

## LEGAL REASONING QUESTIONS – SAMPLE SET FOR MAY 23, 2020

Each set of questions in this section is based on the reasoning and arguments set out in the preceding passage. Please answer each question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the corresponding passage. In some instances, more than one option may be the answer to the question; in such a case, please choose the option that most accurately and comprehensively answers the question.

1.

A student of mathematics in Delhi University can now choose to simultaneously pursue any other degree course, say English Literature from IGNOU or any other institution.

In a move to improve their career prospects, the University Grants Commission (the "UGC") has approved a proposal to allow students to pursue two degree programmes at the same time. One of the degrees has to be in the regular (that is, non-distance or online) mode and the other either in distance learning or online mode. However, this does not mean that a student can enrol in a Master's, Doctorate, or other advanced programme before completing their undergraduate programme. A student can pursue two degrees in different streams as well as from different institutions. They may also opt for the same institution, provided it offers multiple modes of learning.

As per the UGC, since there is a minimum attendance criteria attached to regular degree programmes, the second degree has to be through distance or online mode.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "Students can now pursue 2 degree courses simultaneously", by Manash Pratim Gohain, *The Times of India*, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/students-can-now-pursue-2-degree-courses-simultaneously/articleshow/75878967.cms>]

1.1 Madhav is currently enrolled in the third year of a five-year undergraduate law programme at a National Law University (an "NLU"). He wishes to work in the field of corporate laws after he graduates, and decides to add to his credentials. Madhav therefore enrolls in two separate certificate programmes, one provided by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (the "ICAI") and one provided by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (the "ICSI"), and decides that he will complete these simultaneously with his law degree. When the Registrar of Madhav's NLU comes to hear of this, he tells Madhav that he cannot pursue all three programmes simultaneously, and that he must cancel his enrolment in one of the three programmes. Is the Registrar correct?

- (a) Yes, since the proposal approved by the UGC permits a student to enrol in only two programmes at a time.
- (b) No, since there is no limit on the number of degree programmes a student can be enrolled in simultaneously.
- (c) Yes, since the UGC's relaxation of rules clearly states that one of the programmes has to be provided in an online or distance mode.
- (d) No, since the programmes provided by the ICAI and the ICSI are certificate programmes and not degree programmes.

1.2 When Madhav's NLU classmate Sarala hears about Madhav having enrolled in additional programmes apart from the five-year law programme, she too decides to gain additional qualifications so as to boost her job prospects on graduating. She therefore enrolls in a Bachelor of Commerce ("BCom") programme at a college in the city. Since the classes for the BCom programme are conducted in the evenings, Sarala feels confident of being able to attend her NLU law classes in the morning, and the BCom classes in the evening. Although the BCom classes are conducted on the college's campus, in the regular (that is, non-distance or online) mode, the campus is quite close to that of Sarala's NLU. However, the Registrar of the NLU tells Sarala that she cannot be enrolled in that BCom programme while she is still enrolled in the five-year law programme. Does Sarala have to cancel her enrolment in the BCom programme?

- (a) Yes, since a student can only enrol in two different degree programmes if they are in the same stream.
- (b) Yes, since a student in a regular degree programme can only enrol for a second degree programme if the second programme is provided in online or distance mode.
- (c) No, since the UGC has now permitted students to enrol in two degree programmes simultaneously.
- (d) No, since the same rule that was applied in Madhav's case should also be applied in Sarala's case.

1.3 Hamsa, who is also in the same batch at the same NLU as Madhav and Sarala, decides that she too must enhance her employability, and so, decides to enrol in a Master's in Commercial Law degree programme ("MCL") that her NLU provides in an online mode. The Registrar of the NLU, who has decided to keep a close eye on the students in Madhav's batch by now, decides that this cannot be allowed. He therefore tells Hamsa that she cannot enrol in the MCL until she completes her five-year law programme. Is the Registrar wrong?

- (a) Yes, since the MCL is provided through the online mode.
- (b) No, since a student can only enrol in a second degree programme if it is provided by another institution.
- (c) No, since Hamsa cannot enrol in the MCL until she completes her undergraduate degree programme.
- (d) Yes, the UGC has now permitted a student to enrol in two degree programmes simultaneously.

1.4 Komalika is in the same batch as Madhav, Sarala, and Hamsa at the NLU. Since she has a wide variety of interests in addition to her law studies, she decides to study Physics along with her law programme. She therefore enrolls in an online Bachelor's in Physics programme provided by a famous overseas university. When Sarala hears about this, she brings it to the attention of the Registrar of the NLU, and argues that Komalika should not be allowed to enrol in the Physics programme since it has no relation to her law studies, and Komalika's enrolment in the Physics programme violates UGC rules. Is Sarala correct?

- (a) No, since Komalika alone can decide where her interests lie and what she wishes to study.
- (b) No, since the UGC rules do not place any restrictions on what stream the second degree programme a student wishes to enrol for, relates to.
- (c) Yes, since studying for the Physics programme would only distract Komalika from her law studies.
- (d) Yes, since Physics and Law are completely unrelated subjects.

1.5 The Registrar of the NLU where Madhav, Sarala, Hamsa, and Komalika are all studying, is inspired by the students' efforts towards obtaining additional qualifications, and decides that he too should explore new areas. He therefore starts teaching in three different degree programmes, all provided by the same NLU in the 'regular' mode, simultaneously. Since the Registrar has completed his doctorate many years ago, and since he is not enrolled as a student in any of these three programmes, he claims that there is no obstacle to his teaching in a Bachelor's, Degree, and Doctorate programme simultaneously. The NLU administration, however, tells the Registrar that his teaching three different degree programmes in the 'regular' mode exceeds the limit of two degree programmes set down by the UGC, as described in the passage above. Has the Registrar exceeded this limit?

- (a) Yes, since the Registrar is teaching in three different degree programmes simultaneously.
- (b) Yes, since the UGC has set down a limit of two degree programmes.
- (c) No, since the Registrar has already completed his doctorate many years ago.
- (d) No, since the limit described in the passage relates to the number of degree programmes a student can enrol in simultaneously, and not the number of programmes that one can teach simultaneously.

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