

Sample Legal Reasoning Paper for SLAT 2023

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SAMPLE PAPER

1. Principle: The wrong of defamation is committed either by way of writing or its equivalent or by way of speech. The defamatory statement should be published so that a third party knows about it. A defamatory statement is a statement is one which lowers a person reputation in the eyes of the right-minded people of the society.

Fact: Mr. X told Mr. Y that he is a man of bad repute. Mr. Y felt unhappy about it and sued Mr. X for defamation. Will he succeed?

- a. Yes, Mr. X made a defamatory statement.
- b. No, Mr. X only made the statement in private.
- c. Yes, Mr. X lowered the reputation of Mr. Y by calling him that
- d. No, Mr. Y was indeed a man of bad repute

2. Principle: The wrong of defamation is committed either by way of writing or its equivalent or by way of speech. The defamatory statement should be published so that a third party knows about it. A defamatory statement is a statement is one which lowers a person reputation in the eyes of the right-minded people of the society.

Fact: Mr. X told Mr. Y that he is a man of bad repute. Mr. Y felt unhappy about it. He then went on to tell his friends about what Mr. X had told him. Thinking about the statement got him agitated and he sued Mr. X for defamation. Will he succeed?

- a. Mr. Y will succeed as Mr. X did make a defamatory statement
- b. Mr. Y will not succeed as the statement was made public by him
- c. Mr. Y will not succeed because it is a matter between friends and the law does not take care of trifles.
- d. Mr. Y will succeed as the matter has been made public and this has negatively affected his reputation

3. Principle: The wrong of defamation is committed either by way of writing or its equivalent or by way of speech. The defamatory statement should be published so that a third party knows about it. A defamatory statement is a statement is one which lowers a person reputation in the eyes of the right-minded people of the society.

Fact: Mr. X told Mr. Y that he is a man of bad repute. Mr. Y felt unhappy about it. Mr. X was told this by another friend of Mr. Y. Thinking about the statement got Mr. Y agitated and he sued Mr. X for defamation. Will he succeed?

- a. No, because Mr. X did not come up with the statement himself and its just hearsay
- b. Yes, because Mr. X was the one to tell it to Mr. Y
- c. No, because the statement has not been made public
- d. Yes, because Mr. X has made the statement public by telling Mr. Y

4. Principle: The wrong of defamation is committed either by way of writing or its equivalent or by way of speech. The defamatory statement should be published so that a third party knows about it. A defamatory statement is a statement is one which lowers a person reputation in the eyes of the right-minded people of the society.

Fact: Mr. X told Mr. Y that he is a man of bad repute. Mr. Y felt unhappy about it. Mr. X said he got to know about it from people gossiping in the town. Thinking about the statement got Mr. Y agitated and he sued Mr. X for defamation. Will he succeed?

- a. No, Mr. Y will not succeed as the statement seems true as many people believe in it
- b. Yes, Mr. Y will succeed because the statement is defamatory and has been made in public prior to this
- c. No, Mr. Y will not succeed as the statement has only been made in private
- d. Yes, Mr. Y will succeed as the statement is a representation of how much his reputation has suffered

5. Principle: The wrong of defamation is committed either by way of writing or its equivalent or by way of speech. The defamatory statement should be published so that a third party knows about it. A defamatory statement is a statement is one which lowers a person reputation in the eyes of the right-minded people of the society.

Fact: Mr. X told Mr. Y that he is a man of bad repute. Mr. Y felt unhappy about it. Mr. X said he got to know about it from men running a gambling ring in the city. Thinking about the statement

got Mr. Y agitated and he sued Mr. X for defamation. Will he succeed?

- a. No, Mr. Y will not succeed as the statement seems true as many people believe in it
- b. Yes, Mr. Y will succeed because the statement is defamatory and has been made in public prior to this
- c. No, Mr. Y will not succeed as the statement has only been made in private
- d. No, Mr. Y will not succeed as the statement was not made by right-minded people of the society

6. Principle: An act of God is a type of inevitable accident where the factors affecting the accident are natural causes.

