

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.

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SECTION — LEGAL REASONING
LEGAL PRINCIPLE — CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW · THE CONSUMER, THE FORUM, AND THE CLOCK (Q1-Q4)

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, which replaced the 1986 Act, reframes the rights of a 'consumer' and the fora that hear grievances. Section 2(7) defines a consumer as any person who buys goods or avails services for consideration, but excludes one who obtains them for resale or any commercial purpose; its explanation preserves consumer status where goods or services are used exclusively to earn a livelihood by self-employment. Section 2(47) defines an 'unfair trade practice' to include falsely stating that goods or services are of a particular standard, quality, grade or model, and knowingly offering misleading warranties. Section 35 gives the District Commission original jurisdiction where the consideration paid does not exceed fifty lakh rupees. Section 69 prescribes a two-year limitation from the date the cause of action arises, but a complaint may be entertained later if the complainant satisfies the Commission that there was sufficient cause for the delay, the Commission recording its reasons for condoning it.

1. Sunita purchases an industrial embroidery machine, which she personally operates in a one-woman tailoring unit to earn her living. The seller argues she is not a 'consumer' because the machine was bought for a commercial purpose. Under Section 2(7), Sunita is:

- ☐ A. Not a consumer, because any purchase of machinery used to generate income is a commercial purpose that falls outside the definition regardless of who operates the equipment or the scale on which it is used
- ☐ B. A consumer, because the machine was bought and used exclusively to earn her livelihood by means of self-employment, which the explanation to Section 2(7) expressly preserves
- ☐ C. Not a consumer, because embroidery machines are capital goods and all capital goods are categorically excluded from the definition of goods under the Act
- ☐ D. A consumer only if she additionally proves that she employs no other workers and earns below the taxable income threshold prescribed under the Act

2. A consumer pays forty-five lakh rupees as consideration for a service that proves defective. Before which forum must the complaint be filed at first instance under Section 35?

- ☐ A. The State Commission, because any dispute involving a sum running into lakhs of rupees lies beyond the ordinary original competence of a District Commission
- ☐ B. The National Commission, because defective high-value services are reserved for the apex consumer forum irrespective of the actual consideration that was paid
- ☐ C. Either the District or the State Commission, at the free choice of the complainant, since the Act creates concurrent original jurisdiction up to one crore rupees
- ☐ D. The District Commission, because the consideration paid does not exceed the fifty-lakh-rupee ceiling fixed for its original jurisdiction under the section

3. A cause of action arose on 1 January 2023. The consumer files her complaint on 1 April 2025 — two years and three months later — and produces hospital records showing she was comatose for eight of those months. Under Section 69, the Commission should:

- ☐ A. Reject the complaint outright, because the two-year limitation period under Section 69 is absolute and admits of no extension once it has expired on its terms
- ☐ B. Admit the complaint as of right, because the limitation period is merely directory and a consumer may file at any time so long as the alleged defect continues
- ☐ C. Entertain the complaint if satisfied that the hospitalisation furnishes sufficient cause for the delay, after recording in writing its reasons for condoning that delay
- ☐ D. Refer the question of limitation to a civil court, because condonation of delay is a matter beyond the competence of a consumer Commission to decide on its own motion, at least in the first instance

4. A trader advertises that his water purifiers are 'certified to meet the IS 10500 drinking-water standard' when no such certification has ever been obtained for the product. This conduct most squarely amounts to:

- ☐ A. An unfair trade practice under Section 2(47), being a false statement that the goods are of a particular standard or grade that they do not in fact possess
- ☐ B. A mere breach of contract actionable only before a civil court, since advertising claims of this kind do not fall within the Consumer Protection Act at all
- ☐ C. A restrictive trade practice, because the trader has thereby manipulated the conditions of delivery of the goods to the prejudice of the consumers who buy them
- ☐ D. A deficiency in service under Section 2(11), because a water purifier is a service rendered to the buyer over time rather than a good that is sold to him

LEGAL PRINCIPLE — ADMINISTRATIVE LAW · NATURAL JUSTICE, REASONABLENESS AND THE LIMITS OF DELEGATED POWER (Q5-Q8)

Administrative law disciplines the exercise of public power through several interlocking doctrines. The rules of natural justice require, first, that no person be condemned unheard (*audi alteram partem*) and, second, that no one judge their own cause (*nemo iudex in causa sua*). In *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India* (1978), the Supreme Court held that any procedure depriving a person of liberty must be just, fair and reasonable, reading natural justice into Article 21. A decision may be struck down for *Wednesbury* unreasonableness - is so outrageous in its defiance of logic or accepted moral standards that no sensible authority could have reached it. The *legitimate expectation* protects a person who, on a settled past practice or a clear and unambiguous promise, reasonably



benefit or at least a hearing before it is withdrawn; but the expectation yields where an overriding public interest justifies a change of course. Finally, delegated legislation is ultra vires and void if it travels beyond the power conferred by its parent statute.

