

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 REASONABLE CLASSIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 14 (Q1-6)

Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees equality before law and equal protection of the laws, prohibiting the State from denying to any person equality before the law. However, Article 14 does not forbid all classification; it forbids only arbitrary, unreasonable, and discriminatory classification. The Supreme Court in *State of West Bengal v Anwar Ali Sarkar* (1952) AIR SC 75 crystallised the twin-test for valid classification: first, the classification must be founded on an intelligible differentia — a real, discernible, rational basis distinguishing grouped persons from others; second, that differentia must have a rational nexus to the object sought to be achieved by the legislation. The maxim 'equality is not a mechanical rule but a functional principle' underlies the doctrine. Mere differentiation does not amount to discrimination. In *E.P. Royappa v State of Tamil Nadu* (1974) the Court expanded the guarantee to strike down arbitrary executive action, equating arbitrariness itself with a violation of Article 14.

1. A State legislature enacts a law imposing a 30% tax on restaurants operating in malls but exempting standalone roadside eateries. A mall restaurant owner challenges the law under Article 14. Applying the twin-test, the court should hold that:

- ☐ A. The law is unconstitutional because differentiation between mall and roadside restaurants is an intelligible differentia with no conceivable nexus, on the facts as presently stated.
- ☐ B. The law is unconstitutional because all restaurants sell food and any differential tax is per se discriminatory under Article 14.
- ☐ C. The law is valid because the legislature possesses absolute discretion to tax any subset of businesses at any rate.
- ☐ D. The law is valid if mall restaurants share a discernible trait distinguishing them and the tax differentia rationally pursues a revenue or policy object.

2. A Central Act grants a 10-year tax holiday to industries set up in 'designated backward districts.' District X is included; neighbouring District Y, with similar economic indicators, is excluded. Industry in Y challenges the exclusion under Article 14. The strongest legally sound response is:

- ☐ A. The exclusion is void; constitutional equality demands identical treatment for economically similar districts.
- ☐ B. The exclusion survives if the government had a rational basis for designating X and not Y, even if Y has similar indicators.
- ☐ C. The exclusion is void because any legislative line-drawing that excludes similarly placed persons violates Article 14.
- ☐ D. The exclusion is valid only if the legislature expressly recorded the reasons for including X but not Y in the statute, on the facts as presently stated.

3. A government order reserves 40% of posts in a public-sector bank for candidates from 'agrarian families' without defining the term or specifying how it connects to banking service needs. Candidates without agrarian backgrounds challenge the order under Article 14. Which outcome correctly applies the doctrine?

- ☐ A. The order is valid if the government demonstrates that agrarian candidates eventually perform equally to others in banking.
- ☐ B. The order is valid; socio-economic classification for public employment automatically satisfies the twin-test under Directive Principles, on the facts as presently stated.
- ☐ C. The order violates Article 14: the undefined classification lacks intelligible differentia and no rational nexus to bank service is established.
- ☐ D. The order must be upheld because the State has unlimited power to structure its own recruitment for public-sector roles.

4. Which of the following statements INCORRECTLY describes the scope of Article 14 as interpreted by the Supreme Court?

- ☐ A. A law that reclassifies persons already in a class without changing the class itself may still fail the twin-test, on the facts as presently stated.
- ☐ B. Arbitrariness by executive action can itself violate Article 14, independent of any formal classification.
- ☐ C. Article 14 prohibits all legislative distinctions, so any law that treats two groups differently is automatically unconstitutional.
- ☐ D. Article 14 permits classification but the differentia must bear a rational nexus to the legislation's object.

5. A municipal law imposes a nightly curfew only on street vendors aged below 18, citing child safety. A 17-year-old vendor challenges the age-based curfew under Article 14. Which analysis is most legally sound?

- ☐ A. The curfew violates Article 14 because a less-restrictive measure — adult supervision — could achieve the same object.
- ☐ B. The curfew is unconstitutional; singling out minors in the same profession as adults creates an invidious discrimination.
- ☐ C. The curfew is valid only if the municipality proved statistical evidence that minors suffer more nightly harm than adults.
- ☐ D. The curfew is valid: age below 18 is an intelligible differentia and child safety is a rational legislative object with clear nexus.

6. Which of the following does NOT constitute a valid basis for classification that satisfies the twin-test under Article 14?

- ☐ A. Classification of taxpayers by annual income brackets for graduated tax rates.
- ☐ B. Classification of industries by their pollution output for the purpose of differential environmental levies.
- ☐ C. Classification based solely on the religion of the business owner for a commercial trade licence.
- ☐ D. Classification of street vendors by the zone in which they operate for differential licensing fees.

