

22 NOV 2025

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY JODHPUR

End Term Examination August-December 2025

Semester: UG V

Subject: Administrative Law (Compulsory)

Time: Three hours

Total marks: 100

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This question paper contains **6 questions**, each carrying **20 marks**.
2. Answer any **5 questions** from the following.
3. Support your answers with case laws, statutory provisions, and doctrinal analysis where relevant.
4. Expected answer length: 800-900 words per question (suggestive only, not compulsory)

Q1 The Ministry of Environment and Forests delegates rule-making power to the National Green Tribunal under the Environment Protection Act, 1986. The Tribunal issues detailed regulations prescribing emission standards for industrial units without publishing a draft for public consultation. Additionally, the regulations impose penalties retrospectively for violations committed before the regulations came into force. A group of industrial associations challenges these regulations.

- (a) Applying the principles laid down in *In re Delhi Laws Act* (1951), examine whether such delegation is constitutionally valid.
- (b) Analyze the grounds on which the regulations can be challenged, discussing both substantive and procedural controls on delegated legislation.

(10 + 10 = 20 marks)

Q2 A newly enacted statute establishes a specialized tribunal to adjudicate disputes between telecommunications companies and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The tribunal has power to:

- Review decisions of TRAI on licensing and spectrum allocation
- Award compensation up to Rs. 100 crores
- Pass binding orders with no scope for appeal to the High Court
- Appoint its own members without any oversight mechanism

Several telecom companies challenge the tribunal's constitutional validity, arguing that it transgresses judicial power and denies access to courts.



- (a) Analyze the constitutional framework governing tribunals under Articles 323A and 323B. What was the rationale behind tribunalization of justice?
- (b) Critically examine what safeguards and limitations ought to be imposed on such tribunals to ensure they function fairly and within constitutional limits, with reference to judicial principles you have studied.

(10 + 10 = 20 marks)

Q3 You are the Registrar of National Law University Jodhpur. A third-year B.A.LL.B. student has been accused of the following acts of misconduct:

Incident 1 (October 20, 2025): During the mid-semester examination for Constitutional Law-II, the student was found in possession of unauthorized material (handwritten notes concealed in answer booklet). The invigilator filed a written report with documentary evidence.

Incident 2 (October 28, 2025): The student was involved in a verbal altercation with a hostel warden, using abusive and threatening language when asked to vacate the common room at 11:30 PM (past the designated time). Two witnesses (hostel residents) have provided written statements.

Incident 3 (November 2, 2025): CCTV footage shows the student consuming alcohol in the hostel premises at 2:00 AM, in violation of university regulations.

These acts constitute violations of:

- (a) Clause 8.2 of the Student Code of Conduct (Academic Dishonesty)
- (b) Clause 12.5 (Disrespectful behaviour towards university staff)
- (c) Clause 15.3 (Consumption of prohibited substances in campus)

Under the University's Disciplinary Procedure, penalties may range from warning to expulsion under Regulation 23 of the University Regulations, 2020.

Draft a comprehensive show cause notice that fulfils the requirements of natural justice principles in letter and spirit.

(20 marks)

Q4 The State Government of Rajasthan decides to cancel all existing liquor licenses and issue fresh licenses through a new tender process. The decision is communicated through a press release on November 10, 2025, and all existing licenses are revoked with immediate effect from November 15, 2025, without providing:

- Any prior notice to existing license holders
- Reasons for the sudden policy change
- Opportunity to make representations
- Time to wind up existing business operations

Existing license holders had made substantial investments in infrastructure and had valid licenses until March 2026. They challenge the government's action.

- (a) Analyze whether the government's action can be characterized as quasi-judicial, administrative, or quasi-legislative. What are the legal consequences of such classification?
- (b) Examine the grounds on which this action can be challenged, discussing:
- Violation of natural justice principles
 - Abuse of discretionary power
 - Legitimate expectation
 - Reasonableness and proportionality

(10 + 10 = 20 marks)

Q5 Administrative discretion is essential for effective governance, yet it carries the potential for abuse and arbitrariness.

- (a) Evaluate the various grounds on which discretionary power can be challenged in judicial review proceedings. Discuss with reference to relevant case laws.
- (b) "Courts must practice self-restraint and cannot substitute their own opinion for that of experts." Critically evaluate this principle in the context of administrative decision-making and expert determination.

(12 + 8 = 20 marks)

Q6 A government construction contract is awarded to the lowest bidder, but essential documents were missing from its application, and a technically compliant rival firm is excluded. Drawing on the principles from relevant cases and Articles of the Constitution, analyze the standards expected from government authorities in awarding contracts. As counsel for the excluded bidder, structure the arguments you would advance before the court.

(20 marks)
