighbour without any prior warning.
- B. Kishan is absolutely liable, because keeping tall trees near a residential boundary is an inherently hazardous activity.
- C. Kishan is not strictly liable, because a self-grown tree is an ordinary, natural use of land, not something artificially accumulated.
- D. Kishan is liable, but only if Mira proves that the tree was already leaning dangerously before the storm arrived.

5. A chlorine manufacturing plant is hit by an earthquake of unprecedented magnitude, never before recorded in the region. Chlorine escapes and injures villagers nearby. The plant pleads act of God. Decide under Indian law.

- A. The plant is not liable, because an unprecedented earthquake is an act of God that breaks the chain of causation.
- B. The plant is not liable, because it had complied with every statutory safety licence and prescribed standard.
- C. The plant is liable for only half the compensation, since the earthquake contributed equally to the resulting harm.
- D. The plant is liable in full, because absolute liability recognises no exception for an act of God or *vis major*.

6. Which of the following statements is INCORRECT?

- A. The measure of compensation under absolute liability may be linked to the size and capacity of the offending enterprise.
- B. Absolute liability can arise only when the hazardous substance actually escapes beyond the boundary of the enterprise.
- C. Under strict liability, the defendant may plead that the escape was caused by the unforeseeable act of a stranger.
- D. The rule in *Rylands v Fletcher* applies only where the defendant's use of the land is non-natural.

PRINCIPLE B — FREE CONSENT — COERCION AND UNDUE INFLUENCE (SECTIONS 15 AND 16, INDIAN CONTRACT ACT, 1872) (Q7-12)

Consent is free when it is not caused by coercion, undue influence, fraud, misrepresentation or mistake. Coercion (Section 15) means committing, or threatening to commit, any act forbidden by the penal law, or unlawfully detaining or threatening to detain any property, with the intention of causing a person to enter into an agreement. In *Chikkam Ammiraju v Chikkam Seshamma*, a threat to commit suicide was held to be coercion. Undue influence (Section 16) exists where the relations between the parties are such that one party is in a position to dominate the will of the other — by real or apparent authority, a fiduciary relation, or the other's mental or bodily distress — and uses that position to obtain an unfair advantage. Where a person in a dominant position enters a bargain that appears unconscionable, the burden of proving that the contract was not induced by undue influence lies on the dominant party. A contract caused by coercion or undue influence is voidable at the option of the party whose consent was so caused. A threat to enforce one's lawful rights through ordinary legal proceedings is not coercion.

7. Keshav threatens to commit suicide unless his wife Radha and son execute a release deed of property in favour of his brother. Fearing for his life, they sign. The deed is challenged. Decide.

- A. The consent is vitiated by coercion, because threatening suicide amounts to threatening an act forbidden by the penal law.
- B. The consent is vitiated by undue influence, because a husband is always conclusively presumed to dominate the will of his wife in matters concerning property.
- C. The consent is valid, because a threat of suicide endangers only the person making it and not the promisee.
- D. The consent is vitiated by fraud, because Keshav never genuinely intended to take his own life at all.

8. A spiritual guru tells his elderly disciple that gifting his entire estate to the ashram will secure benefits for his soul in the next world. The disciple, devoted to the guru for decades, executes the gift. Decide.

- A. It is coercion, because the fear of divine displeasure operated on the disciple as a threat forbidden by law.
- B. There is no vitiating factor, because gifts made out of genuine religious devotion to a spiritual teacher are always treated by the courts as voluntary acts.
- C. It is undue influence, because the guru held real or apparent authority over the disciple and obtained an unfair advantage.
- D. It is mistake, because the disciple wrongly believed that spiritual benefit in the next world could be purchased.

9. What is the legal effect on a contract where consent was obtained by coercion?

- A. The agreement is void ab initio and cannot be enforced by either party under any circumstances whatsoever.
- B. The contract is voidable at the option of the party whose consent was caused by the coercion.
- C. The contract remains fully valid until a criminal court convicts the coercing party of the threatened offence.
- D. The contract is unenforceable only where the coercive act is independently punishable as extortion.

10. A bank informs a defaulting borrower that unless he executes a fresh mortgage over his house, it will immediately file a civil suit to recover the outstanding dues. The borrower signs the mortgage and later challenges it. Decide.

- A. It is coercion, because the borrower executed the mortgage only under the pressure of imminent litigation.
- B. It is undue influence, because a lending bank always stands in a position to dominate a borrower's will.
- C. It is coercion, because pressing a defaulting borrower for fresh security over his family home amounts to an unlawful detention of the borrower's property.
- D. It is neither coercion nor undue influence, because threatening to enforce a lawful claim through court is not forbidden by law.

11. An illiterate farmer borrows from the village moneylender at 60 per cent annual interest, mortgaging his only land. The bargain appears unconscionable and the lender plainly held a dominant position. On whom does the burden of proof lie?

- A. On the moneylender, to prove that the bargain was not induced by undue influence over the farmer.
- B. On the farmer, to prove that the moneylender actively exerted influence at the precise moment of signing.
- C. On the State, because usurious lending is an offence that must be prosecuted by the public prosecutor.
- D. On neither party, because the court is bound to presume that every registered contract is fair.

12. A police officer investigating a theft case persuades the accused, while he is in the officer's custody, to sell his land to the officer at one-fourth of its market value. The accused later seeks to avoid the sale. Decide.

