

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 (Q1–6)

PRINCIPLE: Section 56 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 declares that an agreement to do an act impossible in itself is void, and a contract to do an act which, after the contract is made, becomes impossible or unlawful by reason of some event the promisor could not prevent, becomes void when the act becomes impossible or unlawful. Frustration discharges both parties from further performance and is not a matter of either party's choice; it operates by force of law. The doctrine applies where the foundation of the contract is destroyed, where supervening illegality makes performance unlawful, or where the commercial purpose is utterly defeated. **EXCEPTIONS:** The doctrine will NOT apply where (1) the contract itself provides for the contingency that has occurred; (2) performance has merely become onerous, expensive, or commercially less profitable; (3) the frustrating event was self-induced by the party invoking it; or (4) the parties expressly assumed the risk. **Authorities:** Satyabrata Ghose v. Mugneeram Bangur (1954) and Energy Watchdog v. CERC (2017).

1. Aarav, a wedding caterer in Pune, contracts to supply a six-course banquet for 800 guests on 12 June for a fixed sum of ₹18 lakh. On 1 June, the District Magistrate, citing a fresh communicable-disease outbreak, prohibits all gatherings exceeding 50 persons until further notice. The host cancels and demands the advance back; Aarav, having already procured perishables worth ₹4 lakh, refuses. Decide:

- A. The contract is frustrated under Section 56; the host recovers the advance subject to adjustment for restitutable benefits
- B. Aarav is entitled to keep the entire advance because perishables cannot be returned
- C. The host must wait until after 12 June and then sue Aarav for non-performance
- D. The contract continues; Aarav must serve the banquet to whoever can lawfully attend

2. Which of the following best captures the difference between commercial hardship and frustration of contract?

- A. Both excuse performance, but frustration also entitles the promisor to damages
- B. Commercial hardship discharges only mutual obligations; frustration discharges only unilateral ones
- C. Mere increase in cost or difficulty does not frustrate a contract; frustration requires the foundation of the contract to be destroyed
- D. Commercial hardship is decided by the parties; frustration is decided exclusively by an arbitrator

3. Power Producer Ltd contracts in 2023 to supply electricity to a State distribution company at a fixed tariff for 25 years, sourcing coal from a designated Indonesian mine. In 2025, the Indonesian government changes its export-pricing policy, raising the producer's input cost by 35 per cent. The producer claims frustration. The strongest legal answer is:

- A. Frustration applies because the producer's profit margin has been substantially reduced
- B. Frustration does not apply; a rise in input cost makes performance more onerous, not impossible
- C. Frustration applies only if the State distribution company also faces hardship
- D. The matter must be referred to Parliament because foreign policy is involved

4. Which of the following statements is INCORRECT regarding the doctrine of frustration?

- A. Frustration operates automatically by force of law and does not depend on the parties' will
- B. If the contract provides expressly for the supervening event, the doctrine is excluded
- C. A party can plead frustration even if it has itself caused the impossibility through its own deliberate breach
- D. Frustration discharges both parties from further performance

5. Hill-View Hotel hires Maestro Banquets exclusively for a coronation reception on a particular evening at a fixed hall. The hall is destroyed by an unforeseen lightning strike that morning. The hotel sues for damages, asserting Maestro should have arranged a substitute venue. The most likely outcome is:

- A. Hotel wins because Maestro was bound to perform regardless of the venue's fate
- B. Hotel loses because the destruction of the specific subject-matter of the contract frustrates the agreement
- C. Hotel wins only if it proves Maestro was negligent in not insuring the hall
- D. Hotel loses only because lightning is force majeure expressly listed in every contract

6. Section 65 of the Indian Contract Act provides that, when an agreement is discovered to be void or a contract becomes void, any person who has received an advantage under it is bound to restore it or to make compensation. In a frustration case, this provision means:

- A. The party in breach must pay punitive damages over and above restitution
- B. Benefits already conferred must be restored or compensated, but no further performance is required
- C. Only money paid in advance is recoverable; goods or services already delivered cannot be claimed back
- D. Restitution is at the discretion of the court and is granted only if both parties agree in writing

PRINCIPLE B – STRICT AND ABSOLUTE LIABILITY FOR HAZARDOUS ACTIVITY (Q7–12)

