

Daily Practice — Legal Reasoning · Logical Reasoning · Quantitative Techniques

Every question is passage-based, CLAT-2026 grade. Darken one bubble. Negative marking applies. Full solutions with examiner notes are in the companion answer sheet.

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

SECTION — LEGAL REASONING

LEGAL PRINCIPLE — FAMILY LAW · MAINTENANCE UNDER SECTION 144 BNSS: WHO MAY CLAIM, WHO IS BARRED (Q1-Q5)

Section 144 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS), which reproduces the former Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, gives a swift, summary remedy against neglect and destitution. If any person having sufficient means neglects or refuses to maintain his wife who is unable to maintain herself, his legitimate or illegitimate minor child unable to maintain itself, his legitimate or illegitimate child who has attained majority but is, by reason of any physical or mental abnormality or injury, unable to maintain itself, or his father or mother unable to maintain himself or herself, a Magistrate of the first class may order him to pay a monthly allowance. For this purpose 'wife' includes a woman who has been divorced by, or has obtained a divorce from, her husband and has not remarried. In *Chaturbhuj v Sita Bai* (2008) the Supreme Court held that 'unable to maintain herself' does not require the wife to be destitute: the question is whether she can maintain herself in the manner she was accustomed to in her husband's home. Under Section 144(4) a wife is not entitled to an allowance if she is living in adultery, or if without sufficient reason she refuses to live with her husband, or if they are living separately by mutual consent. Where a husband offers to maintain his wife on condition of her living with him and she refuses, the Magistrate may consider her grounds of refusal; and if the husband has contracted marriage with another woman or keeps a mistress, that is by statute a just ground for her refusal. The Court has read 'mother' as not including a stepmother, save that a childless stepmother who is a widow, or whose husband is himself unable to support her, may claim from her stepson (*Kirtikant D. Vadodaria v State of Gujarat*, 1996). An adult daughter with no abnormality or injury cannot claim under this section, although an unmarried Hindu daughter may seek maintenance from her father under Section 20(3) of the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 (*Abhilasha v Prakash*, 2020). If a person so ordered fails without sufficient cause to comply, the Magistrate may issue a warrant for levying the amount due and may sentence him, for each month's allowance remaining unpaid after the warrant is executed, to imprisonment which may extend to one month or until payment if sooner made; but no warrant shall issue for any amount unless application is made to the court within one year from the date on which that amount became due.

1. Rekha obtained a divorce from Arun two years ago and has not remarried. She now works as a part-time tutor earning Rs 9,000 a month, which covers her food and the rent of a single room, while Arun, a chartered accountant with a large practice, lives in the spacious flat where she enjoyed a comfortable life during the marriage. Arun resists her petition under Section 144. Which is the best answer?

- ☐ A. Rekha fails, because a woman who has obtained a divorce ceases to be a 'wife' for the purposes of Section 144.
- ☐ B. Rekha may succeed, because her earnings do not let her live as she was accustomed to live in Arun's home.
- ☐ C. Rekha fails, because her own earnings meet her basic needs, so she cannot be regarded as a destitute wife.
- ☐ D. Rekha may succeed, but only if she first proves that Arun deliberately caused the breakdown of the marriage.

2. Sunita left the matrimonial home after her husband Vikram went through a second marriage ceremony with Kavya. Vikram, a well-paid engineer, now offers to maintain Sunita in a separate portion of his house if she returns, and argues that her continued refusal to live with him disentitles her under Section 144(4). Which is correct?

- ☐ A. Sunita loses, because a wife who rejects her husband's offer of maintenance under his own roof forfeits it.
- ☐ B. Sunita loses, because the offer of a separate portion answers every reasonable objection she could raise.
- ☐ C. Sunita wins only if she shows that she has no income at all and is facing actual destitution at present.
- ☐ D. Sunita wins, because Vikram's marriage to another woman is by statute a just ground for her refusal.

3. A Magistrate ordered Mohan to pay his wife an allowance of Rs 8,000 on the first day of every month. Mohan paid nothing from the instalment due on 1 June 2025 up to and including the instalment due on 1 August 2026, fifteen instalments in all. His wife applied to the court on 20 August 2026 for a warrant to levy the arrears. For what amount can the warrant issue?