PRINCIPLE B — MENS REA, CULPABLE HOMICIDE, AND MURDER UNDER THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (Q7-12)



The Indian Penal Code 1860 distinguishes culpable homicide from murder through graduated mental states. Section 299 defines culpable homicide as causing death with the intention of causing death, with the intention of causing such bodily injury as is likely to cause death, or with the knowledge that the act is likely to cause death. Section 300 elevates culpable homicide to murder when the act falls within its four clauses: clause 1 (intention to cause death), clause 2 (intention to cause bodily injury that the offender knows is likely to cause death of that particular person), clause 3 (intention to cause bodily injury that is sufficient in the ordinary course of nature to cause death), and clause 4 (the act is imminently dangerous with knowledge that it must in all probability cause death or such bodily injury as is likely to cause death). Section 300 further provides five exceptions converting murder back to culpable homicide not amounting to murder: grave and sudden provocation, private defence exceeded in good faith, exercise of legal power in good faith, sudden fight without premeditation, and consent of the victim above 18 to suffer death. The maxim *actus non facit reum nisi mens sit rea* — the act does not make a person guilty unless the mind is also guilty — governs criminal liability throughout.

7. Vikram, furious at discovering his wife Leela in an affair, immediately picks up a heavy bronze statue and strikes her on the head, killing her. There was no prior plan. Vikram claims the exception of grave and sudden provocation under Section 300 IPC. Which outcome correctly applies the law?

- ☐ A. The exception fully acquits Vikram; grave provocation negates mens rea and bars criminal liability entirely.
- ☐ B. The exception cannot apply; discovery of infidelity is legally insufficient provocation under any circumstance, on the facts as presently stated, in the absence of any agreement to the contrary.
- ☐ C. Vikram is guilty of murder because intention to kill is evidenced by the choice of a heavy weapon.
- ☐ D. The exception may apply, reducing the offence to culpable homicide not amounting to murder, if the provocation was sudden and the act followed it immediately.

8. Dr Kapoor administers a drug to a terminally ill patient suffering unbearable pain. The patient, aged 25, had given full, informed written consent to being administered the drug, knowing it would hasten death. Dr Kapoor knew death was the probable result. The patient dies. Which IPC provision most accurately governs Dr Kapoor's liability?

- ☐ A. Dr Kapoor is not guilty; euthanasia administered by a doctor is exempt from all IPC provisions after the Aruna Shanbaug judgment.
- ☐ B. Dr Kapoor is not guilty of any offence; patient consent to medical intervention provides a complete defence.
- ☐ C. Dr Kapoor is guilty of murder under Section 300 Clause 4; knowing death must in all probability result is the governing mental state.
- ☐ D. Dr Kapoor is guilty of culpable homicide not amounting to murder under Exception 5 to Section 300, since the victim consented above 18.

9. Renu fires a rifle into a dense crowd from a rooftop, claiming she aimed at a mango tree above the crowd, not at any person. Three people are killed. The prosecution argues Section 300 Clause 4. Which finding best applies the law?

- ☐ A. Renu is guilty only of culpable homicide under Section 299 because she lacked any intention to kill a specific person, on the facts as presently stated.
- ☐ B. Renu is guilty of murder under Clause 4; firing into a dense crowd is imminently dangerous with knowledge it must in all probability cause death.
- ☐ C. Renu is not guilty of murder; Clause 4 requires the offender to have known the names of the likely victims.
- ☐ D. Renu is not guilty; the absence of intention to kill means only rash and negligent act under Section 304A applies.

10. Which of the following statements INCORRECTLY describes the relationship between culpable homicide and murder under the IPC?

- ☐ A. Culpable homicide amounting to murder is a subset of culpable homicide, with the relationship described as 'the genus and the species.'
- ☐ B. All culpable homicide is murder; the IPC treats the two as synonymous offences differing only in prescribed punishment.
- ☐ C. An act may satisfy Section 299 but not Section 300 if it lacks the heightened mental state required by Section 300's clauses.
- ☐ D. Exception 1 to Section 300 can reduce an act that would otherwise be murder to culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

11. Ajay, during a sudden quarrel with a colleague over a parking spot, punches him once with bare fists. The colleague has an unusually fragile skull — an eggshell skull — unknown to Ajay, and dies from a fractured skull. There was no weapon, no premeditation, and no prior enmity. Ajay claims he should face the lowest criminal liability. What is the correct legal position?

