

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.