

BLOGS

MCQs on Constitutional Law for CLAT PG [Part 4]

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Q1. The constitutional significance of describing India as a “Republic” lies primarily in the idea that:

- A. The President is elected indirectly
- B. Political power ultimately vests in the people
- C. Parliamentary sovereignty is absolute
- D. The Constitution is supreme over all institutions

Q2. The doctrine of basic structure functions as a limitation on:

- A. Judicial review
- B. Legislative competence of States
- C. Constituent power of Parliament
- D. Executive discretion

Q3. Which of the following principles was decisively rejected by the Supreme Court in *Kesavananda Bharati*?

- A. Parliament can amend Fundamental Rights
- B. The Constitution is a living document
- C. Amending power is unlimited and absolute
- D. Judicial review is part of the Constitution

Q4. The transformation of Article 21 from a narrow guarantee against physical restraint to a source of substantive rights occurred primarily due to:

- A. Constitutional amendment
- B. Judicial interpretation
- C. Parliamentary legislation
- D. Directive Principles

Q5. The test of “manifest arbitrariness” under Article 14 allows courts to invalidate legislation primarily when:

- A. The law lacks popular support
- B. The classification is imperfect
- C. The law is capricious or irrational without adequate determining principle
- D. The legislature exceeds its competence

Q6. Which Fundamental Right is most closely associated with the concept of human dignity as a constitutional value?

- A. Article 14
- B. Article 19
- C. Article 21
- D. Article 25

Q7. The constitutional justification for permitting reasonable restrictions on Fundamental Rights is rooted in:

- A. Parliamentary supremacy
- B. Collective societal interests
- C. Executive convenience
- D. Judicial deference

Q8. The exclusion of certain laws from judicial review through the Ninth Schedule was substantially curtailed after:

- A. Golaknath v. State of Punjab
- B. Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala
- C. Minerva Mills v. Union of India
- D. I.R. Coelho v. State of Tamil Nadu

Q9. Which statement best captures the constitutional position of Directive Principles of State Policy?

- A. They override Fundamental Rights
- B. They are legally enforceable rights
- C. They are non-justiciable but fundamental in governance
- D. They operate only during emergencies

Q10. The doctrine of constitutional morality, as articulated by the Supreme Court, primarily demands:

- A. Strict adherence to text alone
- B. Ethical governance consistent with constitutional values
- C. Judicial supremacy over legislature
- D. Popular approval of constitutional interpretation

Q11. Which of the following rights is enforceable even against private individuals by virtue of constitutional mandate?

- A. Freedom of speech
- B. Equality before law
- C. Prohibition of human trafficking
- D. Freedom of religion

Q12. The ordinance-making power of the executive is constitutionally justified as:

- A. A substitute for Parliament
- B. A permanent law-making authority
- C. An emergency legislative power subject to limits
- D. An implied executive function

Q13. The constitutional importance of Article 32 lies in the fact that it:

- A. Creates Fundamental Rights
- B. Confers advisory jurisdiction on courts
- C. Provides a guaranteed remedy for enforcement of rights
- D. Restricts legislative power

Q14. The principle that federalism forms part of the basic structure implies that:

- A. States have absolute sovereignty
- B. Parliament cannot alter Centre-State relations at all
- C. Balance of power cannot be destroyed even by amendment
- D. India follows a confederal model

Q15. The recognition of right to privacy as a Fundamental Right primarily altered earlier constitutional understanding by:

- A. Creating a new enumerated right
- B. Expanding Article 19
- C. Giving substantive content to personal liberty
- D. Restricting State surveillance completely

Answers

1. Correct Answer: B – Political power ultimately vests in the people Explanation: A republic rejects hereditary rule. All authority flows from the people, even if exercised through elected representatives. This reflects democratic legitimacy.
1. Correct Answer: C – Constituent power of Parliament Explanation: The basic structure doctrine limits Parliament's amending power under Article 368, preventing destruction of core constitutional values.
1. Correct Answer: C – Amending power is unlimited and absolute Explanation: Kesavananda Bharati rejected absolute sovereignty of Parliament by holding that constitutional amendments cannot damage the basic structure.
1. Correct Answer: B – Judicial interpretation Explanation: Through cases like Maneka Gandhi, Francis Coralie Mullin, and later Puttaswamy, courts expanded Article 21 into a source of substantive due process.
1. Correct Answer: C – Capricious or irrational law without adequate principle Explanation: The doctrine allows courts to strike down legislation that is arbitrary in substance, even without a classification defect.
1. Correct Answer: C – Article 21 Explanation: Human dignity forms the core of the right to life and personal liberty, encompassing autonomy, privacy, health, and shelter.
1. Correct Answer: B – Collective societal interests Explanation: Restrictions balance individual liberty with public order, morality, health, and security, preserving social harmony.
1. Correct Answer: D – I.R. Coelho v. State of Tamil Nadu Explanation: The Court held that Ninth Schedule laws are subject to basic structure review if they violate fundamental rights.
1. Correct Answer: C – Non-justiciable but fundamental in governance Explanation: DPSPs guide State policy and inform interpretation of rights but cannot be enforced directly in courts.

1. Correct Answer: B – Ethical governance consistent with constitutional values Explanation: Constitutional morality requires adherence to liberty, equality, dignity, and pluralism beyond mere textual compliance.
1. Correct Answer: C – Prohibition of human trafficking Explanation: Article 23 operates horizontally, binding both State and private actors, unlike most Fundamental Rights.
1. Correct Answer: C – Emergency legislative power subject to limits Explanation: Ordinances are temporary, conditional powers meant to meet urgent situations when Parliament is not in session.
1. Correct Answer: C – Guaranteed remedy for enforcement of rights Explanation: Article 32 itself is a Fundamental Right, ensuring direct access to the Supreme Court.
1. Correct Answer: C – Balance of power cannot be destroyed even by amendment Explanation: While Parliament can alter federal arrangements, it cannot dismantle the federal character entirely.
1. Correct Answer: C – Giving substantive content to personal liberty Explanation: Privacy recognition deepened Article 21 by protecting decisional autonomy, bodily integrity, and informational control.