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 — ADMINISTRATIVE LAW · ABUSE AND NON-EXERCISE OF DISCRETION: DICTATION, FETTERING, IRRELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS AND AFTER-THE-FACT REASONS (Q1–Q5)

Where a statute confers a discretion on a named authority, the law insists that the discretion be exercised by that authority, on the matters the statute makes relevant, and for the purpose for which it was given. Several distinct grounds of review follow. First, the authority must not act under dictation. In Commissioner of Police, Bombay v Gordhandas Bhanji (AIR 1952 SC 16), the Commissioner, who alone held the power under the relevant rules to grant and cancel licences for places of public amusement, cancelled a cinema licence on the direction of the State Government. The Supreme Court held the cancellation bad, because the order was in substance the Government's and not the Commissioner's. Consulting others or receiving advice is not in itself wrong; the vice lies in surrendering one's own judgment, so that the decision is in truth another's. Second, the authority must not fetter its discretion. It may adopt a policy to guide like cases, but it must not apply that policy so rigidly that it refuses to consider an applicant who has something new to say (British Oxygen Co v Board of Trade, [1971] AC 610). Third, the authority must take into account the considerations the statute makes relevant, must exclude irrelevant ones, and must not use a power for a purpose other than that for which it was conferred. Such an exercise is bad as 'malice in law' even where the officer bears the applicant no personal ill-will (S R Venkataraman v Union of India, 1979). Fourth, an order made mechanically, without the authority applying its mind to the facts before it, is invalid. Finally, Gordhandas Bhanji also laid down that a public order made under statutory authority must be judged by the reasons stated in it; it cannot be supported by fresh reasons supplied later in an affidavit filed in court.

1. The Excise Act empowers the District Collector alone to renew liquor-vend licences. Before deciding Ratan's renewal, the Collector receives a note from the Excise Minister: 'Do not renew; I have decided this.' The Collector's order reads: 'Renewal refused, as directed by the Hon'ble Minister.' Is the refusal valid?

- ◯ **A.** No, since the Collector gave up his own judgment and simply carried out a decision that was in substance the Minister's
- ◯ **B.** Yes, since a Minister is senior to the Collector, and a Collector is bound to obey every lawful direction of a superior
- ◯ **C.** Yes, provided the Minister had sound reasons to refuse renewal, since the source of a decision matters less than its merits
- ◯ **D.** No, but only because the Collector ought to have given Ratan a personal hearing before passing an order on his licence

2. A municipal board with a statutory discretion to grant hawking licences resolves that 'no licence shall issue to a person resident in the ward for less than five years'. Farida, a wheelchair user who moved to the ward two years ago after a flood destroyed her home, applies and asks the board to consider her circumstances. The clerk returns her application unread, citing the resolution. Is the board's action lawful?

- ◯ **A.** Yes, because a uniform residence rule applied to every applicant alike ensures equal treatment and cannot be challenged
- ◯ **B.** No, because a body vested with a statutory discretion may never lay down any general policy to guide its own decisions
- ◯ **C.** Yes, because length of residence is a relevant consideration, and the board is entitled to treat it as wholly decisive
- ◯ **D.** No, because the board may follow a policy but cannot refuse even to consider an applicant with something new to say

3. A State Transport Act lets the Regional Transport Authority grant bus permits 'having regard to the interests of the travelling public and road safety'. Mehul's application meets every safety norm, but the Authority refuses it after a departmental circular tells officers 'not to favour members of the Jan Morcha party'. The officer who signed the refusal has never met Mehul. Is the refusal valid?

- ◯ **A.** Yes, because the officer bore Mehul no personal ill-will, so no malice of any kind can be attributed to the refusal
- ◯ **B.** Yes, because a circular issued by the department binds every officer working under it, and it must be followed
- ◯ **C.** No, because it rests on a consideration the Act does not make relevant, which vitiates it even without ill-will
- ◯ **D.** No, but only if Mehul proves that the officer personally shared the party bias that the departmental circular expressed

4. A Commissioner cancels a hotel's bar licence by an order that says only: 'Cancelled in public interest.' When the hotel challenges it, the Commissioner files an affidavit explaining that the bar had repeatedly breached fire-safety norms, which is true and would have justified cancellation. How should the court treat the affidavit?

