

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 FRUSTRATION OF CONTRACT (SECTION 56, INDIAN CONTRACT ACT, 1872) (Q1-6)

PRINCIPLE: Under Section 56 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, an agreement to do an act that becomes impossible, or which by reason of some event the promisor could not prevent becomes unlawful, after the contract is made, becomes void when the act becomes impossible or unlawful. This is the doctrine of frustration: where, without the fault of either party, a supervening event destroys the very basis of the contract or renders performance radically different from what was undertaken, the contract is discharged automatically and both parties are excused from further performance. Frustration does not apply merely because performance has become more difficult, more expensive, or less profitable; the change must strike at the root of the contract. It also does not apply where the parties have expressly provided for the supervening event, where the event is self-induced by the party claiming relief, or where the contract belongs to a class (such as a lease of land for a long term) that the courts have held capable of surviving a temporary disruption. Leading authorities: *Satyabrata Ghose v. Mugneeram Bangur & Co.* (1954) and *Taylor v. Caldwell* (1863).

1. Mehta agrees to charter his ship to Rao for a single voyage to carry a named cargo. Before the voyage begins, the government lawfully requisitions the ship for naval use for an indefinite period. Rao sues for breach. The most accurate position is:

- A. Mehta is liable for breach because he failed to deliver performance as promised under the charter
- B. The contract is frustrated under Section 56; the lawful requisition renders performance impossible and discharges both parties
- C. Mehta is liable for breach unless he can prove the requisition was reasonably foreseeable when contracting
- D. The contract subsists and Mehta must still perform the whole voyage once the requisitioned ship is finally released, however long that takes

2. Which of the following statements best reflects the doctrine of frustration as stated above?

- A. A contract is frustrated whenever performance becomes more expensive than the parties had originally expected
- B. A contract is frustrated only where a supervening event, without either party's fault, strikes at the root of the contract
- C. A contract is frustrated whenever one party simply finds that the bargain has become commercially unprofitable or burdensome to perform
- D. A contract is frustrated whenever performance is delayed for any reason beyond the agreed completion date

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

- A. Frustration discharges the contract automatically, without either party having to elect to terminate it
- B. Mere increase in the cost or the difficulty of performance does not by itself frustrate a contract
- C. A self-induced supervening event can be relied upon by the party at fault to claim frustration of the contract
- D. Where the parties have expressly provided in advance for the supervening event, the doctrine of frustration stands excluded

4. Verma contracts to supply a fixed quantity of ore that can be sourced only from two mines he operates. He voluntarily diverts the entire output of both mines to a more lucrative buyer and then pleads that supply to the original buyer has become impossible. He claims frustration. Decide:

- A. The plea of frustration succeeds because performance has in fact become impossible for Verma to render
- B. The plea succeeds only if the more lucrative buyer was unknown to Verma when the first contract was formed
- C. The plea of frustration fails because the impossibility was self-induced by Verma's own deliberate choice
- D. The plea fails only if Verma is shown to have acted with a positive intention to defraud the original buyer

5. Sharma takes a ten-year lease of a commercial building. Midway through the term, a temporary government order shuts such premises for eight months during a public-health emergency, after which normal use resumes. Sharma claims the lease stands frustrated. The most accurate position is:

- A. The lease is frustrated because Sharma was wholly deprived of the use of the premises for eight months
- B. The lease stands fully frustrated because any government order suspending its use must automatically discharge any existing long lease
- C. The lease is not frustrated; a temporary interruption leaving a substantial unexpired term does not destroy a long lease
- D. The lease is frustrated unless the landlord agrees to extend the term by the full period of the closure

6. The Supreme Court's reasoning in *Satyabrata Ghose v. Mugneeram Bangur* is best understood as establishing that:

- A. Impossibility in Section 56 includes performance rendered radically different by a supervening event, not only literal physical impossibility
- B. A contract can be frustrated only where the subject matter of the contract has been physically destroyed altogether
- C. Frustration in Indian law depends entirely on an implied term that the English courts read into the contract
- D. A party may escape from almost any contract merely by showing that its performance has lately become somewhat inconvenient or commercially unattractive

