

Ph.D. ENTRANCE EXAMINATION GUIDELINES

FORMAT OF THE EXAMINATION

There shall be two multiple-choice question test papers and a written synopsis. The format is as follows:

- i. **Test 1: Legal Aptitude (50 marks)**
- ii. **Test 2:**
 - (a) **Research Aptitude (25 Marks)**
 - (b) **Synopsis:** Write-up on the specific research interest the applicant intends to pursue as a research scholar **(25 Marks)**

SYLLABUS OF THE EXAMINATION

The syllabus provided below is indicative and not exhaustive. The applicant has to focus on the current and emerging legal issues in the following Areas of the syllabus.

Test 1: Syllabus (50 Marks)

Course Title: (a) Legal Aptitude

Contents

1. Socio-Legal Research Methods

The focus is on the interdisciplinary approaches that integrate legal analysis with methods and theories from the social sciences. This topic includes the nature, scope, and significance of socio-legal research in understanding the functioning and impact of law in society. The syllabus covers foundational concepts such as the relationship between law and society, the distinction between doctrinal and non-doctrinal research, and the relevance of empirical research in legal studies. It includes qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection such as interviews, surveys, case studies, and

ethnographic fieldwork, as well as techniques for data analysis and interpretation. Ethical issues in socio-legal research, participatory and feminist methodologies, and the use of interdisciplinary tools are also emphasized. The course encourages critical evaluation of legal norms through sociological lenses and aims to prepare students for conducting socially relevant and policy-oriented legal research.

2. **Constitutional Law**

The focus is on the foundational structure of the Indian Constitution, including constitutionalism, the Preamble, fundamental rights, directive principles, and duties. It covers doctrines like the basic structure, separation of powers, and judicial review. Special attention is given to transformative constitutionalism, constitutional morality, and recent judicial decisions impacting personal liberty, privacy, and social justice and the contemporary developments.

3. **Administrative Law**

The focus is on the evolution and scope of administrative law, delegated legislation, and the principles of natural justice. The focus is on administrative discretion, judicial and legislative control mechanisms, administrative adjudication, the doctrine of legitimate expectation, and the impact of transparency laws such as the Right to Information Act, 2005.

4. **Criminal Law**

The fundamental principles of criminal liability, general exceptions under IPC, stages of crime, and offences against persons and property. It includes criminal procedure – arrest, bail, investigation, trial – as well as contemporary legal developments such as white-collar crime, cybercrime, victimology, and the 2023 reforms under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

5. **Intellectual Property Laws**

The conceptual and legal foundations of IP rights including copyright, patents, trademarks, designs, and geographical indications. The focus will be on issues like infringement, fair use, compulsory licensing, and emerging challenges involving artificial intelligence, digital content, and biotechnology. International conventions such as TRIPS and WIPO treaties are also covered and the contemporary developments in this arena.

6. **Corporate Law**

The legal principles governing companies, including formation, corporate personality, governance, rights of shareholders, and duties of directors. It covers mergers, acquisitions, CSR, insider trading, and corporate criminal liability, with emphasis on regulatory frameworks under the Companies Act, SEBI regulations, and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 and the latest updates pertaining to this field of study.

7. Environmental Law

The constitutional and statutory framework for environmental protection in India, including the Environment (Protection) Act, Water and Air Acts, and Forest laws. Key principles like sustainable development, polluter pays, and inter-generational equity are covered alongside judicial activism, the National Green Tribunal, and international environmental treaties including the Paris Agreement. The focus is on the contemporary global developments in the environmental law.

8. Gender Justice

The feminist legal theory, gender equality under the Constitution, and statutory protections against gender-based violence including domestic violence, sexual harassment, and trafficking. It focuses on issues concerning LGBTQIA+ rights, reproductive autonomy, intersectionality, and reform of personal laws to promote gender neutrality and equity.

9. Family Law

The personal and secular legal regimes governing marriage, divorce, maintenance, custody, and succession under Hindu, Muslim, and Christian laws, along with the Special Marriage Act. It addresses emerging issues such as live-in relationships, surrogacy, and the debate surrounding a Uniform Civil Code.

10. Jurisprudence

The focus areas include major schools of legal thought such as natural law, positivism, realism, historical and sociological schools, along with modern movements like feminist jurisprudence and critical legal studies. It includes key legal concepts like rights, duties, justice, ownership, liability, and Indian perspectives on law and justice.

11. International Law

The sources and subjects of international legal order, recognition of states, jurisdiction, law of treaties, and the relationship between international and municipal law. It also includes the UN system, international humanitarian and criminal law,

environmental law, and contemporary issues such as cyber law, climate change, and refugee protection.

Test 2(a):

Syllabus (25 marks)

Course Title: Research Aptitude

Contents

1. Foundations of Legal Research: Nature, purposes and scope of legal research; scientific method vs. legal reasoning; Sources of law: legislation, case law, customary and soft-law materials; Inter-disciplinary approaches and the social function of law
2. Research Problem, Design & Hypothesis: Selecting a research problem; gap analysis and literature review techniques: Formulating workable and testable hypotheses; Variables in legal inquiry; Research design steps, timelines and budgeting
3. Doctrinal & Empirical Methods: Doctrinal method: case-law synthesis, statutory interpretation, legislative history; Non-doctrinal/empirical methods: qualitative (interviews, focus groups), quantitative (surveys, statistics) and mixed-methods designs; Comparative, historical and law-reform research strategies
4. Research Tools, Data Handling & Analysis: Primary vs. secondary authority evaluation; citators and validation tools; Sampling techniques; coding of qualitative data; basic descriptive statistics for legal datasets
5. Legal Writing, Citation & Research Ethics; Structure of a research paper, dissertation and policy brief; abstracts and executive summaries; Plagiarism and data protection.

Test 2(b)

Synopsis (25 Marks)

(b) Write-up on the specific research interest the applicant intends to pursue as a research scholar