Fact: Mr. A created a series of artificial lakes and built embankments to contain them. One day due to extremely heavy rainfall, the heaviest in human memory, the embankments broke and the water washed away four bridges which were owned by Mr. S. Mr. S suffered a very heavy loss and filed a suit to recover damages.

- a. Mr. A is liable because it is an unnatural use of his land to build embankments and artificial lakes on one's land.
- b. Mr. A is liable because he caused a lot of damage to Mr. S.
- c. Mr. A is not liable because it was an act of God that caused the damage.
- d. Mr. A is not liable because the rainfall was very heavy and the bridges broke because of it.

7. Principle: An act of God is a type of inevitable accident where the factors affecting the accident are natural causes.

Fact: Mr. A created a series of artificial lakes and built embankments to contain them despite being advised against such construction. One day due to regular rainfall, the embankments broke and the water washed away four bridges which were owned by Mr. S. Mr. S suffered a very heavy loss and filed a suit to recover damages.

- a. Mr. A is not liable because he just made use of his land to build embankments and artificial lakes.
- b. Mr. A is liable because he caused a lot of damage to Mr. S and he was advised against the unnatural use via construction in the first place.
- c. Mr. A is not liable because it was an act of God that caused the damage.
- d. Mr. A is not liable because the rainfall was very heavy and the bridges broke because of it and he could not have controlled the state of the bridges.

8. Principle: An act of God is a type of inevitable accident where the factors affecting the accident are natural causes.

Fact: Mr. A had a few lakes on his land and he had built embankments to contain them. One day due to heavy rainfall, the embankments broke and the water washed away four bridges which were owned by Mr. S. Mr. S suffered a very heavy loss and filed a suit to recover damages.

- a. Mr. A is liable because it is an unnatural use of his land to build embankments on one's land.
- b. Mr. A is liable because he caused a lot of damage to Mr. S.
- c. Mr. A is not liable because it was an act of God that caused the damage.
- d. Mr. A is liable because the rainfall was very heavy and he should have taken better care since he had lakes on his land.

9. Principle: The defence of necessity arises when a person is forced to cause harm to prevent greater harm from taking place.

Fact: A prisoner went on hunger strike till her demands were met. The warden, Mr. tried to convince the prisoner to eat but he refused to do so. To prevent the death of the prisoner, the warden had to force-feed him in order to save his life. This was not taken very nicely by the prisoner and he filed a suit of battery against the warden. Decide if Mr. M is liable for battery.

- a. Mr. M is liable for battery because he forced the prisoner to eat against his will.
- b. Mr. M is liable for battery because it was committed against the prisoner's body against his consent.
- c. Mr. M is not liable for battery because he did the act out of necessity to protect the life of the prisoner.
- d. Mr. M is not liable for battery because he just did his duty as the warden of the jail with an intent to provide care to the prisoner.

10. Principle: The defence of necessity arises when a person is forced to cause harm to prevent greater harm from taking place.

Fact: A prisoner went on hunger strike till her demands were met. The warden, Mr. tried to convince the prisoner to eat but he refused to do so. Unaware of the fact that the prisoner was being secretly fed by another warden and in order to prevent the death of the prisoner, the warden had to force-feed him in order to save his life. This was not taken very nicely by the prisoner and he filed a suit of battery against the warden. Decide if Mr. M is liable for battery.

- a. Mr. M is liable for battery because he forced the prisoner to eat against his will.
- b. Mr. M is liable for battery because it was committed against the prisoner's body against his consent.
- c. Mr. M is not liable for battery because he did the act out of necessity to protect the life of the prisoner.
- d. Mr. M is liable for battery because the prisoner was already eating and there was no such necessity to feed him.

Answers

- 1. b
- 2. b
- 3. c
- 4. c
- 5. c
- 6. c
- 7. b
- 8. c
- 9. c
- 10. c

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