AILET

CLAT 2020: Date (Postponed to June 21), Application (Extended to May 18), Pattern, Syllabus, Modules, and Mock Tests

Aditya Anand · 28 Apr 2020

Update: In light of the COVID 19 outbreak, CLAT has been postponed to June 21.

The application date has also been extended till May 18.

The online application link is available for candidates to fill the form.

new exam date of clat

What is CLAT?

The Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) is a national level entrance exam for admissions to undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) law programmes offered by 22 National Law Universities around the country.

CLAT is organized by the Consortium of National Law Universities consisting of the representative universities.

Exam	CLAT 2020
Application Date	May 18
Exam Date	June 21
Exam Fee	Gen- 4000, SC/ST/BPL – 3500
Applicants	Approx 60000
Number of Questions	150
Exam Duration	2 Hours

CLAT Application/Registration 2020

Registrations are open since Jan 1 and will remain open until May 18.

Click here to apply online.

Instructions from CLAT Consortium for applying online

- The candidates are first required to register themselves at the CLAT 2020 website by using personal mobile number and e-mail Id. Upon registration, an OTP will be sent to the given mobile number for validation. Once your mobile number is validated, you can log in using your mobile number and the password you provided at the time of registration.
- Please fill the form carefully. The Name of the candidate and the parents should be spelt correctly in the application as it appears in the Certificates/Mark sheets/Identity proof. Any change/alteration found may disqualify your candidature.
- No alteration/editing in the online application form can be done after successful submission/final submission of the form. The information once furnished by the candidate with regard to the category to which the candidate belongs, the preference for the NLUs and the Centre of the Entrance Test submitted by the candidates through online application mode shall be final and no change whatsoever shall be allowed thereafter under any circumstances.
- The candidates are required to read the instructions carefully and furnish correct and authentic information. In case the information furnished at any stage of the application, examination and admission process is found to be false or incorrect or if there is any discrepancy or mismatch between the information furnished by the candidate at the relevant section and the certificates/documents produced at the time of admission, the provisional admission offered to the candidate shall stand cancelled with immediate effect without assigning any further reason and the candidate shall stand disqualified from being considered for further admission to the NLUs by the CLAT Consortium Office.
- The candidate shall fill his/her preference order for all 22 NLUs at the time of online application itself. No change shall be allowed in the preference once the form is submitted by the candidate.

Documents to be submitted while applying online

1. Front-facing passport size recent photograph with a plain background
2. Signature of the candidate

3. Category certificate if you are applying under SC/ST/OBC
4. Relevant certificate issued by a competent authority if you are applying if the candidate is P.W.D
5. Relevant certificate issued by a competent authority if you are coming under BPL category

Application fee

- fee for General/OBC/PWD/NRI/PIO/OCI candidates: Rs.4,000/-
- fee for SC/ST/BPL category candidates: Rs.3,500/-

CLAT Application Process

1. Register on the official website here.
2. Login and upload necessary documents as listed above.
3. Fill in the candidate details.
4. Fill the NLU preference list.
5. Make the payment.

Eligibility

The CLAT Consortium has set the following criteria to appear for CLAT

1. There will be no upper age limit for UG Programme in CLAT 2020.
2. As regards the minimum percentage of marks in the qualifying examination (i.e., 10+2 or an equivalent examination), the candidates must have secured:
    1. Forty-five percent (45%) marks or its equivalent grade in case of candidates belonging to General / OBC / PWD / NRI / PIO / OCI categories
    2. Forty Percent (40%) marks or equivalent in case of candidates belonging to SC/ST categories.
3. Candidates who are appearing in the qualifying examination in March/April, 2020 are also eligible to appear in CLAT 2020 examination. However, they shall be required to produce evidence of their passing the qualifying examination at the time of admission, failing which they shall lose their right to be considered for admission.