- ☐ A. Rs 1,20,000, which is all fifteen of the unpaid instalments
- ☐ B. Rs 1,04,000, which is thirteen of the unpaid instalments
- ☐ C. Rs 96,000, which is twelve of the unpaid instalments
- ☐ D. Rs 88,000, which is eleven of the unpaid instalments

4. Pooja, aged nineteen, unmarried and in good health, is a full-time college student with no income of her own. Her father, a prosperous trader, has stopped paying her fees and living expenses. She files a petition under Section 144 before a Magistrate. Which is correct?

- ☐ A. Her Section 144 claim fails, being an adult free of abnormality or injury, though the 1956 Act may aid her.
- ☐ B. Her Section 144 claim succeeds, because an unmarried daughter is treated as a minor child until she marries.
- ☐ C. Her Section 144 claim succeeds, because a father of sufficient means must support any child who is studying.
- ☐ D. Her claim fails under every law, since an adult child of either sex has no enforceable right to maintenance.

5. Lata, a widow, was the second wife of the late Ramesh. She has a daughter of her own, now a well-settled doctor, and a stepson, Ajay, Ramesh's son by his first wife, who earns handsomely. Lata, who has no income, seeks maintenance from Ajay under Section 144. Which is correct?

- ☐ A. She succeeds, because a widowed stepmother is always a 'mother' of her late husband's sons under Section 144.
- ☐ B. She succeeds, because Ajay, like any adult son of sufficient means, is bound to support his father's widow.
- ☐ C. She fails, because the stepmother exception covers only a childless stepmother, and Lata has a daughter.
- ☐ D. She fails, because a stepmother can never be treated as a 'mother' in any situation under Section 144.



LEGAL PRINCIPLE — LAW OF EVIDENCE (BSA) · CONFESSIONS UNDER THE BSA: INDUCEMENT, POLICE CUSTODY, DISCOVERY AND THE CO-ACCUSED (Q6–Q9)

The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (BSA), which replaced the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, carries forward the older law on confessions with little change of substance. Under Section 22 of the BSA (formerly Section 24), a confession made by an accused person is irrelevant in a criminal proceeding if it appears to the court to have been caused by any inducement, threat, coercion or promise having reference to the charge, proceeding from a person in authority, and sufficient to give the accused grounds, which appear to him reasonable, for supposing that by making it he would gain an advantage or avoid an evil of a temporal nature. The provisos to Section 22 (formerly Sections 28 and 29) add that such a confession becomes relevant if it is made after the impression caused by the inducement, threat, coercion or promise has, in the opinion of the court, been fully removed; and that an otherwise relevant confession does not become irrelevant merely because it was made under a promise of secrecy, or in consequence of a deception practised on the accused, or when he was drunk. Section 23(1) (formerly Section 25) forbids proof of any confession made to a police officer, and Section 23(2) (formerly Section 26) forbids proof of a confession made by any person while in the custody of a police officer unless it is made in the immediate presence of a Magistrate. The proviso to Section 23 (formerly Section 27) nevertheless allows proof of so much of the information received from an accused in police custody, whether it amounts to a confession or not, as relates distinctly to the fact thereby discovered. In *Pulukuri Kottaya v Emperor* (1947) the Privy Council held that the 'fact discovered' embraces the place from which an object is produced and the knowledge of the accused as to this, so that words describing the past use or history of the object are excluded. Finally, under Section 24 (formerly Section 30), when more persons than one are being tried jointly for the same offence and a confession made by one of them affecting himself and some other of them is proved, the court may take it into consideration against that other. In *Kashmira Singh v State of Madhya Pradesh* (1952) and *Haricharan Kurmi v State of Bihar* (1964) the Supreme Court held that such a confession is not substantive evidence; it can only lend assurance to other evidence already on record.

6. Deepak, arrested for robbery and held in the police lock-up, is visited by his uncle. With a constable standing just outside the cell door, Deepak tells his uncle that he committed the robbery. At the trial the prosecution calls the uncle to prove this confession. Which is correct?

- ☐ A. It cannot be proved, since it was made in police custody and not in the immediate presence of a Magistrate.
- ☐ B. It can be proved, since it was made to a relative and not to a police officer, so Section 23(1) cannot apply.
- ☐ C. It can be proved, since the constable stayed outside the cell and did not induce the confession in any way.
- ☐ D. It cannot be proved, since every confession made by an accused after his arrest is irrelevant under Section 22.

7. In police custody, Salim tells the investigating officer, 'I buried the gold chain that I snatched from Meena under the tulsi plant in my courtyard.' He then leads the police to the courtyard, and the chain is dug up from that very spot. Which part of his statement is provable?

