

BLOGS

MCQ's on Administrative Law for CLAT PG [Part 3]

Aditya Aryan · 09 Jan 2026

Q1. The principle that “no person should be a judge in his own cause” is referred to as:

- A. Audi alteram partem
- B. Nemo judex in causa sua
- C. Res ipsa loquitur
- D. Ubi jus ibi remedium

Q2. When delegated legislation goes beyond the authority granted by the parent Act, it is referred to as:

- A. Intra vires
- B. Ultra vires
- C. Excessive delegation
- D. Colourable legislation

Q3. An authority uses licensing power to punish political opponents rather than regulate trade.

This is best described as:

- A. Abuse of discretion
- B. Colourable exercise of power
- C. Excessive delegation
- D. Administrative necessity

Q4. A decision is unreasonable if:

- A. Court would have decided differently
- B. Decision lacks majority support
- C. Decision is so irrational that no reasonable authority would take it
- D. Decision affects public interest

Q5. The doctrine which prevents arbitrary administrative action by requiring reasons for decisions is referred to as:

- A. Doctrine of proportionality
- B. Doctrine of fairness
- C. Doctrine of speaking orders
- D. Doctrine of necessity

Q6. When a court examines whether the means adopted by an administrative authority are excessive in relation to the objective sought to be achieved, the review applied is known as:

- A. Wednesbury unreasonableness
- B. Doctrine of proportionality
- C. Colourable exercise of power
- D. Legitimate expectation

Q7. Why are administrative authorities generally required to pass reasoned orders?

- A. To reduce workload of courts**
- B. To ensure transparency and fairness
- C. To satisfy political accountability
- D. To prevent delegation of powers

Q8. The test that asks whether a decision is so unreasonable that no reasonable authority would have taken it is called:

- A. Proportionality test
- B. Rational nexus test
- C. Wednesbury test
- D. Necessity test

Q9. Natural justice may be excluded:

- A. Whenever statute is silent
- B. In all administrative actions
- C. Only by express provision or necessary implication
- D. Whenever government claims urgency

Q10. Rules framed under an Act contradict the parent statute.

The rules are:

- A. Valid if reasonable
- B. Valid if approved by Parliament

- C. Ultra vires the parent Act
- D. Protected as subordinate legislation

Q11. When courts refuse to interfere merely because they disagree with administrative policy, the restraint exercised is referred to as:

- A. Judicial abdication
- B. Judicial discipline
- C. Judicial deference
- D. Judicial immunity

Q12. When a statute allows rule-making but the legislature retains essential policy decisions, it is referred to as:

- A. Conditional legislation
- B. Excessive delegation
- C. Subordinate legislation
- D. Executive legislation

Q13. A situation where a decision-maker has a personal interest in the outcome of the decision is legally referred to as:

- A. Apparent bias
- B. Institutional bias
- C. Pecuniary bias
- D. Functional bias

Q14. When an authority uses its power for a purpose different from the one for which it was conferred, it is referred to as:

- A. Abuse of discretion
- B. Colourable exercise of power
- C. Excessive delegation
- D. Administrative necessity

Q15. A government consistently renews contracts of employees every year but suddenly refuses renewal without explanation.

Which doctrine may apply?

- A. Res judicata
- B. Promissory estoppel

- C. Legitimate expectation
- D. Natural justice only

Answers

1. B – Nemo judex in causa sua – This rule ensures impartiality and absence of bias in administrative decisions.
2. B – Ultra vires – Any subordinate legislation exceeding statutory limits is ultra vires and void.
3. B – Colourable exercise of power – Power used for an unauthorised purpose is colourable and invalid.
4. C – Decision is so irrational that no reasonable authority would take it – Wednesbury unreasonableness sets a high threshold, focusing on extreme irrationality.
5. C – Doctrine of speaking orders – Speaking orders promote transparency, accountability, and judicial review.
6. B – Doctrine of proportionality – Unlike Wednesbury unreasonableness, which intervenes only in cases of extreme irrationality, proportionality requires a closer scrutiny of whether the administrative action is suitable, necessary, and balanced in relation to the aim pursued. This doctrine is increasingly applied, especially where fundamental rights are involved.
7. B – To ensure transparency and fairness – Reasoned orders prevent arbitrariness, enable judicial review, and promote fairness.
8. C – Wednesbury test – It sets a high threshold for judicial interference.
9. C – Only by express provision or necessary implication – Exclusion must be clear and justified. Silence alone does not exclude natural justice.
10. C – Ultra vires the parent Act – Delegated legislation must conform strictly to the parent Act. Any inconsistency makes it ultra vires.
11. C – Judicial deference – Courts respect separation of powers and policy domain of executive.
12. A – Conditional legislation – Legislature sets policy; executive applies it when conditions are met.
13. C – Pecuniary bias – Even a small financial or personal interest automatically disqualifies the decision-maker.
14. B – Colourable exercise of power – The action may appear lawful, but the real object is unlawful.

15. C - Legitimate expectation – Past consistent conduct can create a reasonable expectation requiring fair consideration before departure.