4. The result of the qualifying examination (i.e., 10+2) shall be submitted by the candidate at the time of admission failing which the candidate shall be ineligible for admission to the Course.
5. In case of equal marks, the break of tie shall be by the following procedure and order as under:
    1. Higher marks in the component/section on legal aptitude in the CLAT 2020 exam;
    2. Higher age;
    3. Computerised draw of lots.

Exam Pattern

- The number of questions has been reduced from 200 to 150.
- All questions will be comprehension based.
- Questions from Quantitative Techniques, English, Current Affairs, Legal Reasoning and Logical Reasoning will be asked.
- The paper will test the aptitude of the candidate and not the memory.
- Maths is now Quantitative Techniques, the students can expect questions based on graphs, pie charts and tables.
- Logical Reasoning has not been changed and it is still the same logical reasoning.
- Legal Aptitude used to have a legal principle and problem, it has now become Legal reasoning. The students will not be asked maxims or case laws.
- English has not gone many changes but all the questions will be based on comprehensions.

One of the earliest insights on the new CLAT pattern was Prof Faizan Mustafa's video which was released on his youtube channel. See the video below.

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Syllabus [Videos by CLAT Consortium]

English

The section has slightly been altered, the rest remains the same. All questions will be comprehension based. So they can still ask you the meaning of a certain word as long as they mention it in a passage above the question.

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Sample Question

The Nirbhaya case constitutes a crime which fits into the category of the ‘rarest of the rare’ cases because it violated collective conscience. The death penalty, as an exceptional punishment, follows from the judgment that the case fit the criteria of the ‘rarest of the rare’. Ideally an exception should be unknown until it occurs: it is exceptional because it is not documented under the rule.

Conversely, once an exception has been codified through law, it loses its exceptional character. Hence ideally, there can be no pre-existing category of the ‘rarest of the rare’.
Judges already know what these ‘exceptions’ are going to be because they understand exceptions for a category like ‘murder’.

The ‘rarest of the rare’ proves to be an empty, floating category which seems to stand at once inside and outside the law, due to its ability to accommodate exceptionality. In the Nirbhaya judgment, the Supreme Court said that the ‘rarest of the rare’ case is one in which “the crime is committed… may result in intense and extreme indignation of the community and shock the collective conscience of the society”.

The category of the ‘rarest of the rare’ is always evolving. It is the evaluation of certain cases that makes them fit into the category of the ‘rarest of the rare’, and not the nature of the crimes as such. In such cases, the legal judgment says that the judicial power is obligated to the collective to repair the moral fabric of society which the crime has torn.

Aarushi Punia (Nirbhaya Verdict: What does ‘Rarest of the Rare’ actually mean?) (https://www.thequint.com/voices/blogs/nirbhaya-verdict-death-sentence-indian-judiciary-legal-system-rarest-of-the-rare-cases)

Q.1. Choose a synonym of the term “evolving” based on its meaning in the passage.
a) Declining
b) Changing
c) Degrading
d) Increasing

Q.2. Why does the Nirbhaya case fit into the category of “Rarest of the rare”?
a) It violates a collective set of beliefs and notions that unifies the society
b) It goes beyond the collective brutality of all rape cases combined

c) It required the collective brains of a panel of judges

d) None of the above

Q.3. In the last line of the extract, what does the term “collective” mean?

a) The victim’s family and friends

b) The society

c) All future victims

d) The lawyers

Q.4. What makes the “Rarest of the Rare” a floating category?

a) Judges can interpret it in any way they want

b) It is open to interpretation by the society

c) It makes space for cases which are extraordinary

d) It needs to be declared so by the cabinet

Q.5. Point out the spelling mistake in the passage

a) Exceptionality

b) Conscience

c) Committed

d) Accomodate

Logical Reasoning

There is no news whatsoever about any change in the logical reasoning section per se. Therefore, it is safe to assume that the old syllabus for this section is intact.

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Sample Question

Legendary Batsman and Former Captain Sunil Gavaskar feels that the time is perfectly appropriate for BCCI to set the ball rolling for a full- fledged Women’s IPL. Mr. Gavaskar believes that IPL will help to unearth more talented players for women’s cricket team and will give them experience to handle pressure situations in Big Matches in-front of huge crowds.