- ◯ **A.** It cannot rely on the affidavit, as a statutory order stands or falls by its stated reasons, not by reasons supplied later
- ◯ **B.** It must uphold the order, because the fire-safety breaches are true and would have justified a cancellation in any event
- ◯ **C.** It may rely on the affidavit, since an affidavit is sworn evidence and binds the Commissioner as fully as the order does
- ◯ **D.** It must quash the order, because a cancellation on public-interest grounds always lies beyond the powers of a Commissioner

5. Before deciding whether to suspend a quarry permit, the District Mining Officer, who alone holds the power, asks the State geologist and the Collector for their views. Both recommend suspension. The Officer studies the site report himself, records his own reasons agreeing with them, and suspends the permit. The quarry owner says the Officer acted under dictation. Which view is correct?

- ◯ **A.** The owner is right, because once senior officers recommend a result, any order that matches that result is in substance theirs
- ◯ **B.** The owner is wrong, because seeking advice is permissible where the Officer weighs it and the final judgment is his own
- ◯ **C.** The owner is right, because a statutory authority must decide entirely alone and may not consult anyone at all before acting
- ◯ **D.** The owner is wrong, because the Collector is senior to the Mining Officer and is therefore entitled to direct the outcome

LEGAL PRINCIPLE — LAW OF CONTRACT · QUASI-CONTRACTS: RELATIONS RESEMBLING CONTRACT (SECTIONS 68-72, INDIAN CONTRACT ACT 1872) (Q6–Q9)

Chapter V of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 (sections 68 to 72) deals with 'certain relations resembling those created by contract' — situations where there is no agreement, yet the law imposes an obligation so that one person is not unjustly enriched at another's

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Under section 68, if a person incapable of entering into a contract, such as a minor or a person of unsound mind, or anyone whom he is legally bound to support, is supplied by another person with necessaries suited to his condition in life, the supplier is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the incapable person. The incapable person incurs no personal liability; the claim lies only against his property. Under section 69, a person who is interested in the payment of money which another is bound by law to pay, and who therefore pays it, is entitled to be reimbursed by the other. Under section 70, where a person lawfully does anything for another person, or delivers anything to him, not intending to do so gratuitously, and the other person enjoys the benefit of it, the latter must compensate the former or restore the thing. In State of West Bengal v B K Mondal and Sons (1962), the Supreme Court explained that the section applies only when the act is lawful, is not intended to be gratuitous, and the other person, being free to accept or reject the benefit, chooses to enjoy it. Section 71 places a finder of goods who takes them into his custody under the same responsibility as a bailee. Under section 72, a person to whom money has been paid, or anything delivered, by mistake or under coercion, must repay or return it. In Sales Tax Officer v Kanhaiya Lal Mukundlal Saraf (1959), the Supreme Court held that 'mistake' in section 72 includes a mistake of law, so tax paid under a statute later declared invalid is recoverable.

6. Fifteen-year-old Aman, whose late grandmother left him a fixed deposit of Rs 2 lakh, buys school uniforms and winter clothing worth Rs 9,000 on credit from a tailor, Bhola. Aman's father refuses to pay, and Bhola sues. Which statement correctly describes Bhola's position?

- ◯ **A.** Bhola may obtain a personal decree against Aman, since an agreement with a minor for necessaries is a valid contract
- ◯ **B.** Bhola can recover nothing at all, because an agreement with a minor is void and creates no obligation of any kind
- ◯ **C.** Bhola may be reimbursed out of Aman's fixed deposit, though Aman himself incurs no personal liability for the price
- ◯ **D.** Bhola may recover the full price only from Aman's father, because a father is made personally liable by section 68

7. Gopal, a cement dealer, wrongly delivers 50 bags of cement to Hari's building site, believing Hari had ordered them. Hari knows he placed no order, says nothing, and uses all 50 bags in his building. When Gopal asks for payment, Hari refuses, saying he never agreed to buy anything. Is Hari liable?

- ◯ **A.** No, because there was no offer and acceptance between the two, so no obligation of any kind ever arose for Hari
- ◯ **B.** No, because Gopal made the mistake himself, and a person who errs must always bear the cost of his own error
- ◯ **C.** Yes, because Gopal acted lawfully and not gratuitously, and Hari, free to reject the cement, chose to use it
- ◯ **D.** Yes, but only for those bags that Hari would in any case have bought from some other dealer at market price

8. In 2019 Rekha's firm paid Rs 3 lakh as entry tax under a State Act. In 2024 the High Court struck the Act down as unconstitutional. Rekha seeks a refund within time; the State replies that the firm paid because it misread the law, and ignorance of the law is no excuse. Which is correct?