- ☐ A. Ajay is guilty only under Section 304A for a rash and negligent act since the eggshell skull was unforeseeable.
- ☐ B. Ajay is not criminally liable at all; death resulted from an unknown pre-existing condition, not his act.
- ☐ C. Ajay is guilty of murder under Section 300 Clause 3; a punch sufficient in the ordinary course of nature to cause death was intended.
- ☐ D. Ajay is guilty of culpable homicide not amounting to murder under Exception 4 to Section 300, which covers sudden fight without premeditation.

12. Which of the following acts does NOT satisfy the mental state requirements of Section 300 Clause 3 of the IPC?

- ☐ A. Shooting a person point-blank in the chest with a loaded firearm, aiming at the heart.
- ☐ B. Stabbing a person multiple times with a kitchen knife in the abdomen, intending to cause deep injuries, on the facts as presently stated, in the absence of any agreement to the contrary.
- ☐ C. Pushing a person lightly on the shoulder during an argument, intending only to end the conversation, where the person stumbles and dies from an unforeseen cardiac arrest.
- ☐ D. Beating a person on the head with a cricket bat with full force, intending to cause severe head injury.

SECTION B — ANALYTICAL REASONING

Q13-20 · 8 Marks

PUZZLE 1 — SIX RESIDENTS ACROSS THREE FLOORS (Q13-16)



Six residents — Aditi, Biren, Charu, Dev, Esha, and Farhan — live in a building with three floors numbered 1 (lowest) to 3 (topmost). Each floor has exactly two flats: a Left flat and a Right flat, so every resident occupies a distinct flat. Charu lives on the topmost floor. Dev and Esha live on the same floor, and Dev occupies a Left flat. Farhan lives on Floor 2 in the Right flat. Biren occupies the Left flat of his floor. Aditi lives on a floor directly above the floor on which Biren lives. Aditi occupies the Right flat of her floor. No two residents share any flat.

13. On which floor does Aditi live?

- ☐ A. Floor 3
☐ B. Floor 2
☐ C. Floor 1
☐ D. Floor 2 or Floor 3 — cannot be determined

14. Who lives in the Left flat on Floor 2?

- ☐ A. Farhan
☐ B. Aditi
☐ C. Biren
☐ D. Esha

15. Which flat does Charu occupy?

- ☐ A. Floor 2, Left flat
☐ B. Floor 3, Right flat
☐ C. Floor 3, Left flat
☐ D. Floor 2, Right flat

16. Which pair of residents lives on Floor 1?

- ☐ A. Aditi and Biren
☐ B. Dev and Esha
☐ C. Biren and Farhan
☐ D. Charu and Farhan

PUZZLE 2 — NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL TOPPERS — SUBJECT AND COLLEGE (Q17–20)

Four students — Pooja, Qadir, Ritu, and Sumit — each topped a different subject in the national law school rankings. The subjects are Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Evidence, and Torts. Each student belongs to a different college: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, or Delta. Qadir topped Evidence. Ritu is from Gamma College. The student who topped Criminal Law is from Beta College. The student from Alpha College topped Torts. Pooja is from neither Alpha College nor Delta College. Sumit is not from Beta College. Pooja did not top Constitutional Law. No student topped more than one subject, and no two students share a college, so each subject and each college maps to exactly one student. All the clues are mutually consistent and together fix a single valid arrangement of students, subjects, and colleges.

17. Which subject did Pooja top?

- ☐ A. Criminal Law
☐ B. Torts
☐ C. Constitutional Law
☐ D. Evidence

18. Which college does Sumit belong to?

- ☐ A. Beta College
☐ B. Alpha College
☐ C. Delta College
☐ D. Gamma College

19. Who topped Constitutional Law?

- ☐ A. Ritu
☐ B. Sumit
☐ C. Qadir
☐ D. Pooja

20. Which college does Qadir belong to?

- ☐ A. Delta College
☐ B. Alpha College
☐ C. Beta College
☐ D. Gamma College

SECTION C — QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

Q21–30 · 10 Marks

DATA SET 1 — QUARTERLY GROSS MERCHANDISE VALUE OF FOUR E-COMMERCE PLATFORMS (₹ CRORE), FY2025-26 (Q21–25)

The table records the Gross Merchandise Value (GMV), in rupees crore, generated by four e-commerce platforms — Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and Delta — across the four quarters of the financial year 2025-26. GMV measures the total rupee value of goods sold on a platform before returns, discounts, and platform fees. Alpha and Beta grew steadily through the year, Delta accelerated in the second half, while Gamma's GMV declined every successive quarter despite a strong opening. All figures are final audited numbers reported to the platforms' respective boards, and no quarter's value has been restated. Analysts tracking the sector treat GMV as a headline indicator of scale, even though it does not by itself reveal profitability.

