BLOGS

MCQs on Administrative Law for CLAT PG [Part 7]

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Q1. The primary concern that led to the development of administrative law was:

a) Excessive judicial intervention

b) Legislative inefficiency

c) Unchecked executive discretion

d) Federal imbalance

Q2. Modern administrative law views discretion as:

a) Constitutionally suspect

b) Inherently arbitrary

c) Necessary but controllable

d) A substitute for legislation

Q3. Judicial review is distinguished from an appeal primarily because it focuses on:

a) Correctness of outcome

b) Policy wisdom

c) Decision-making process

d) Public interest

Q4. Which of the following best reflects the contemporary understanding of illegality in judicial review?

a) Moral incorrectness of the decision

b) Violation of statutory limits or purpose

c) Economic inefficiency

d) Political disagreement

Q5. The doctrine of proportionality primarily requires that:

a) Administrative decisions be popular

b) Courts replace administrative judgment

c) Means adopted are not excessive in relation to the objective

d) All restrictions be minimal

Q6. Natural justice in administrative law is now understood as:

a) An absolute procedural mandate

b) A constitutional ritual

c) Context-dependent requirement of fairness

d) Applicable only to judicial proceedings

Q7. Post-decisional hearing is constitutionally acceptable mainly when:

a) Statutes expressly prohibit hearings

b) Administrative convenience demands it

c) Prior hearing would frustrate urgent action

d) Courts lack jurisdiction

Q8. The doctrine of legitimate expectation primarily protects:

a) Substantive entitlements

b) Contractual rights

c) Procedural fairness

d) Economic interests

Q9. Promissory estoppel restrains the State chiefly because:

a) The State is bound like a private party

b) Government promises are contracts

c) Fairness requires respect for induced reliance

d) Courts dislike policy changes

Q10. Which factor most clearly limits the application of promissory estoppel against the State?

a) Change in political leadership

b) Absence of consideration

c) Overriding public interest

d) Judicial reluctance

Q11. Judicial deference to administrative expertise is justified primarily on grounds of:

a) Parliamentary supremacy

b) Democratic deficit

c) Institutional competence

d) Separation of powers rigidity

Q12. The doctrine of administrative necessity allows departure from natural justice because:

a) Bias is legally irrelevant

b) Efficiency overrides legality

c) Governance would otherwise be paralysed

d) Courts permit it by default

Q13. Colourable exercise of power occurs when:

a) Power is exercised harshly

b) Authority acts without jurisdiction

c) Power is used for an improper purpose

d) Procedure is inefficient

Q14. Judicial restraint in matters of economic policy reflects recognition that:

a) Courts lack constitutional authority

b) Policy choices involve complex value judgments

c) Economic rights are unenforceable

d) Administration is immune from review

Q15. The overarching objective of administrative law is best described as:

a) Eliminating administrative discretion

b) Ensuring judicial supremacy

c) Reconciling effective governance with constitutional accountability

d) Preventing policy innovation

Answers

1. Correct Answer: C – Unchecked executive discretion

Explanation: Administrative law arose to control discretionary power exercised by the executive, ensuring it does not become arbitrary or oppressive.

2. Correct Answer: C – Necessary but controllable

Explanation: Modern law accepts discretion as inevitable but insists it be structured and exercised for lawful purposes.

3. Correct Answer: C – Decision-making process

Explanation: Judicial review examines legality, fairness, and rationality of the process, not the merits of the decision.

4. Correct Answer: B – Violation of statutory limits or purpose

Explanation: Illegality arises when power is exercised beyond jurisdiction or contrary to legislative intent.

5. Correct Answer: C – Means not excessive in relation to objective

Explanation: Proportionality ensures that even lawful objectives are pursued through reasonable measures.

6. Correct Answer: C – Context-dependent requirement of fairness

Explanation: Natural justice adapts to circumstances such as urgency or statutory context.

7. Correct Answer: C – Prior hearing would frustrate urgent action

Explanation: Courts permit post-decisional hearing where immediate action is essential.

8. Correct Answer: C – Procedural fairness

Explanation: Legitimate expectation ensures fair treatment, not guaranteed outcomes.

9. Correct Answer: C – Respect for induced reliance

Explanation: The doctrine prevents unfair withdrawal of assurances relied upon by citizens.

10. Correct Answer: C – Overriding public interest

Explanation: Public interest can justify departure from promises, but must be clearly shown.

11. Correct Answer: C – Institutional competence

Explanation: Courts recognise that administrators often possess technical expertise judges lack.

12. Correct Answer: C – Governance would otherwise be paralysed

Explanation: Necessity allows action despite procedural defects when no alternative exists.

13. Correct Answer: C – Improper purpose

Explanation: Colourable exercise disguises illegitimate objectives under lawful authority.

14. Correct Answer: B — Complex value judgments

Explanation: Economic policy involves predictive and technical choices unsuitable for judicial substitution.

15. Correct Answer: C – Reconciling governance with accountability

Explanation: Administrative law balances efficiency with legality, not dominance of one over the other.