- A. The sale is valid, because the accused remained free to refuse and to complain to a superior officer.
- B. It is coercion, because every transaction between a police officer and an accused is forbidden by the penal law.
- C. It is undue influence, because the officer held real authority over the accused and the bargain is plainly unconscionable.
- D. It is fraud, because the officer deliberately concealed the true market value of the land from the accused at the time of agreeing the purchase.

SECTION B — ANALYTICAL REASONING

Q13-20 · 8 Marks

PUZZLE 1 — TWO PARALLEL ROWS — SIX TRADE DELEGATES (Q13-16)

Six trade delegates attend a summit, seated in two parallel rows of three seats each. In Row 1, delegates P, Q and R sit facing south. In Row 2, delegates X, Y and Z sit facing north. Each member of Row 1 faces exactly one member of Row 2, and the seats in each row are evenly aligned. Each delegate represents a different country: India, Japan, Brazil, France, Kenya and Chile, in no fixed order. The following is known: (1) P represents India and sits at the middle seat of his row. (2) X represents France, and the French delegate faces the Indian delegate. (3) The Japanese delegate faces the Kenyan delegate. (4) R does not represent Japan, and R sits in Row 1. (5) Q does not represent Chile. (6) Y sits in Row 2 and does not face P.

13. The delegate from Chile faces the delegate from which country?

- A. Japan
- B. Cannot be determined
- C. Brazil
- D. Kenya

14. Three of the following four are alike in a certain way based on their seating positions. Which one is DIFFERENT from the other three?

- A. X
- B. Q
- C. R
- D. Z

15. Which of the following pairs of delegates face each other?

- A. Q and Y
- B. R and X
- C. P and Z
- D. Q and Z

16. If Q interchanges his seat with R (countries staying with the persons), who will then face the Japanese delegate?

- A. R
- B. Q
- C. P
- D. Z

PUZZLE 2 — BIRTH MONTHS AND CITIES — FIVE FRIENDS (Q17-20)

Five friends — Aman, Bela, Chirag, Divya and Esha — were each born in a different month of the same year: January, March, July, September and December. Each lives in a different city: Pune, Surat, Noida, Kochi and Jaipur. The following facts are known: (1) The friend born in January lives in Pune. (2) Aman was born in March; he lives neither in Pune, nor in Noida, nor in Jaipur. (3) Bela lives in Kochi, and she was born in the last month of the year. (4) Chirag was born neither in July nor in September, and he does not live in Surat. (5) Divya was not born in July. (6) Esha does not live in Jaipur. Use the facts to deduce the unique arrangement of months and cities.

17. Who among the five friends lives in Jaipur?

- A. Esha B. Chirag
 C. Aman D. Divya

18. In which month was the friend who lives in Noida born?

- A. September B. July
 C. January D. March

19. Which of the following combinations of person, month and city is CORRECT?

- A. Chirag — January — Pune
 B. Aman — March — Kochi
 C. Divya — July — Jaipur
 D. Esha — September — Noida

20. Going by calendar order of the five birth months, how many of the friends were born in a month that falls strictly between Aman's birth month and Divya's birth month?

- A. None B. Two
 C. One D. Three

SECTION C — QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

Q21-30 · 10 Marks

DATA SET 1 — SMARTPHONE SHIPMENTS OF FIVE BRANDS — CY2024 VS CY2025 (Q21-25)

A market-research firm tracked the annual smartphone shipments of five competing brands — Astra, Bolt, Crest, Dyno and Ember — in a large national market for the calendar years 2024 and 2025. Shipments are measured in millions of units. The market saw a clear shift towards budget 5G devices during 2025: two challenger brands grew sharply on the back of aggressive online-only launches, while one established brand lost ground after a supply-chain disruption in the second quarter. The total market expanded from 100 million units in 2024 to 120 million units in 2025. Study the table carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Brand	2024 (mn units)	2025 (mn units)
Astra	32	40
Bolt	25	20
Crest	20	26
Dyno	15	18
Ember	8	16
Total	100	120

21. What was Astra's share of total market shipments in 2025?

- A. 30% B. 33.33%
 C. 35% D. 40%

22. Which brand recorded the highest percentage growth in shipments from 2024 to 2025?

- A. Astra B. Crest
 C. Dyno D. Ember

23. What was the combined market share of Bolt and Dyno in 2024?

- A. 35% B. 38%
 C. 40% D. 42%

24. What is the ratio of Crest's shipments in 2025 to Bolt's shipments in 2024?

- A. 26 : 25 B. 25 : 26
 C. 13 : 10 D. 5 : 4

25. If total market shipments in 2026 grow by 15% over 2025, by how many million units will the 2026 total exceed the 2024 total?

- A. 35 B. 38
 C. 40 D. 42

DATA SET 2 — HIGHER-EDUCATION ENROLMENT BY DISCIPLINE — 2023-24 VS 2024-25 (Q26-30)

The higher-education department of a state published enrolment figures, in lakhs of students, across five broad disciplines for two consecutive academic years. The report also recorded the percentage of women among the students enrolled in each discipline in 2024-25. Officials attributed the year's expansion to new scholarship schemes and the opening of three multidisciplinary universities, though growth was uneven across disciplines: professional courses grew faster than traditional streams, while women's participation remained sharply different across fields. Total enrolment rose from 40 lakh in 2023-24 to 46 lakh in 2024-25. Study the table and answer the questions that follow.

Discipline	2023-24 (lakh)	2024-25 (lakh)	Women in 2024-25 (%)
Arts	12.0	13.2	60%
Science	10.0	12.0	50%
Commerce	8.0	8.8	45%
Engineering	6.0	7.5	28%