This statement by Mr. Gavaskar is more significant as recently India proved to be a no-match to Australia in the Women’s T20 WC finals, despite having convincingly defeated the same opponents in the First game of the tournament.

Mr. Gavaskar also points out that it is not must to have an 8- team women's IPL, even organizing 5-6 team IPL will be a good start. He goes onto saying, "There will be a lot more exposure for women.

Player pool currently seems to be extremely small but I am sure that a lot more talent, which is there but we don't know at the moment will come to the fore. And then, as the years go by, Indian women's team will start winning trophies, which they have not won till now and ,it is indeed ridiculous and shameful for us as we are the powerhouse of global cricket in terms of money and resources .

"He also cited the examples of success of Women's Big Bash League and Kia Super League, two top franchise tournaments in women's cricket. "Look at the teams of Australia and England, who have dominated world tournaments in women's cricket and the role their franchise T20 tournaments played in making these teams world beaters in T20 cricket."

"Also ask the likes of Deepti Sharma, Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet Kaur, they have played in the WBBL, which is the tournament where you get to play against the best players and learn from that." Women's IPL will also bring to fore lot of unknown stars for the international team just like the men's IPL unearthed Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya from nowhere. It will also give opportunity for our youngsters to share dressing rooms with the likes of Elysse Perry, Heather Knight and Lizelle Lee and learn from them.

According to Mr. Gavaskar, which of the following is the main aim, to achieve which, the BCCI needs to start women's IPL?

a) To provide more competition to England and Australia women's cricket team who have dominated the sport till now
b) To compete with WBBL and the Kia Super League and unearth more international stars
c) To win global tournaments and trophies which India has not won till now and making players used to pressure situations

d) To increase money and resources invested in the women's sport as it is the lack of it which has prevented us from winning championships.

As per Mr. Gavaskar, what was the primary reason due to which India lost T20 world cup final against Australia?

a) Absence of Women's IPL while Australia has Women's Big Bash League
b) No opportunity for young Indian players to share dressing rooms with top Australian players while young Australian players get an opportunity to share dressing room with Top Indian players through WBBL
c) Lack of Talent in the Indian team in comparision to the Australian Team
d) Paucity of experience of the Indian Team in handling pressure in big-games where there is a huge number of audience to watch the action.

Which of the following most weakens Mr. Gavaskar's opinion that Australian and English women's team became world- beaters due to their franchise T20 tournaments?

a) West Indies and New Zealand also have their own women's franchise tournaments but that has not made them turn into being world beaters
b) Australia and England have been world beaters in women's cricket for long before the start of any T20 franchise tournaments
c) It is due to the individual talents like Elysse Perry and Heather Knight which have made Australian and English team world beaters, not organization of franchise tournaments
d) None of the Above

What is the most likely reason that Mr. Gavaskar advises BCCI to start a 5-6 team Women's IPL and not a full fledged 8 team IPL?

a) He realizes that BCCI might not have money and resources to organize 8 team women's IPL from the first edition itself
b) He realizes that 8 team IPL will lead to too many matches and will consequentially will prove to be overload and fatigue for the cricketers
c) He realizes that there may not be enough players and enough Indian talent to constitute an 8 team women's IPL.
d) All of the above

Which of the following can be reasonably inferred from the above passage?

a) Not many knew of the talents Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah possessed before IPL bought them into limelight
b) Indian women's team lacks good all -rounder like Hardik Pandya and death over specialist like Jasprit Bumrah and hence there is an urgent necessity to start women's IPL as these players came forward through men's IPL

c) The likes of Jemimah Rodriguez and Shefali Verma did not get the opportunity to play against the best players and learn from them due to absence of women's IPL and that was the main reason of their poor performance in the world cup finals
d) All of the above

General Knowledge

It has already been declared that Static G.K will not be asked, however, there were questions from current affairs in the past. Current affairs have turned into a full section.