- ☐ A. All of the statement, because the recovery of the chain confirms that every word of it was in fact true.
- ☐ B. Only 'I buried the gold chain under the tulsi plant in my courtyard', and not that he snatched it from Meena.
- ☐ C. Only the fact of the chain's recovery, because no words spoken by an accused in custody can ever be proved at all.
- ☐ D. None of the statement, because it contains a confession of the snatching and is therefore wholly barred.

8. Harish, a bank cashier, is suspected of embezzlement. The bank's regional manager tells him that if he confesses, the bank will not report the matter to the police, and Harish confesses. A week later the manager tells Harish in writing that the promise is withdrawn and that the matter will be reported whatever he says. Harish, fully aware of this, confesses again to the manager, who assures him that the conversation will stay strictly confidential. Which is correct about the second confession?

- ☐ A. It is irrelevant, because once an inducement has been offered, every later confession to that same person is tainted.
- ☐ B. It is irrelevant, because it was obtained on a promise of confidentiality, which is itself a prohibited inducement.
- ☐ C. It is relevant only if Harish repeats it before a Magistrate, because the manager is a person in authority over him.
- ☐ D. It is relevant, as the inducement's impression was fully removed and a promise of secrecy alone does not exclude it.

9. Anil and Bhola are tried jointly. Anil is charged with murder; Bhola is charged only with causing the disappearance of evidence of that murder by burning the victim's clothes. Anil's proved confession states that he killed the victim and that Bhola had helped him plan the killing. There is no other evidence connecting Bhola to the planning. Which is correct?

- ☐ A. The court may use the confession against Bhola under Section 24, because the two accused are being tried jointly.
- ☐ B. The court may convict Bhola of murder on the confession alone, provided it is satisfied that the confession is true.
- ☐ C. Section 24 is not attracted against Bhola at all, because the two accused are not being tried for the same offence.
- ☐ D. The confession is irrelevant against Bhola, because a co-accused's confession can never be used against another.

SECTION — LOGICAL REASONING

LOGICAL REASONING — INFERENCE · THE VARENPUR LIBRARY REVIEW (Q10–Q13)

The library board of Varenpur has published its review of the city's twenty-four branch libraries for 2025, the same twenty-four branches that were open throughout 2024. The review records the following. Every branch that abolished late fines during the year recorded an increase in the number of its active borrowers. No branch that recorded an increase in its active borrowers reduced its stock of new titles. Some of the branches that extended their opening hours did not abolish late fines. Every branch in the old city both abolished late fines and extended its opening hours. The board's auditor adds two further findings. First, the total number of books returned late across all twenty-four branches was lower in 2025 than in 2024. Second, not one branch that kept its late fines recorded a fall in the number of books returned late to it. The review makes no claim about why any of these changes occurred, and it reports no figures for any individual branch.

10. Suppose that a particular branch reduced its stock of new titles in 2025. Which one of the following must be true of that branch?

- ☐ A. It extended its opening hours during the year but did not abolish its late fines.
- ☐ B. It kept its late fines and it is not one of the branches situated in the old city.
- ☐ C. It recorded a decrease in the number of its active borrowers during the year 2025.
- ☐ D. It lies outside the old city and recorded a rise in the number of its late returns.



11. Which one of the following cannot be true, given the statements in the review?

- ☐ A. An old-city branch reduced its stock of new titles during 2025.
- ☐ B. A branch that extended its hours recorded no rise in borrowers.
- ☐ C. A branch that abolished its fines did not extend opening hours.
- ☐ D. A branch that kept its late fines recorded more active borrowers.

12. Which one of the following can be properly concluded from the auditor's two findings taken together with the rest of the review?

- ☐ A. Most of the system-wide fall in late returns was contributed by the branches in the old city.
- ☐ B. Abolishing late fines caused late returns to fall at the branches that abolished them in 2025.
- ☐ C. Every branch that abolished late fines in 2025 recorded a fall in the number of its late returns.
- ☐ D. At least one branch that abolished late fines recorded a fall in the number of its late returns.

13. Each of the following must be true EXCEPT:

- ☐ A. At least one branch that extended its opening hours kept its late fines through 2025.
- ☐ B. No branch in the old city recorded a fall in the number of its active borrowers in 2025.
- ☐ C. Every old-city branch recorded a fall in the number of books returned late to it.
- ☐ D. No branch that recorded a fall in its late returns was a branch that kept its late fines.

