BLOGS

5 Tips You Probably Don’t Know to Ace CLAT PG Exam

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Every year, thousands of law graduates appear for the CLAT PG exam with a hope to secure a seat at one of India’s premier NLUs. Most of them prepare the same way, that is by reading bare acts, memorising landmark judgments, and solving previous year’s papers. In the end, most of them walk out of the exam hall wishing they had done something differently.

You should understand that with the passage of time, the exam also evolves and you need to go beyond the traditional way of approaching the exam. Here are five tips that most aspirants completely overlook.

1. Read the Passage First, then the Questions

This sounds like basic advice, but it is not. Most CLAT PG aspirants, conditioned by competitive exam culture, default to reading the questions first and scanning the passage for answers. For CLAT PG, this is a trap.

The moment you read questions first, your brain shifts into search mode. You stop reading and start scanning and looking for keywords, missing what the passage is actually saying. Remember that CLAT PG passages always have something to say. Most CLAT PG questions cannot be answered by lifting a line from the passage. They test what the passage meant, implied, or would agree with, and that only comes from reading the passage in its natural flow, from start to finish, with full attention.

So resist the old habit. Read the passage first, understand the argument, then look at the questions. You’ll find the answers faster and get them right more often.

2. Start Looking into the “Why,” Instead of Memorising Judgments

This is where most aspirants go wrong. They build elaborate notes with case names, citation years, and what was held in the case. Then they sit for CLAT PG and realise the exam rarely asks "which case held X." Instead, it gives you a passage that applies a legal principle, sometimes without naming the case at all.

CLAT PG rewards legal thinking, not legal memory. The exam wants to know whether you can apply the ratio decidendi of a principle to a new fact situation, not whether you can recall the bench strength of a constitutional bench. Your preparation should shift accordingly. When you study a judgment, ask yourself: What legal principle does this establish? Under what conditions does it apply? What would be the counterargument? How has this principle evolved? So basically, while you read a judgment, start reading as to why it matters. You can do this by making judgment briefs for every landmark case, dividing them into heads such as Facts, Issue, Holding, and most importantly why it matters.

3. Diversify beyond Constitutional Law and Jurisprudence

It does not mean that you need not study the Constitution and Jurisprudence sincerely; rather, you need to stop obsessing over the Constitution and Jurisprudence only because you are always told that these are very important. So, aspirants focus too much on these major subjects and leave themselves vulnerable when unexpected topics appear.

Recent CLAT PG papers have caught candidates off guard by asking heavy questions on Transfer of Property, the Evidence Act, IPR, and Environment Law. Now it becomes important to give proper time to all the subjects and read legal news on off-beat subjects, understand the legal context as to why a particular piece of legal news exists, and understand what laws and precedents are in the picture.

4. Use the Last Two Months Differently Than the First Four

Preparation timelines for CLAT PG typically span six months, and most aspirants treat each month roughly the same: more syllabus coverage, more notes, more practice. This is a significant strategic mistake.

The first four months should be content-heavy, focusing on covering constitutional law, jurisprudence, law of contracts, torts, criminal law, and environment law, along with the other areas from which passages are frequently sourced. But the last two months should shift almost

entirely to passage-based practice under timed conditions that simulate real exam conditions.

CLAT PG is a time-pressure exam. You have 120 minutes for 120 questions, all comprehension-based. The bottleneck is not knowledge; rather, it is reading speed combined with analytical accuracy. The only way to improve this is deliberate, timed practice with real passages. In your final two months, attempt full-length mocks under strict exam conditions, and spend at least as much time analysing your mistakes as you spent attempting the paper. Do error analysis by understanding why you got something wrong is where the real gains are made.

5. Treat “Incorrect” Answer Options as Learning Material while Attempting PYQs and Mocks

Here is the tip that almost no one talks about: the wrong answer choices in CLAT PG are not random distractors. They are carefully crafted to reflect specific types of misreading, i.e., overgeneralization, or confusion between what the passage states and what external knowledge you have about the topic in the passage (going beyond what the passage states).

When you review a practice paper and find a question you got wrong, don’t just note the correct answer and move on. Analyze why the incorrect option you chose was appealing. What did it get right? Where did it deviate from what the passage actually said? The examiner designs these distractors to catch the most common reasoning errors. By studying the wrong answers, you learn to see the patterns of thinking they are designed to trigger, and you make yourself immune to them. Over time, this will help you master the elimination technique that distinguishes a trap answer from the correct one.

Lastly, keep in mind that CLAT PG is an exam about legal reasoning, not only legal knowledge. The aspirants who do best are not necessarily those who studied the most; they are the ones who learned to read carefully, understand precisely, practise efficiently, and manage their time with discipline. Do that, and you will be in a far stronger position than most of the candidates sitting beside you.