Platform	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Alpha	1200	1500	1800	2100
Beta	900	1080	1350	1620
Gamma	1600	1440	1280	1120
Delta	800	1000	1200	1400

21. What was Alpha's total Gross Merchandise Value across all four quarters of FY2025-26?

- ☐ A. ₹5,400 crore
☐ B. ₹6,400 crore
☐ C. ₹6,800 crore
☐ D. ₹6,600 crore

22. By what percentage did Delta's fourth-quarter GMV exceed its first-quarter GMV?

- ☐ A. 80%
☐ B. 57.1%
☐ C. 75%
☐ D. 62.5%



23. Which platform recorded the highest total GMV for the year, and what was that total?

- ☐ A. Gamma, with ₹5,440 crore
- ☐ B. Alpha, with ₹6,600 crore
- ☐ C. Beta, with ₹4,950 crore
- ☐ D. Delta, with ₹4,400 crore

24. Gamma's GMV fell in every successive quarter. What was Gamma's average quarterly GMV for the year?

- ☐ A. ₹1,340 crore
- ☐ B. ₹1,360 crore
- ☐ C. ₹1,400 crore
- ☐ D. ₹1,280 crore

25. The ratio of Alpha's first-quarter GMV to Delta's first-quarter GMV is closest to which of the following?

- ☐ A. 5 : 3
- ☐ B. 2 : 3
- ☐ C. 4 : 3
- ☐ D. 3 : 2

DATA SET 2 — CASES FILED, DISPOSED AND PENDING AT FOUR HIGH COURTS IN 2025 (IN THOUSANDS) (Q26–30)

The table presents judicial workload data for four High Courts, labelled P, Q, R, and S, for the calendar year 2025, with all figures expressed in thousands of cases. The Filed column counts fresh cases instituted during the year, the Disposed column counts cases decided or otherwise closed during the year, and the Pending column shows the backlog carried at the year's end. A court whose disposals exceed its fresh filings reduces its backlog, whereas a court that files more than it disposes adds to pendency. The figures are drawn from the courts' annual statistical returns. Comparing filings against disposals for each court reveals at a glance whether its backlog is rising or easing over the year.

High Court	Filed	Disposed	Pending at Year-End
Court P	120	90	210
Court Q	80	100	60
Court R	150	150	300
Court S	60	72	48

26. What was Court S's disposal rate, that is, cases disposed expressed as a percentage of cases filed, in 2025?

- ☐ A. 120%
- ☐ B. 83.3%
- ☐ C. 72%
- ☐ D. 20%

27. Which High Court disposed of exactly as many cases during 2025 as it received in fresh filings?

- ☐ A. Court S
- ☐ B. Court P
- ☐ C. Court Q
- ☐ D. Court R

28. For Court P, disposals in 2025 amounted to what percentage of its fresh filings?

- ☐ A. 30%
- ☐ B. 133.3%
- ☐ C. 70%
- ☐ D. 75%

29. What was the combined number of cases filed across all four High Courts in 2025?

- ☐ A. 390 thousand
- ☐ B. 412 thousand
- ☐ C. 410 thousand
- ☐ D. 420 thousand

30. Which court reduced its backlog by the largest margin, and by how much, given that a court cuts pendency when disposals exceed filings?

- ☐ A. Court Q, by 20 thousand
- ☐ B. Court S, by 12 thousand
- ☐ C. Court Q, by 100 thousand
- ☐ D. Court R, by 30 thousand

SECTION D — RAPID-FIRE MIXED REASONING & GK

Q31–34 · 4 Marks

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

31. Which Article of the Constitution of India guarantees equality before the law and the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India?

- ☐ A. Article 21
- ☐ B. Article 19
- ☐ C. Article 14
- ☐ D. Article 32

32. In which landmark 1973 decision did the Supreme Court propound the doctrine that Parliament cannot amend the basic structure of the Constitution?

- ☐ A. Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala
- ☐ B. Golaknath v. State of Punjab
- ☐ C. Minerva Mills v. Union of India
- ☐ D. Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India

33. The Directive Principles of State Policy, which are fundamental in the governance of the country but not enforceable by any court, are contained in which Part of the Constitution?

- ☐ A. Part III
- ☐ B. Part IV
- ☐ C. Part IVA
- ☐ D. Part II

34. The Fundamental Duties of citizens were added to the Constitution by which constitutional amendment, on the recommendation of the Swaran Singh Committee?

- ☐ A. The 42nd Amendment, 1976
- ☐ B. The 44th Amendment, 1978
- ☐ C. The 86th Amendment, 2002
- ☐ D. The 52nd Amendment, 1985