PRINCIPLE: Under the rule in Rylands v. Fletcher (1868), a person who, for his own purposes, brings on his land and collects and keeps there anything likely to do mischief if it escapes, must keep it in at his peril; and if he does not do so, he is prima facie answerable for all the damage which is the natural consequence of its escape. The rule is one of strict liability: no proof of negligence is required. The traditional defences include: (a) act of God, (b) act of a stranger, (c) consent of the plaintiff, (d) statutory authority, and (e) the plaintiff's own default. The Supreme Court of India, in M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (Oleum Gas Leak, 1987), evolved the rule of ABSOLUTE LIABILITY for enterprises engaged in hazardous or inherently dangerous activity: such an enterprise owes an absolute and non-delegable duty to the community, and is liable to compensate all those affected by any accident, with NO defences available, the quantum of compensation correlating to the magnitude and capacity of the enterprise.

7. GreenSafe Chemicals operates a chlorine plant in Vapi. A massive earthquake, the largest in regional record, ruptures a containment tank, releasing a toxic plume that injures 200 villagers. GreenSafe pleads act of God. Apply the Indian law and decide:

- A. GreenSafe is fully exonerated because the earthquake is an unprecedented act of God
- B. GreenSafe is absolutely liable; M.C. Mehta forecloses the act-of-God defence for hazardous enterprises
- C. GreenSafe is liable only for medical bills; pain-and-suffering is excluded under absolute liability
- D. GreenSafe is liable only if the villagers prove the company was negligent in tank design

8. Which of the following best states a key doctrinal difference between strict liability under Rylands and absolute liability under M.C. Mehta?

- A. Rylands liability is confined to natural persons; absolute liability applies only to corporations
- B. Strict liability admits the defences of act of God, stranger, and statutory authority; absolute liability admits none
- C. Strict liability requires intention; absolute liability requires negligence
- D. Both rules are identical; the Indian courts merely renamed the doctrine

9. An electricity utility, acting under a State enactment that empowers it to lay live cables underground, lays a cable in compliance with all statutory specifications. A latent factory defect causes the cable to short-circuit and burn an adjoining shop. Which is the most accurate position under the strict-liability rule?

- A. The utility is absolutely liable because electricity is an inherently dangerous thing
- B. The defence of statutory authority can be invoked, provided the utility shows it took all precautions and acted within the statute
- C. The shop owner can recover only by proving fraud against the cable manufacturer
- D. The utility is exonerated automatically because the defect was latent

10. Which of the following statements is INCORRECT?

- A. Strict liability under Rylands requires a non-natural use of land
- B. An escape of the dangerous thing from the defendant's control is essential for Rylands to apply
- C. Under absolute liability, the quantum of damages may be linked to the size and capacity of the enterprise
- D. Negligence by the plaintiff is irrelevant under both strict and absolute liability

11. A neighbour's child trespasses into a fenced industrial yard, climbs onto a stored gas cylinder, opens the valve, and is injured by the leaking gas. The plant pleads the plaintiff's own default. Under classical strict liability, this defence is most likely to:

- A. Fail because trespassing children cannot be held responsible for their actions
- B. Succeed where the injury was attributable to the plaintiff's voluntary act of opening the valve
- C. Succeed only if a sign was posted in three regional languages
- D. Fail because the cylinder itself was a non-natural use of land

12. Which of the following best identifies a 'non-natural use of land' under Rylands v. Fletcher?

- A. Maintaining a small ornamental fish pond in a residential garden
- B. Storing 50,000 litres of industrial petroleum in tanks in a residential locality
- C. Keeping a domestic dog of common breed within the boundary
- D. Cultivating crops using ordinary irrigation channels

SECTION B – ANALYTICAL REASONING

Q13–20 · 8 Marks

PUZZLE 1 – FAMILY TREE ACROSS THREE GENERATIONS (Q13–16)

A joint family has eight members — P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, and W — spanning three generations. The following facts are known: (1) The family has exactly three married couples and no divorce. (2) P is the grandfather of T and U. (3) Q is the only daughter-in-law of P. (4) R is the only son of P. (5) Q is the wife of R; they have exactly two children. (6) S is the sister of R and is married to V; they have exactly one child. (7) T is the brother of U; one of them is male and the other female, but the puzzle does not yet specify which. (8) W is the only child of S and V. (9) U is older than W; W is older than T. (10) No member of the family has more than two children. (11) Every adult is married to exactly one other member of the family.

