

AILET

MCQs on Administrative Law for CLAT PG [Part 6]

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Q1. The modern justification for judicial review of administrative action primarily rests on the idea that:

- a. Courts are superior policy-making bodies
- b. Administration must conform to constitutional discipline
- c. Efficiency outweighs legality
- d. Executive discretion is absolute

Q2. The doctrine of ultra vires in administrative law is best understood as a control over:

- a. Legislative supremacy
- b. Judicial activism
- c. Administrative authority exceeding legal limits
- d. Policy irrationality alone

Q3. Which of the following most accurately distinguishes delegated legislation from administrative discretion?

- a. Delegated legislation is exercised by courts
- b. Administrative discretion is always unguided
- c. Delegated legislation involves rule-making of general application
- d. Administrative discretion cannot be judicially reviewed

Q4. The requirement of reasoned orders by administrative authorities primarily advances which constitutional value?

- a. Parliamentary sovereignty
- b. Federal balance
- c. Transparency and accountability
- d. Executive privilege

Q5. Which situation most clearly attracts the application of the doctrine of legitimate expectation?

- a. A statutory benefit withdrawn by Parliament
- b. A policy consistently followed but changed without notice
- c. A purely contractual promise by the State
- d. A judicial precedent being overruled

Q6. Promissory estoppel against the State cannot operate where:

- a. The promise lacks consideration
- b. The promise contradicts a statutory mandate
- c. The promise causes administrative inconvenience
- d. The promise benefits a private individual

Q7. The principle that “power must not be exercised for an improper purpose” is most closely linked to:

- a. Error of law
- b. Colourable exercise of power
- c. Procedural impropriety
- d. Jurisdictional fact

Q8. In administrative law, Wednesbury unreasonableness primarily addresses:

- a. Procedural lapses
- b. Absence of jurisdiction
- c. Extreme irrationality in decision-making
- d. Violation of natural justice

Q9. Which of the following best explains why natural justice is not an inflexible rule?

- a. It is a statutory creation
- b. Administrative efficiency overrides fairness
- c. Its content varies with context and necessity
- d. It applies only to judicial bodies

Q10. A post-decisional hearing is constitutionally acceptable mainly because it:

- a. Eliminates judicial review
- b. Replaces legislative safeguards
- c. Restores fairness after urgent action
- d. Cures lack of jurisdiction

Q11. The doctrine of administrative necessity permits deviation from natural justice when:

- a. The authority prefers speed
- b. No alternative decision-maker is available
- c. The statute is silent
- d. The decision involves policy

Q12. Which of the following is the strongest justification for judicial review of policy decisions?

- a. Courts prefer different policies
- b. Policy outcomes are inefficient
- c. Policy violates constitutional limitations
- d. Policy is politically unpopular

Q13. The concept of jurisdictional fact allows courts to:

- a. Replace administrative decisions
- b. Review subjective satisfaction of authorities
- c. Examine foundational facts enabling jurisdiction
- d. Control merits of policy

Q14. A delegated legislation may be struck down if it:

- a. Is unpopular
- b. Conflicts with parent statute
- c. Is made without consultation
- d. Affects economic interests

Q15. The evolution of administrative law reflects a shift from:

- a. Rule-based governance to judicial supremacy
- b. Absolute discretion to structured discretion
- c. Parliamentary control to executive dominance
- d. Constitutionalism to pragmatism

Answers

1. Correct Answer: B - Administration must conform to constitutional discipline

Explanation: Judicial review exists not to govern, but to ensure that administrative power operates

within constitutional boundaries of legality, fairness, and reasonableness.

2. Correct Answer: C - Administrative authority exceeding legal limits

Explanation: Ultra vires literally means “beyond powers.” It is the foundational doctrine ensuring that administrative bodies act only within authority conferred by law.

3. Correct Answer: C - Delegated legislation involves rule-making of general application

Explanation: Delegated legislation creates norms of general applicability, while administrative discretion applies existing norms to individual situations.

4. Correct Answer: C - Transparency and accountability

Explanation: Reasoned decisions enable affected persons to understand outcomes and allow courts to review legality, reinforcing democratic accountability.

5. Correct Answer: B - A policy consistently followed but changed without notice

Explanation: Legitimate expectation arises from consistent administrative conduct, protecting procedural fairness when such practice is abruptly altered.

6. Correct Answer: B - The promise contradicts a statutory mandate

Explanation: No equitable doctrine can compel the State to act contrary to law. Statutory supremacy overrides promissory estoppel.

7. Correct Answer: B - Colourable exercise of power

Explanation: Even lawful power becomes invalid if used for an improper or collateral purpose unrelated to its statutory objective.

8. Correct Answer: C - Extreme irrationality in decision-making

Explanation: Wednesbury unreasonableness targets decisions so absurd that no reasonable authority could have made them.

9. Correct Answer: C - Its content varies with context and necessity

Explanation: Natural justice adapts to circumstances; urgency or public interest may justify modified or postponed hearings.

10. Correct Answer: C - Restores fairness after urgent action

Explanation: Post-decisional hearings reconcile administrative urgency with constitutional fairness.

11. Correct Answer: B - No alternative decision-maker is available

Explanation: The doctrine prevents governance paralysis when bias or conflict is unavoidable, allowing necessity to override ideal procedure.

12. Correct Answer: C -Policy violates constitutional limitations

Explanation: Courts do not assess wisdom of policy, but intervene when policy transgresses constitutional or statutory boundaries.

13. Correct Answer: C - Examine foundational facts enabling jurisdiction

Explanation: Courts can independently verify jurisdictional facts that condition the authority's power to act.

14. Correct Answer: B - Conflicts with parent statute

Explanation: Delegated legislation derives validity from its parent Act and must conform strictly to it.

15. Correct Answer: B - Absolute discretion to structured discretion

Explanation: Modern administrative law does not abolish discretion but subjects it to legal standards of fairness, reason, and accountability.