- ◯ **A.** Rekha may recover, because section 72 covers money paid under a mistake of law as well as a mistake of fact
- ◯ **B.** Rekha cannot recover, because ignorance of the law is no excuse and section 72 reaches only mistakes of fact
- ◯ **C.** Rekha may recover, but only under section 70, because the State enjoyed the benefit of the tax she paid to it
- ◯ **D.** Rekha cannot recover, because the State used no coercion, so the tax was paid voluntarily and is not refundable

9. Consider three persons. (i) Leela, a tenant, pays her landlord's overdue property tax to stop the municipality auctioning the building in which she runs her shop. (ii) Mohan, a neighbour with no stake in the building, pays the same tax as a gift, expecting nothing back. (iii) Nisha pays a jeweller Rs 40,000 twice for one order, by mistake. Who is entitled to recover money?

- ◯ **A.** Leela alone, because only a person who is interested in a payment can ever recover money under these sections
- ◯ **B.** Mohan and Nisha, because each of them parted with money that neither of them was legally bound to pay at all
- ◯ **C.** Leela and Mohan, because each of them paid a sum that the landlord himself was bound by law to pay
- ◯ **D.** Leela and Nisha, as one paid as an interested person and the other paid money by mistake

SECTION — LOGICAL REASONING

LOGICAL REASONING — PARALLEL REASONING · THREE SELECTION ARGUMENTS: AN ORCHESTRA, A CRICKET ACADEMY AND A HERITAGE WALK CLUB (Q10–Q13)

Three short arguments were handed out at a coaching session on logical structure.

Argument I (orchestra): Every musician who plays in the orchestra's winter concert must have attended the final rehearsal. Ishaan did not attend the final rehearsal. Therefore Ishaan will not play in the winter concert.

Argument II (cricket academy): Only players who score at least 400 runs in the academy season are considered for the state under-19 squad. Rohit scored 520 runs this season. Therefore Rohit will be selected for the state under-19 squad.

Argument III (heritage walk club): Most members of the heritage walk club are also members of the photography society, and most members of the photography society are college students. Therefore most members of the heritage walk club are college students.

10. Which of the following arguments is most similar in its pattern of reasoning to Argument I?

- ◯ **A.** Every merit-scholarship winner must have filed an income certificate. Meera has not filed one. So Meera will not win it.
- ◯ **B.** Every merit-scholarship winner must have filed an income certificate. Meera has filed one. So Meera will win the scholarship.
- ◯ **C.** Anyone who files an income certificate wins the merit scholarship. Meera has not filed one. So Meera will not win it.
- ◯ **D.** Every merit-scholarship winner must have filed an income certificate. Meera won it. So Meera must also have passed the interview.

11. Which of the following arguments contains the same flaw as Argument II?

- ◯ **A.** If the river crosses the danger mark, the school closes. It has not crossed the mark. So the school will stay open.
- ◯ **B.** Most registry clerks are graduates, and most graduates in the registry know Hindi. So most registry clerks know Hindi.
- ◯ **C.** No petition without a court-fee stamp is listed. This petition has no stamp. So it will not be listed for hearing.
- ◯ **D.** Only petitions carrying a court-fee stamp are listed. This petition carries one. So it will be listed for hearing.

12. Which of the following arguments commits the same error of reasoning as Argument III?

- ◯ **A.** All the town's bakers are guild members, and all guild members own a scooter. So all the town's bakers own one.
- ◯ **B.** Most of the town's bakers are guild members, and most guild members own a scooter. So most bakers own one.
- ◯ **C.** Most of the town's bakers are guild members, and every guild member owns a scooter. So most bakers own one.

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◯ **D.** Some of the town's bakers are guild members, and no guild member owns a scooter. So some bakers do not own one.

13. Which of the following, if added as a premise, would make the conclusion of Argument II follow logically?

◯ **A.** Every player selected for the state under-19 squad scored at least 400 runs in the academy season.
◯ **B.** Every player who scores at least 400 runs in the academy season is selected for the state under-19 squad.
◯ **C.** Rohit scored more runs in the academy season than any other player considered for the squad this year.
◯ **D.** No player who scores fewer than 400 runs in the academy season is ever selected for the state under-19 squad.

