BLOGS

Logical Reasoning Questions for CLAT UG 2026- PART VIII

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PASSAGE

Public health crises often test the boundaries of state responsibility and individual liberty. During pandemics, governments are expected to take swift action to protect public welfare, which may involve restricting personal freedoms through measures such as lockdowns, mandatory quarantines, or vaccine mandates. While these interventions are frequently justified on utilitarian grounds—maximizing overall well-being—they raise serious ethical concerns about autonomy, consent, and proportionality.

One challenge is determining whether such policies are grounded in scientific necessity or political expediency. A government that enforces broad restrictions without transparency or accountability risks eroding public trust, which is essential for long-term compliance. Moreover, policies that disproportionately burden marginalized communities can perpetuate structural inequalities under the guise of neutrality.

On the other hand, a failure to act decisively can also constitute a breach of ethical responsibility. Public health ethics emphasizes the principle of reciprocity: when individuals are asked to sacrifice freedoms for the collective good, the state has an obligation to minimize harm, ensure fair treatment, and provide adequate support. The pandemic context thus presents a complex interplay between liberty and duty, rights and responsibilities, individual choice and collective need.

1. What is the central ethical dilemma highlighted in the passage?

A. Whether vaccines should be free or paid
B. Whether governments should fund private hospitals
C. Balancing individual liberty with collective public health responsibilities
D. Choosing between economic recovery and technological innovation

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The passage focuses on the ethical trade-off between protecting public health and preserving individual freedoms.

2. Which principle is invoked when the state is expected to support individuals affected by public health restrictions?

A. Sovereign immunity

B. Reciprocity

C. Legal positivism

D. Judicial review

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The passage explicitly states that public health ethics is grounded in reciprocity—mutual obligations between individuals and the state.

3. Which of the following actions would most undermine the ethical legitimacy of pandemic-related restrictions?

A. Enforcing lockdowns in areas with high infection rates

B. Publishing detailed scientific data to justify mandates

C. Applying restrictions unequally to different communities

D. Allowing temporary suspension of large events

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Policies that disproportionately impact marginalized groups without justification weaken ethical claims of fairness and neutrality.

4. What assumption underlies the critique of politically expedient public health decisions?

A. Political decision-making is inherently unethical

B. Scientific data should never inform public policy

C. Transparency and accountability are necessary for public trust

D. All public health measures violate civil liberties

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The passage assumes that public trust depends on the state’s openness and rationale for implementing restrictions.

5. Suppose a government imposes mandatory vaccination without providing public access to clear health data. What is the likely consequence, according to the reasoning in the passage?

A. Higher vaccination rates and increased public satisfaction

B. Minimal resistance due to strong government leadership

C. Decline in public trust and compliance

D. Shift in responsibility from government to judiciary

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Lack of transparency is presented as a factor that erodes trust and compliance, even when the policy is scientifically sound.

6. Which of the following best reflects the principle of proportionality in the context of pandemic policy?

A. Using the same restrictions for all sectors regardless of impact

B. Minimizing rights infringements while achieving public health goals

C. Maximizing surveillance to prevent disease spread

D. Avoiding media communication to reduce panic

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Proportionality requires that any restriction on rights must be necessary and not excessive relative to the goal.

7. If marginalized communities suffer more from lockdowns than others, what broader concern does the passage raise?

A. That public health funding is inadequate

B. That the state is unable to enforce uniform rules

C. That structural inequality is amplified by superficially neutral policies

D. That rural areas require stricter health mandates

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The passage critiques how neutral-seeming policies can exacerbate existing inequalities if not carefully designed.

8. Which of the following, if true, would strengthen the argument for swift government intervention in a pandemic?

A. Most citizens prefer individual decision-making

B. Delayed action leads to preventable mass fatalities

C. Viral spread is slower in colder climates

D. Economic activity can resume within weeks without restrictions

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The ethical justification for intervention strengthens when inaction clearly results in widespread harm.

9. Based on the passage, which of the following would most help balance liberty and public safety?

A. Enforcing long-term lockdowns without exceptions

B. Issuing mandates without community consultation

C. Involving public health experts and ensuring public communication

D. Penalizing those who speak out against health policies

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The passage suggests that expert input and public engagement enhance legitimacy and balance rights with responsibilities.

10. What larger legal-philosophical issue is implicitly addressed by the passage?

A. The separation of powers in democratic governance

B. The relationship between legality and morality in public administration

C. The role of international law in domestic regulation

D. The limits of judicial intervention in legislative action

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The tension between lawful government action and moral legitimacy, particularly regarding liberty and fairness, is the key theme.