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Sample Questions

The Indian Army is the largest branch of the Indian Armed Forces and is responsible for land-based military operations. Its primary mission is the National Security and Defense of India from external aggression and threats, and maintaining peace and security within its borders. It is headquartered in New Delhi, India.

The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Army, and it is commanded by the Chief of Army Staff. The current Commander-in-Chief is President Ram Nath Kovind. The motto of Indian Army: "Service Before Self". Recently, in an attempt to combat the spread of the deadly Coronavirus or COVID-19, the present Army Chief, launched 'Operation Namastey'.

The Indian Army has set up eight quarantine facilities across the country. Under the operation, the army will help the Government of India (GoI) fight against the deadly Covid-19 pandemic.

When was the Indian Army founded?
a) November 1894
b) April 1895
c) February 1896
d) June 1896

The Chief of Army Staff is a?
a) three-star general
b) four-star general
c) five-star general
d) six-star general

Who was the current Chief of Army Staff?

a) General V.K. Singh

b) General Bipin Rawat

c) General Dalbir Singh Duhag

d) General Manoj Mukund Naravane

Recently, the Indian Army launched “Operation Namaste” to combat Covid-19. On which date was the said Operation launched?

a) 25 th March

b) 26 th March

c) 27 th March

d) 28 th March

On which date was the former Chief of Army Staff appointed as the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of India?

a) 29 th November, 2019

b) 30 th December, 2019

c) 1 st January, 2020

d) 26 th January, 2020

Quantitative Techniques

The smallest section of the exam has now become *Quantitative Techniques.* It is still unclear what the pattern of questions will be in this section. If we go with the pattern of other entrances that have Quantitative Aptitude, the syllabus might be similar to that of Maths but the type of questions will be completely different.

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Sample Question

A group of five people S, M, P, K, B deposited different amounts 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000 and 6000 at a rate of interest of 4, 5, 6, 7.5 and 8 percent per annum respectively for a time period of 5 years. The following is the information known about the transaction:

i. The interest earned by them are different for each

ii. The interest earned by S was more than K, which was more than that earned by each of P and

B. M earned the least among them.

iii. The interest earned by B was 600

iv. The person who deposited the highest isn't the one receiving the highest interest.

What is the deposit by P?

a) 4000

b) 5000

c) 3000

d) Can't be determined

What is the interest earned by S?

a) 1800

b) 1875

c) 2000

d) Can't be determined

Who's rate of interest was 6%?

a) P

b) K

c) B

d) S

What is the difference between interest earned by P and K?

a) 1000

b) 1500

c) 1275

d) 1200

Legal Reasoning

The nomenclature of this section has changed to *Legal Reasoning.* It has also been revealed that there will be no requirement of legal knowledge to attempt the questions in this section. This section will also have passages, related to legal issues.

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Sample Question

In the wake of the current coronavirus outbreak, most businesses are looking out to re-align themselves with the economic disparity that is likely to arise. In fact, even the Union of India through Ministry of Finance has recently issued a clarification that coronavirus will be considered as a case of natural calamity and as such covered under the force majeure clause available to be invoked wherever necessary and applicable.

What is force majeure or vis major? It means superior force or chance occurrence. As the term and its meaning suggest, it is an event that the contracting parties could not have contemplated at the time of acceptance of contracts.

In India, primarily Section 56 of the Indian Contract Act deals with this situation. This article deals with the distinction between the English and Indian law a little later, however, we straightaway come to Section 56, which reads “Contract to do act afterwards becoming impossible or unlawful. – A contract to do an act which, after the contract is made, becomes impossible, or, by reason of some event which the promisor could not prevent, unlawful, becomes void when the act becomes impossible or unlawful.

” The doctrine of frustration with its limited applicability was developed in Taylor Vs. Caldwell [1863] for the first time, wherein Justice Blackburn reasoned that the rule of absolute liability only applied to positive, definite contracts, not to those in which there was an express or implied condition underlying the contract.