5. A municipal authority cancels a trader's licence for an alleged sanitation violation without issuing any notice or giving him any opportunity to explain himself. The cancellation is most vulnerable to challenge on the ground that it violates:

- ☐ A. The Wednesbury standard, because cancelling a licence for a single sanitation lapse is so disproportionate that no reasonable authority could ever have ordered it
- ☐ B. The doctrine of legitimate expectation, because the trader expected his licence to be renewed on the basis of the authority's long and settled past practice
- ☐ C. The audi alteram partem rule of natural justice, because the trader was condemned and his licence cancelled without notice or any opportunity to be heard
- ☐ D. The ultra vires doctrine, because the municipal authority had no power under its parent statute to issue or to cancel trading licences of this kind at all

6. In a departmental inquiry, the very officer who lodged the complaint against an employee is also appointed to the three-member panel that decides the employee's guilt. The inquiry is open to challenge principally because it offends:

- ☐ A. The audi alteram partem rule, because the employee was not permitted to cross-examine the several witnesses who deposed against him during the course of the inquiry
- ☐ B. The nemo iudex in causa sua rule, because a person cannot sit in judgment over a cause in which he is himself the accuser and therefore an interested party
- ☐ C. The doctrine of legitimate expectation, because the employee legitimately expected an impartial tribunal on the strength of the department's own published service rules
- ☐ D. The principle of proportionality, because placing the complainant on the panel is an excessive response that is disproportionate to the gravity of the charge framed

7. A state announces, and for five consecutive years operates, a scholarship for a defined category of students. In the sixth year it withdraws the scheme, citing a documented fiscal emergency that makes continuation impossible without cutting essential health spending. A student invokes legitimate expectation. The claim will most likely:

- ☐ A. Succeed absolutely, because once an authority has operated a scheme for five years the benefit crystallises into a vested right that can no longer be withdrawn
- ☐ B. Fail at the threshold, because the doctrine of legitimate expectation is unknown to Indian administrative law and has never been recognised by the Supreme Court
- ☐ C. Succeed, because a documented fiscal emergency is legally irrelevant to a settled expectation and public interest can never override an individual's expectation
- ☐ D. Fail, because a legitimate expectation, though it arises from the settled five-year practice, yields to an overriding public interest such as the demonstrated fiscal emergency

8. A parent statute empowers an authority to make rules 'regulating the registration of vehicles'. The authority frames a rule imposing a two-year prison term for late registration. The rule is most accurately described as:

- ☐ A. Ultra vires the parent statute, because the power to regulate registration does not extend to creating a term of imprisonment that the parent Act never conferred
- ☐ B. Intra vires, because a rule-making authority enjoys an inherent power to attach penal consequences, including imprisonment, to any obligation that it validly creates by means of a rule
- ☐ C. Valid, because once the legislature delegates rule-making power the delegate may legislate on any matter whatsoever that it considers incidental to that power
- ☐ D. Void for Wednesbury unreasonableness alone, the sole defect being that two years is a harsher term than a reasonable authority would ordinarily have selected

SECTION — LOGICAL REASONING

LOGICAL REASONING — PARALLEL REASONING · MARCHING IN STEP: MATCHING THE STRUCTURE OF AN ARGUMENT (Q9-Q12)

Consider the following argument. Every student who has mastered the fundamentals of a subject can answer unfamiliar questions in it; Anita can answer unfamiliar questions in geometry; therefore Anita has mastered the fundamentals of geometry. The argument moves from a general conditional — that mastery guarantees the ability to answer unfamiliar questions — to a conclusion that an observed instance of that ability proves mastery. In doing so it treats a condition that is merely sufficient for the ability as though it were also necessary for it. Several further arguments below either share, or fail to share, this underlying structure. The task in each question is to reason about that structure itself — to find the argument whose reasoning marches in step with the Anita argument, flaw for flaw, rather than one that merely discusses a similar subject.

9. Which of the following arguments exhibits the same pattern of reasoning as the argument about Anita?

- ☐ A. All ripe mangoes are sweet; this particular mango is not sweet; therefore this particular mango cannot be ripe at the present time
- ☐ B. Every diligent clerk files his reports on time; Mohan files his reports on time; therefore Mohan must be a diligent clerk in the office
- ☐ C. No trained pilot fears ordinary turbulence; Rita openly fears ordinary turbulence; therefore Rita cannot be a trained pilot at all
- ☐ D. Every bridge built of steel can bear heavy loads; this bridge is built of steel; therefore this bridge can certainly bear heavy loads under ordinary service conditions

10. The flaw shared by the Anita argument and its structural twin is best described as:

- ☐ A. Hasty generalisation — drawing a sweeping universal rule from far too few observed instances to warrant any such generalisation
- ☐ B. Circular reasoning — assuming somewhere within the premises the very conclusion that the argument then sets out to establish



- ☐ C. False dilemma — presenting the matter as a choice between only two options when a range of further possibilities is in fact genuinely available to the one reasoning
- ☐ D. Affirming the consequent — treating a condition that is merely sufficient for a result as though it were also necessary for that result

11. Three of the following four arguments share the Anita argument's structure. Which one does NOT share that structure?

- ☐ A. Everyone who studied the brief can summarise the case; Priya can summarise the case; so Priya must have studied the brief beforehand
- ☐ B. Every alloy that contains copper conducts electricity; this alloy conducts electricity; so this alloy must contain some copper in it
- ☐ C. Every witness who lies contradicts himself under cross-examination; this witness did not contradict himself under cross-examination; so this witness did not lie
- ☐ D. Every well-irrigated field yields a surplus harvest; this field clearly yields a surplus harvest; so this field must certainly have been well and thoroughly irrigated

12. Which single additional premise, if it were true, would make the Anita argument's conclusion follow validly from its premises?