LOGICAL REASONING — PARADOX · MORE FIRES, FEWER DEATHS IN TAMSA (Q14-Q17)

Three years ago the municipal corporation of Tamsa made it compulsory for landlords to fit working smoke alarms in every rented flat in the city. Since then, the number of residential fires reported to the city's fire service has risen by forty per cent, although the number of rented flats has barely changed and the city's population has been stable. Over the same three years, deaths in residential fires have fallen by half, and the average insurance claim for fire damage to a flat has fallen by nearly a third. A councillor opposed to the rule argues that the figures prove the alarms are useless or worse: if they worked, he says, there would be fewer fires, not more. The fire service's chief officer replies that the figures show the rule doing exactly what it was meant to do, because an alarm cannot stop a fire from starting; it can only make sure that someone knows about the fire sooner.

14. Which one of the following, if true, most helps to reconcile the rise in reported fires with the fall in deaths and in the average insurance claim?

- ☐ A. Alarms now reveal small fires early, so many are reported and put out that once went unreported or grew large.
- ☐ B. The fire service recruited more firefighters over the three years, so its crews can now attend more calls a day.
- ☐ C. Insurers in Tamsa raised their premiums for rented flats, so fewer tenants now carry any fire insurance at all.
- ☐ D. Most fatal residential fires in Tamsa start at night, when the occupants of a flat are usually asleep in bed.

15. Each of the following, if true, helps to explain the pattern in the Tamsa figures EXCEPT:

- ☐ A. Each new alarm is linked to the fire service, which logs every activation it receives as a reported fire.
- ☐ B. Before the rule, tenants seldom reported small fires they had put out, fearing their landlord's anger.
- ☐ C. Fires tackled within the first few minutes rarely kill anyone and rarely cause heavy damage to a flat.
- ☐ D. Three fire stations in Tamsa closed during the period, so crews now take longer to reach a burning flat.

16. Which one of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the chief officer's reply?

- ☐ A. Several landlords in Tamsa have complained that the cost of fitting and servicing the alarms is excessive.
- ☐ B. Deaths in fires fell just as steeply in Tamsa's owner-occupied houses, which the rule did not cover at all.
- ☐ C. Some tenants in Tamsa disconnect their alarms because cooking smoke sets them off far too often for comfort.
- ☐ D. The councillor who opposes the rule owns several rented flats and has had to pay for the alarms himself.

17. Which one of the following would be most useful to know in evaluating the chief officer's claim that the rule is doing what it was meant to do?

- ☐ A. Whether the population of Tamsa is expected to grow faster in the next three years than in the last three.
- ☐ B. Whether the councillor raised this same objection when the rule was first debated by the corporation.
- ☐ C. Whether the extra reported fires were mostly in rented flats and were small when the service was called.
- ☐ D. Whether the total amount insurers paid out on fire claims in Tamsa rose or fell over the three years.

SECTION — QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

QUANT — TRADE & INDUSTRY · BAR/LINE GRAPH DI · SARVANA'S EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BY PRODUCT GROUP (Q18-Q22)

A trade promotion council publishes a bar chart of the merchandise trade of five product groups of the country of Sarvana. For each group the chart shows three bars: the value of the group's exports in 2023-24, the value of its exports in 2024-25, and the value of its imports in 2024-25. All values are in US dollar billion. The council uses the chart to show which groups are expanding their exports fastest, which of them earn more abroad than the country spends on importing goods of the same kind, and how the mix of the country's exports is changing. The bar heights are reproduced in the table below.

Product group	Exports 2023-24 (US\$ bn)	Exports 2024-25 (US\$ bn)	Imports 2024-25 (US\$ bn)
Engineering goods	80	92	60
Textiles	36	40.5	12
Chemicals	45	54	50
Electronics	25	32.5	75
Gems & jewellery	40	36	28

18. Among the groups that had a trade surplus (exports greater than imports) in 2024-25, which one recorded the highest percentage growth in exports over 2023-24?

- ☐ A. Electronics
- ☐ B. Chemicals
- ☐ C. Engineering goods
- ☐ D. Textiles

19. What would the combined trade surplus of the five groups in 2024-25 have been had gems and jew



exports stayed at their 2023-24 level and electronics imports been 20% lower?

- ☐ A. US\$ 45 billion ☐ B. US\$ 34 billion
☐ C. US\$ 19 billion ☐ D. US\$ 49 billion

20. Textile exports rose in value from 2023-24 to 2024-25. What happened to the share of textiles in the combined exports of the five groups?