As far as Indian law is concerned, Section 56 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 is absolutely clear that an act, after the contract is made, becomes impossible to perform or by reason of some event which a promisor/a party could not prevent becomes void and is not capable of performance.

In this regard, the Supreme Court interpreted Section 56 to mean that an act must result in an impossibility of performance, or the performance of an act may not be literally impossible but it may be impracticable and useless from the point of view of the object and purpose which the parties had in view; and if an untoward event or change of circumstances totally upsets the very foundation upon which the parties rested their bargain, it can very well be said that the party finds it impossible to do the act which he promised to do.

From the above, it is clear that a force majeure event must lead to an impossibility and any hardship, inconvenience or material loss (except if the termination can be shown to be just and fair) cannot be considered as a force majeure event. Hence, a change in policy by no means can be considered as a force majeure or an impossible event.

[Source (edited): Mondaq, India: Frustration of Contract – When Does It Arise?]

Alia entered into a contract with Katrina for supplying sweets to Alia on her wedding day. On the day of the wedding, when eating one of Katrina's sweet made with almonds, Alia fell ill since she was allergic to almonds. As per the defense of vis major in the passage, can Alia sue Katrina?

a) Yes, Katrina had the chance of finding out Alias' preference.
b) No, it was an inevitable accident.
c) Yes, it was a chance occurrence.
d) No, the parties did not contemplate it at the time of contract.

Bappi enters into a contract with Mr. Lahiri on 12 th January under which he would supply gold and silver bars to Bappi. Later, Mr. Lahiri came to know that on 10 th January the Government had banned sale of gold bars. Mr. Lahiri wants to terminate the contract. Can he legally do so?

a) Yes, the act of selling gold bars had become illegal after the contract.
b) No, he can perform the part of the contract that is not illegal.
c) Yes, contract had become void and he had no chance to prevent the event.
d) None of the above.

A's ship had a hole in its hull. To repair it, A contracted with B to supply him 10 tons of iron within 7 days. But, 3 days after the contract, there was a storm and unable to withstand it, the ship sank. B refrained from supplying the iron as the ship itself had sunk. A, however, wants to sue B for non-performance of contract. Which of the following would most weaken A's stance?

a) The contract became void when the ship sank.
b) The performance of the act by B had become literally impossible.
c) The act would have been impractical and useless due to the sinking of the ship.
d) Both B and C.

Nattu was a newspaper vendor. He had a contract with Mr. Batuklal for delivering newspapers. Every morning Nattu would deliver newspapers to him on his cycle. One day, during the rainy season, it was raining cats and dogs. The papers got soggy and even, Nattu's cycle got punctured. He was unable to deliver the newspaper that day. Can Mr. Batuklal sue Nattu for violating contract?

a) Yes, Nattu failed to perform his contractual obligation without any just or fair cause.
b) No, since material loss and severe hardship suffered by Nattu.
c) Yes, the hardship and loss caused by the rain was not severe enough to terminate contract.
d) No, the rain was a just and fair cause for non-performance of contractual duty.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the Government's decision to include coronavirus as a force majeure?

a) A disease is not a natural calamity.
b) Viral infection is neither unpredictable, nor unpreventable.
c) Business houses can take measures to secure themselves.
d) None of the above.

Modules

CLATalogue updates regular posts (theory and practice papers) on various topics of CLAT on its website, social media and Whatsapp (click on the icons to subscribe).

Here are the links to various sections

- English
- Logical Reasoning
- Legal Reasoning
- Current Affairs
- Quantitative Techniques

Mock Test for CLAT

CLATalogue and CLATapult provide free mock tests for the law aspirants. The mocks are for both CLAT UG and PG.

Here is one of our mocks based on the new pattern for UG

Mock Test 10 by CLATalogue and CLATapult for CLAT UG 2020

Click to see the full list of all NLUs which are a part of the CLAT Consortium.

Click here to see the list of colleges which accept the CLAT score for admission.