- ☐ A. Only students who have mastered the fundamentals of a subject can answer unfamiliar questions in that subject
- ☐ B. Some students who can answer unfamiliar questions have nonetheless failed to master the fundamentals of the subject
- ☐ C. Anita has answered unfamiliar questions in several subjects other than geometry over the course of the past year
- ☐ D. Students who master the fundamentals of geometry invariably go on to answer unfamiliar questions set in it

LOGICAL REASONING — METHOD / BOLD-FACE FUNCTION · THE COLUMNIST AND THE PARKING SUBSIDY (Q13–Q16)

A columnist writes: ****The city's decade-old policy of subsidising private car parking has steadily worsened congestion and degraded air quality.**** Supporters of the subsidy insist that withdrawing it would cripple downtown commerce by driving shoppers to suburban malls. But the experience of three comparable cities that scrapped identical subsidies tells a different story: in each of them, downtown footfall actually rose within two years, as the reclaimed street space was turned over to pedestrians and public transit. ****The subsidy should therefore be phased out over a fixed three-year schedule rather than defended as a pillar of commercial life.**** The columnist's case, she stresses, rests not on any hostility to motorists but on the evidence that the policy's stated benefit has failed to materialise even as its measurable costs continue to mount year on year.

13. In the columnist's argument, the two portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

- ☐ A. The first is the conclusion the columnist seeks to establish; the second is an objection raised by the subsidy's supporters that the columnist then proceeds to rebut in the later part of the passage
- ☐ B. The first is a finding that the columnist advances as evidence against the policy; the second is the main recommendation that the whole argument is directed at establishing
- ☐ C. The first is a concession the columnist makes to her opponents; the second is the single piece of evidence on which the entire recommendation finally comes to rest
- ☐ D. The first and the second are two independent conclusions, neither of which supports the other, both drawn from the experience of the three comparable cities cited

14. The columnist's reference to the experience of the three comparable cities functions in the argument primarily to:

- ☐ A. Establish the first boldface claim that the subsidy has worsened congestion and degraded air quality in the columnist's own city over the past decade
- ☐ B. Concede that withdrawing the subsidy carries a genuine and serious risk to downtown commerce that must honestly be weighed in the overall balance
- ☐ C. Rebut the supporters' prediction that scrapping the subsidy would cripple downtown commerce, by pointing to cases where exactly the opposite occurred
- ☐ D. Prove that pedestrianising reclaimed street space is the only possible use to which the vacated parking area could conceivably ever be put in future

15. The columnist's reasoning depends on assuming that:

- ☐ A. The three comparable cities resemble the columnist's own city closely enough that their experience is a reliable guide to what would follow if the subsidy were withdrawn here
- ☐ B. No city anywhere has ever withdrawn a parking subsidy without suffering a permanent and clearly measurable collapse in the level of its downtown retail activity that it was ever afterwards able to reverse
- ☐ C. The subsidy was originally introduced for reasons that even its own supporters have since publicly admitted were mistaken and indefensible from the very start
- ☐ D. Clean air is a more important public objective than the preservation of downtown commerce under every conceivable set of economic circumstances that could arise

16. Which of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the columnist's argument?

- ☐ A. The three comparable cities were right to scrap their own parking subsidies at the particular time when each of them chose to do so
- ☐ B. Supporters of the parking subsidy are in truth motivated by an underlying hostility toward pedestrians and toward public transit systems
- ☐ C. Downtown commerce depends almost entirely on the continued ready availability of heavily subsidised private car parking in the city centre
- ☐ D. The parking subsidy should be phased out over a fixed three-year schedule rather than retained as a supposed pillar of commercial life

SECTION — QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

QUANT — AGRICULTURE & FOOD · MENSURATION IN CONTEXT · THE COOPERATIVE FARM'S ASSETS (Q17–Q20)



Asset	Shape	Key dimensions	Planned work
Wheat field	Rectangle	120 m x 90 m	Fence the full perimeter
Grain silo	Cylinder	radius 7 m, height 15 m	Store grain; paint curved surface
Irrigation pond	Circle	radius 14 m	Deepen uniformly by 2.5 m
Vegetable plot	Triangle	base 60 m, height 40 m	Measure area

- QUANT — SPORTS & TOURNAMENTS · TIME-SPEED-DISTANCE · TIMING THE INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (Q21-Q25)**

Competitor	Event	Distance	Time
Runner A	Sprint	100 m	10 s
Runner B	Middle distance	400 m	50 s
Cyclist C	Road circuit	40 km	80 min

- RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL** 4 quick questions · not negatively marked

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