LOGICAL REASONING — METHOD / BOLD-FACE FUNCTION · A ROOFTOP RAINWATER-HARVESTING MANDATE FOR NEW BUILDINGS (Q14–Q17)

The city council has proposed that every new building with a roof area above 100 square metres must install a rooftop rainwater-harvesting system before it receives a completion certificate. **Critics predict that the mandate will fail, since fewer than a third of the systems installed under the city's 2012 rainwater rule were still working five years later.** That figure is accurate, but it measures the wrong thing. The 2012 rule required only installation; no agency ever inspected a system after the certificate was issued. **The new proposal ties each owner's annual property-tax rebate to a working system, verified every year by a meter reading.** An owner who loses the rebate would pay more than the system costs to maintain. **In the two neighbouring cities that linked rebates to verified performance, more than four-fifths of the systems were still working after five years.** The council should therefore adopt the mandate, not because installation by itself recharges groundwater, but because this time owners would have a reason to keep the systems running.

14. In the argument, the first and second portions in boldface play which of the following roles?

◯ **A.** The first is the main conclusion of the argument; the second is evidence that the author offers in support of it.
◯ **B.** The first is evidence the author accepts as decisive; the second is a consideration that the author goes on to reject.
◯ **C.** The first is a prediction the argument opposes; the second describes a feature the argument relies on against it.
◯ **D.** The first is a premise supporting the author's conclusion; the second is an objection the author is forced to concede.

15. Which of the following best describes how the author answers the critics?

◯ **A.** By accepting their evidence but arguing that a difference between the two schemes removes the cause of the earlier failure
◯ **B.** By disputing the accuracy of their figure and offering a more reliable count of the 2012 systems still working after five years
◯ **C.** By questioning the motives of the critics and suggesting that they have some private interest in seeing the mandate fail
◯ **D.** By arguing that harvesting is so valuable that the mandate should be adopted even if most of the installed systems stop working

16. The third portion in boldface plays which of the following roles in the argument?

◯ **A.** It is the main conclusion of the argument, which every other sentence in the passage is offered to support.
◯ **B.** It is evidence that the critics rely on, which the author concedes is accurate but treats as beside the point.
◯ **C.** It is evidence from comparable cases, offered to show that the feature in the second boldface will work.
◯ **D.** It is a counter-example that the author raises against the author's own proposal and then attempts to answer.

17. In the final sentence, the clause 'not because installation by itself recharges groundwater' serves to:

◯ **A.** concede that the critics are right that the mandate will fail to raise the level of the city's groundwater
◯ **B.** state the principal reason for which the author thinks the council should adopt the rainwater-harvesting mandate
◯ **C.** set aside a ground the author does not rely on, so the conclusion rests on the incentive to maintain systems
◯ **D.** introduce fresh evidence that installed systems go on recharging groundwater even when nobody maintains them

SECTION — QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

QUANT — TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE · PERCENTAGE CHANGE · FREIGHT LOADING OF A RAILWAY ZONE BY COMMODITY GROUP, 2022-23 TO 2024-25 (Q18–Q22)

A railway zone publishes the freight it loads each year, by commodity group, in million tonnes (MT). The table below gives the loading of its five main commodity groups in three consecutive financial years. 'Total loading' means the sum of the five groups in a year. A percentage change from one year to a later year is always calculated on the earlier year's figure, and the share of a group is its loading expressed as a percentage of total loading in the same year. Use only the figures in the table, and round final answers to two decimal places where needed.

Commodity group	2022-23 (MT)	2023-24 (MT)	2024-25 (MT)
Coal	150.0	165.0	181.5
Iron ore	40.0	46.0	41.4
Cement	25.0	30.0	33.0
Foodgrains	20.0	18.0	22.5
Fertilisers	15.0	16.5	19.5

18. Which commodity group recorded the highest percentage increase in loading from 2022-23 to 2024-25?

◯ **A.** Coal
◯ **B.** Foodgrains
◯ **C.** Fertilisers
◯ **D.** Cement

19. By what percentage did total loading change from 2022-23 to 2024-25?

◯ **A.** A rise of 18.33%
◯ **B.** A rise of 19.16%
◯ **C.** A rise of 21.00%
◯ **D.** A rise of 8.13%

20. By what percentage did the combined loading of the four non-coal groups grow from 2022-23 to 2024-25?

◯ **A.** 19.16%
◯ **B.** 21.00%
◯ **C.** 5.34%
◯ **D.** 16.40%

21. In 2025-26, iron ore loading is expected to return exactly to its 2023-24 level. What percentage increase over 2024-25 does this require?

◯ **A.** 10.00%
◯ **B.** 11.11%
◯ **C.** 9.09%
◯ **D.** 15.00%

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22. If, in 2025-26, coal loading falls by 10% and each of the other four groups rises by 10% over 2024-25, how will total loading change over 2024-25?