- ☐ A. It fell, by about 0.05 percentage point
☐ B. It rose, by about 0.05 percentage point
☐ C. It rose, by about 1.80 percentage points
☐ D. It stayed unchanged, at about 15.9 per cent

21. Suppose that in 2025-26 electronics exports grow at the same percentage rate as in 2024-25, while electronics imports fall by 10%. What will the electronics trade deficit be in 2025-26?

- ☐ A. US\$ 35.00 billion ☐ B. US\$ 32.75 billion
☐ C. US\$ 25.25 billion ☐ D. US\$ 29.25 billion

22. Suppose that in 2025-26 every group's exports grow at the percentage rate that group recorded in 2024-25, and every group's imports rise by 10%. How many groups will then have an export-to-import ratio above 1.25?

- ☐ A. One group ☐ B. Two groups
☐ C. Three groups ☐ D. Four groups

QUANT — TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE · CASELET REASONING · ROAD OR RAIL TO THE INLAND DEPOT (Q23-Q26)

A logistics firm moves containers from a port to an inland container depot 600 km away, measuring cargo in TEU (twenty-foot equivalent units). By road, each truck carries 2 TEU and averages 40 km/h. The firm pays Rs 90 per km for a loaded run, and the empty return run costs 60% of that rate. Loading a truck at the port takes 3 hours and unloading at the depot takes 3 hours; the firm plans on the basis that a truck completes only whole round trips within a week of 168 hours. By rail, a rake carries up to 90 TEU and averages 30 km/h. Each rake trip costs a fixed Rs 3,60,000 however many containers it carries, plus Rs 1,200 per TEU, and every container sent by rail also incurs Rs 2,500 for road haulage to and from the terminals. A rake departs the port at 22:00 every day; a container must reach the port terminal at least 6 hours before departure to be handled onto that day's rake, handling at the depot end takes another 6 hours, and the final road haulage from the depot terminal to the consignee takes 2 hours. The firm has 40 trucks.

23. What is the road cost of moving one TEU from the port to the depot, counting the truck's empty return run?

- ☐ A. Rs 27,000 per TEU ☐ B. Rs 54,000 per TEU
☐ C. Rs 86,400 per TEU ☐ D. Rs 43,200 per TEU

24. Suppose the road operator finds paid cargo for every return run, so that the firm no longer bears any cost for the return. What is the smallest number of TEU a rake must carry for rail to cost less per TEU than road?

- ☐ A. 16 TEU ☐ B. 10 TEU
☐ C. 15 TEU ☐ D. 14 TEU

25. In one week the firm must move 540 TEU. It sends as many as its 40 trucks can carry (at the costs in the passage, with empty returns) and sends the rest by rail, using as few rakes as possible. What is the total cost of the week's movement?

- ☐ A. Rs 1,55,18,000 ☐ B. Rs 1,85,18,000
☐ C. Rs 1,57,18,000 ☐ D. Rs 1,60,78,000

26. A container reaches the port at 18:00 on a Monday. By how many hours does rail delivery to the consignee trail road delivery, if road delivery is complete once the truck has been unloaded at the depot?

- ☐ A. 11 hours ☐ B. 17 hours
☐ C. 38 hours ☐ D. 35 hours

RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL

21 quick questions · not negatively marked

1. Which BNSS section provides maintenance for wives, children and parents? _____
2. Does 'wife' under s.144 BNSS include a divorced woman? _____
3. 'Unable to maintain herself' does not mean destitute - which case? _____
4. Husband's second marriage and the wife's refusal to live with him? _____
5. Time limit to seek a warrant for maintenance arrears? _____
6. Which stepmother may claim maintenance from a stepson? _____
7. BSA section barring confessions to a police officer? _____
8. BSA provision on discovery of facts from an accused in custody? _____
9. Leading case on the meaning of 'fact discovered'? _____
10. BSA section on the confession of a co-accused? _____
11. From 'All A are B', can you infer 'All B are A'? _____
12. In a paradox question, what must the correct answer do? _____
13. Can a Magistrate order interim maintenance during a s.144 BNSS proceeding? _____
14. Within how long should an interim maintenance application ordinarily be disposed of? _____
15. Is a wife living in adultery entitled to maintenance under s.144? _____
16. Can a Hindu father claim maintenance from his son under the HAMA, 1956? _____
17. BSA section making a confession caused by inducement, threat or promise irrelevant? _____
18. Confession while in police custody is admissible only if made before whom? _____
19. Is a confession of a co-accused substantive evidence? _____
20. What does 'Some A are B' permit you to conclude about 'Some B are A'? _____
21. Contrapositive of 'If P then Q'? _____

