

BLOGS

Logical Reasoning Questions for CLAT UG 2026- PART IV

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Preparing for CLAT UG 2026? Logical Reasoning is a crucial section that tests your ability to analyze, evaluate, and draw conclusions from given arguments. Whether you're a beginner or revising for the final round, this practice set will boost your confidence.

PASSAGE

Debates around constitutional interpretation often center on two main schools of thought: originalism and living constitutionalism. Originalists argue that constitutional provisions must be interpreted based on the meaning they had when they were ratified. This view holds that judges should avoid injecting contemporary values into constitutional adjudication, as doing so risks undermining democratic legitimacy by allowing unelected judges to create, rather than interpret, law.

Living constitutionalists, by contrast, maintain that the Constitution is a dynamic document that must evolve with changing societal norms and values. According to this view, rigid adherence to historical intentions can render constitutional protections obsolete or inadequate in the face of modern challenges. They argue that fidelity to constitutional principles sometimes requires flexibility in their application, particularly when addressing issues like digital privacy, gender identity, or environmental regulation—concerns the framers could not have foreseen.

While originalists caution that living constitutionalism leads to judicial activism and unpredictability, critics of originalism contend that historical meaning is often indeterminate and that an overreliance on it can entrench outdated norms. Both perspectives raise profound questions about the role of the judiciary in balancing legal continuity with societal progress.

1. What is the primary concern originalists express about living constitutionalism?

- A. It is too focused on foreign legal systems
- B. It allows unelected judges to shape the law beyond their mandate
- C. It does not rely enough on case precedent
- D. It encourages excessive textual analysis of constitutional clauses

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Originalists argue that allowing judges to adapt the Constitution to modern values risks undermining democratic legitimacy.

2. Which of the following best expresses the rationale behind living constitutionalism?

- A. All constitutional questions can be answered through history
- B. The Constitution should be applied uniformly across all eras
- C. Modern problems require interpretations that go beyond original intent
- D. Judicial restraint must always take precedence over moral progress

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Living constitutionalists believe that the Constitution must adapt to present-day challenges that the framers could not have anticipated.

3. According to critics of originalism, what is one practical difficulty with relying on historical meaning?

- A. Historical records are inaccessible to courts
- B. Historical intent is often vague and open to dispute
- C. The judiciary is not trained to assess historical data
- D. Constitutional interpretation must ignore the past altogether

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Critics argue that the original meaning is not always clear, making it difficult to apply consistently.

4. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the originalist position?

- A. Courts using living constitutionalism have overturned discriminatory laws
- B. Public opinion increasingly favors judicial innovation
- C. Judges applying originalism produce more consistent rulings across jurisdictions
- D. Legislatures have failed to adapt laws to modern needs

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: If originalism leads to greater judicial consistency, it supports the argument for predictable and restrained interpretation.

5. Which assumption underlies the living constitutionalist perspective?

- A. Courts must always defer to Parliament or Legislature
- B. The text of the Constitution is fully self-explanatory
- C. Constitutional principles must evolve to remain relevant
- D. Rights and liberties are fixed and absolute

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Living constitutionalists assume that to remain meaningful, constitutional provisions must adapt over time.

6. Suppose a judge interprets a privacy right in the digital age based on contemporary expectations rather than 18th-century views. Which interpretive method is the judge employing?

- A. Textualism
- B. Living constitutionalism
- C. Doctrinalism
- D. Originalism

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Applying present-day values to interpret constitutional rights is characteristic of the living constitutionalist approach.

7. What would be a likely criticism from a living constitutionalist regarding strict originalist interpretation in the context of climate change regulation?

- A. The Constitution already contains specific environmental provisions
- B. The framers were infallible in their foresight
- C. The Constitution's silence on climate issues cannot justify government inaction
- D. Climate change is a purely legislative concern, not judicial

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Living constitutionalists argue that the Constitution must be interpreted in a way that addresses modern challenges, even if not explicitly mentioned.

8. If courts increasingly interpret constitutional rights in light of public opinion polls, which criticism raised by originalists would become most relevant?

- A. The courts are neglecting the framers' intent
- B. Judicial decisions are becoming overly bureaucratic
- C. Judges are relying too heavily on statutory construction
- D. The judiciary is interfering in matters of foreign policy

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Originalists would criticize this as abandoning the Constitution's original meaning in favor of shifting public opinion.

9. What is the underlying tension presented in the passage about constitutional interpretation?

- A. Balancing state and federal powers in judicial rulings
- B. Choosing between legal consistency and moral relativism
- C. Resolving the conflict between textual fidelity and evolving societal values
- D. Ensuring economic development within constitutional constraints

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The core issue is whether to maintain historical consistency or allow for evolving interpretations of constitutional principles.

10. Based on the passage, which of the following would most likely be agreed upon by both originalists and living constitutionalists?

- A. The Constitution should be amended frequently to stay relevant
- B. Judges should follow public opinion when interpreting law
- C. The judiciary plays a vital role in upholding constitutional governance
- D. Courts must always defer to legislative will

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Despite differing philosophies, both camps recognize the judiciary's central role in interpreting and applying the Constitution.