13. How is W related to R?

- A. Son
- B. Nephew or niece
- C. Brother
- D. Father-in-law

14. If T is the only son of R, then which of the following must be true?

- A. U is the daughter of R
- B. W is the son of T
- C. S is the mother of T
- D. Q is the grandmother of W

15. Who among the following belongs exclusively to the second generation of the family?

- A. P only
- B. T, U, and W only
- C. R, Q, S, and V only
- D. Q and W only

16. If exactly one of T and U is the elder grandchild of P, who is the youngest member of the family overall?

- A. U
- B. T
- C. W
- D. Cannot be determined

PUZZLE 2 – BIRTHDAY ORDERING OF SIX FRIENDS (Q17–20)

26. Which discipline shows the highest week-on-week increase between Wk 1 and Wk 2?

- A. Athletics B. Swimming
 C. Tennis D. Football

27. By approximately what percentage do Football's average weekly hours exceed Tennis's average weekly hours?

- A. 30% B. 36%
 C. 40% D. 45%

28. If a Tennis athlete must train at least 12 hours per week, which week comes closest to that minimum without falling below it?

- A. Wk 1 B. Wk 2
 C. Wk 3 D. Wk 4

29. Across all four disciplines, which week had the LOWEST mean training hours?

- A. Wk 1 B. Wk 2
 C. Wk 3 D. Wk 4

30. The total training hours logged in Wk 2 across all four disciplines is approximately:

- A. 61 hours B. 63 hours
 C. 65 hours D. 67 hours

SECTION D – RAPID-FIRE MIXED REASONING & GK

Q31–43 · 13 Marks

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

31. If 'A is the brother of B', 'C is the mother of A', and 'D is the husband of C', how is D related to B?

- A. Father B. Uncle
 C. Brother D. Grandfather

32. Aarti walks 6 km north, turns right and walks 4 km, then turns right and walks 6 km. How far and in which direction is she from her starting point?

- A. 4 km East B. 4 km West
 C. 10 km East D. 10 km North

33. Statements: All flowers are roses. Some roses are red. Conclusions: I) Some flowers are red. II) Some roses are flowers. Which conclusion follows?

- A. Only I B. Only II
 C. Both I and II D. Neither I nor II

34. If 'TIGER' is coded as 'UJHFS', how is 'PANEL' coded in the same scheme?

- A. QBOFM B. OBNDM
 C. QAOFM D. QBNFM

35. Find the next term in the series: 3, 6, 11, 18, 27, ?

- A. 36 B. 38
 C. 40 D. 42

36. A trader marks an item 40% above cost and gives a 25% discount on the marked price. His net profit per cent is:

- A. 5% B. 7.5%
 C. 10% D. 15%

37. A train 180 m long crosses a 120 m platform in 20 seconds. The speed of the train is:

- A. 45 km/h B. 54 km/h
 C. 60 km/h D. 72 km/h

38. Two numbers are in the ratio 5 : 7. If 6 is added to each, the new ratio becomes 3 : 4. The smaller original number is:

- A. 30 B. 32
 C. 35 D. 40

39. Which Article of the Constitution of India provides the power of the Supreme Court to issue writs for enforcement of fundamental rights?

- A. Article 32 B. Article 226
 C. Article 14 D. Article 21

40. The Directive Principles of State Policy in the Indian Constitution are based on the model of which country's constitutional document?

- A. United States Bill of Rights
 B. Irish Constitution
 C. Australian Constitution
 D. Canadian Charter

41. 1 January 2026 was a Thursday. What day of the week was 1 January 2025?

- A. Tuesday B. Wednesday
 C. Thursday D. Friday

42. Find the odd one out: 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, 81, 100, 144.

- A. 25
 B. 49
 C. 81
 D. All are perfect squares

43. If today is Tuesday, what day of the week will it be 100 days from now?

- A. Tuesday B. Wednesday
 C. Thursday D. Friday