PRINCIPLE B — DEFAMATION (SECTION 356, BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA, 2023) (Q7-12)

PRINCIPLE: Under Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, whoever, by words either spoken or intended to be read, or by signs or visible representations, makes or publishes any imputation concerning any person, intending to harm, or knowing or having reason to believe that such imputation will harm, the reputation of that person, is said to defame that person. The imputation must be published, that is, communicated to at least one person other than the one defamed; a statement made only to the person himself is not defamation. The offence protects reputation, not merely the feelings of the person concerned. Several exceptions apply. It is not defamation to impute anything true which the public good requires to be made public; truth is a defence only where the publication is also for the public good. Nor is it defamation to express in good faith any opinion respecting the conduct of a public servant in the discharge of public functions; to publish a substantially true report of court proceedings; or to prefer in good faith an accusation against a person to a lawful authority. A deceased person may be defamed if the imputation would harm his reputation if living and is intended to hurt the feelings of his family.

- 7. Anil writes a letter containing a damaging and false imputation about Bhuvan and posts it directly to Bhuvan alone; no other person reads it. Bhuvan prosecutes Anil for defamation. The most accurate position is:**
- A. Anil is guilty because the imputation he made about Bhuvan was both false and damaging in nature
 - B. Anil is guilty because writing down a defamatory imputation is by itself sufficient to constitute the offence
 - C. Anil is guilty unless he can prove that the contents of the letter were substantially true and accurate
 - D. Anil is not guilty; there is no defamation because the imputation was not published to any third person
- 8. Which of the following correctly states when truth operates as a defence to a charge of defamation under the principle?**
- A. Truth is a defence only where the publication of the true imputation is also for the public good
 - B. Truth is always a complete defence to defamation, irrespective of the purpose behind the publication made
 - C. Truth is never a defence to defamation once the imputation has in fact harmed the person's reputation
 - D. Truth is a defence only where the person defamed has consented to the publication of the true imputation
- 9. A journalist, in good faith and on reasonable grounds, criticises the official conduct of a municipal commissioner in awarding a public tender. The commissioner prosecutes for defamation. The most accurate position is:**
- A. The journalist is guilty because any published criticism of a named public official harms his reputation
 - B. The journalist is protected; a good-faith opinion on a public servant's official conduct is an exception to defamation
 - C. The journalist is guilty unless the commissioner is ultimately convicted of wrongdoing in the tender process
 - D. The journalist is protected only if the published criticism was first formally submitted to the commissioner for a prior written response
- 10. Which of the following statements about defaming a deceased person is most accurate under the stated principle?**
- A. A deceased person can never be defamed, because reputation ends entirely with the death of the individual
 - B. A deceased person can be defamed by absolutely any imputation at all, whether or not it affects any surviving family members
 - C. A deceased person can be defamed if the imputation would harm his reputation if living and hurts his family's feelings
 - D. A deceased person can be defamed only where a surviving heir has obtained the prior permission of a court
- 11. Farida, genuinely believing her bag was stolen by a domestic helper, files a good-faith complaint naming the helper to the police. The accusation later proves mistaken. The helper prosecutes Farida for defamation. Decide:**
- A. Farida is protected; a good-faith accusation made to a lawful authority is an exception to defamation
 - B. Farida is guilty because the accusation she made against the helper turned out to be factually false
 - C. Farida is guilty unless she can establish that the helper had a prior record of committing similar theft
 - D. Farida is protected only if the police actually register and then investigate a case against the helper
- 12. Which of the following statements is INCORRECT based on the stated principle?**
- A. An imputation must be communicated to at least one person other than the one defamed to amount to publication
 - B. A substantially true and accurate report of public court proceedings, published in good faith, does not amount to defamation
 - C. The offence of defamation protects a person's reputation rather than merely protecting that person's feelings
 - D. An imputation that is true is by that fact alone a complete defence even where the publication serves no public good

SECTION B — ANALYTICAL REASONING

Q13–20 · 8 Marks

PUZZLE 1 — CODING-DECODING — A SUBSTITUTION LANGUAGE (Q13–16)

In a certain code language, the following four sentences are written as shown. Each word of the language is represented by exactly one code, and the codes within a sentence are not necessarily written in the same order as the words. Study the four statements and answer the questions that follow.