- ◯ **A.** It will stay exactly the same
- ◯ **B.** It will fall by about 1.22%
- ◯ **C.** It will fall by about 2.19%
- ◯ **D.** It will rise by about 2.19%

QUANT — ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE · PROFIT-LOSS-INTEREST · PRICING AND FINANCING A 3 KW ROOFTOP SOLAR SYSTEM (Q23–Q26)

SunRoof Energy, a rooftop-solar installer, buys a complete 3 kW rooftop system, including panels, inverter, wiring and installation labour, at a cost of Rs 1,20,000 per system. It fixes its marked price 40% above cost, and during its festive offer it allows a discount of 12.5% on the marked price. A household that installs a system receives a government subsidy of Rs 78,000, which goes towards the price; the household finances any balance itself. The subsidy does not change the installer's selling price. Profit percentages are calculated on cost price, discounts on marked price, and interest is charged on the amount actually borrowed.

Item (per 3 kW system)	Value
Cost price to SunRoof	Rs 1,20,000
Mark-up on cost	40%
Festive discount on marked price	12.5%
Government subsidy to household	Rs 78,000

23. What is SunRoof's profit percentage on a system sold at the festive price?

- ◯ **A.** 27.5%
- ◯ **B.** 22.5%
- ◯ **C.** 40.0%
- ◯ **D.** 14.29%

24. Ms Kapoor buys a system at the festive price. The subsidy meets Rs 78,000 of it, and she borrows the balance at 8% per annum compound interest, compounded annually, repaying everything at the end of 2 years. What does she repay?

- ◯ **A.** Rs 80,040.00
- ◯ **B.** Rs 1,71,461.76
- ◯ **C.** Rs 11,481.60
- ◯ **D.** Rs 80,481.60

25. By how much would Ms Kapoor's total repayment have been lower had the bank charged 8% per annum simple interest instead?

- ◯ **A.** Rs 441.60
- ◯ **B.** Rs 940.80
- ◯ **C.** Rs 220.80
- ◯ **D.** Rs 5,520.00

26. For a housing-society order, SunRoof must pay an agent 2% of the selling price and still wants a 15% profit on cost after that commission. What is the largest discount on the marked price it can offer?

- ◯ **A.** About 16.18%
- ◯ **B.** About 17.86%
- ◯ **C.** About 15.86%
- ◯ **D.** About 25.00%

RAPID FIRE — ONE-LINE RECALL

34 quick questions · not negatively marked

1. Which 1952 case struck down a licence cancelled on the State Government's direction? _____
2. Name the ground of review where an authority decides on another's orders. _____
3. Is consulting others before deciding, by itself, acting under dictation? _____
4. What is it called when an authority applies a policy so rigidly it hears no one? _____
5. Which case allows a policy but requires hearing anyone with something new to say? _____
6. May an authority adopt a policy to guide like cases? _____
7. What is 'malice in law'? _____
8. Does malice in law require personal ill-will? _____
9. Which 1979 case is cited for malice in law? _____
10. What is an order made mechanically, without considering the facts, said to lack? _____
11. Can a statutory order be saved by fresh reasons given later in an affidavit? _____
12. By what must a public order made under statutory authority be judged? _____
13. Can a Minister exercise a discretion that a statute gives to a Collector? _____
14. Which Chapter of the Contract Act covers relations resembling contract? _____
15. Which sections of the Contract Act deal with quasi-contracts? _____
16. What do quasi-contracts aim to prevent? _____
17. Which section covers necessaries supplied to a person incapable of contracting? _____
18. From what is a supplier of necessaries to a minor reimbursed? _____
19. Is a minor personally liable for necessaries under s 68? _____
20. What must necessaries be suited to under s 68? _____
21. Which section lets an interested person who pays another's dues be reimbursed? _____
22. Can a tenant who pays the landlord's tax to avert an auction recover it? _____
23. Which section covers a lawful, non-gratuitous act whose benefit is enjoyed? _____
24. Which 1962 case set out the conditions for s 70? _____
25. Can a person who paid as a gift claim under s 70? _____
26. Under s 70, what freedom must the other person have had? _____
27. What responsibility does s 71 place on a finder of goods? _____
28. Which section covers money paid by mistake or under coercion? _____
29. Does 'mistake' in s 72 include a mistake of law? _____
30. Which 1959 case held tax paid under an invalid law recoverable? _____
31. What fallacy treats a necessary condition as sufficient? _____
32. What fallacy treats a sufficient condition as necessary? _____
33. Is 'if P then R; not R; so not P' valid? _____
34. Does 'most A are B; most B are C' prove most A are C? _____

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