- (1) 'bring the book' is written as 'sa na da'.
- (2) 'read the novel' is written as 'na ka pa'.
- (3) 'bring good novel' is written as 'da la ka'.
- (4) 'good old book' is written as 'la ra sa'.

Each code stands for one and only one word, and every word above has a single fixed code. Deduce the code for each word strictly from the overlaps between the four sentences before answering.

13. What is the code for the word 'novel'?

- A. na
- B. ka
- C. da
- D. la

14. In this code language, what does 'pa' stand for?

- A. the
- B. bring
- C. read
- D. good

15. Which of the following could be the code for 'read good book'?

- A. la sa na B. pa la sa
 C. pa ra sa D. la ka pa

16. How would 'the old novel' be written in this code language?

- A. na ra ka B. na ra sa
 C. da ra ka D. na la ka

PUZZLE 2 — BOX STACKING — SEVEN BOXES IN A VERTICAL PILE (Q17-20)

Seven boxes — P, Q, R, S, T, U and V — are placed one above another in a single vertical stack. The bottom-most position is counted as position 1 and the top-most as position 7. The following conditions govern the arrangement:

- (1) There are exactly three boxes between P and Q.
- (2) Box R is placed immediately above box P.
- (3) Box S is at the very top of the stack.
- (4) There are exactly two boxes between S and T.
- (5) Box U is somewhere above Q but somewhere below T.
- (6) Box U is placed immediately above box Q.

Use the conditions strictly; the arrangement they yield is unique. Any position not fixed by a named condition is determined only by elimination.

17. Which box is placed at the bottom of the stack (position 1)?

- A. P B. Q
 C. U D. V

18. Which box is placed immediately above box T?

- A. R B. U
 C. P D. V

19. How many boxes are there between box V and box R?

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

20. If every box placed above T is removed from the stack, how many boxes remain in the pile?

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

SECTION C — QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

Q21-30 · 10 Marks

DATA SET 1 — PASSENGERS CARRIED ON FIVE DOMESTIC AIR ROUTES (2024 VS 2025) (Q21-25)

A domestic airline reports the number of passengers it carried on each of its five busiest routes in the calendar years 2024 and 2025. All passenger figures in the table below are stated in thousands, and the final column records the year-on-year growth in passengers between 2024 and 2025 for each route. Capacity, fares and operating costs are not provided and must not be assumed. All totals, ratios, percentage changes and projections asked for in the questions must be computed strictly from the passenger figures in the table, without using any external aviation-industry assumptions or any data not shown here.

Route	2024 ('000)	2025 ('000)	YoY Growth
Delhi-Mumbai	800	920	+15%
Delhi-Bengaluru	500	600	+20%
Mumbai-Chennai	400	460	+15%
Kolkata-Delhi	600	660	+10%
Hyderabad-Pune	250	325	+30%

21. What was the total number of passengers (in thousands) carried across all five routes in 2025?

- A. 2,925 B. 2,965
 C. 3,005 D. 2,890

22. Which route recorded the largest absolute increase in passengers from 2024 to 2025?

- A. Hyderabad-Pune B. Delhi-Bengaluru
 C. Delhi-Mumbai D. Kolkata-Delhi

23. By approximately what percentage did total passengers across all five routes grow from 2024 to 2025?

- A. About 16% B. About 14%
 C. About 18% D. About 20%

24. In 2025, what is the ratio of Delhi-Bengaluru passengers to Mumbai-Chennai passengers?

- A. 25 : 23 B. 130 : 100
 C. 6 : 5 D. 30 : 23

25. If Hyderabad-Pune passengers grow in 2026 at the same percentage rate as from 2024 to 2025, what will the 2026 figure (in thousands) be?

- A. 410.5 B. 422.5
 C. 430.0 D. 415.0

DATA SET 2 — BOOKS ISSUED BY A CITY LIBRARY ACROSS FIVE GENRES (THREE MONTHS) (Q26-30)

