

PRE LEGAL REASONING WORKSHEET-1

YOUR MISSION

Do not answer the five MCQs yet. Complete this worksheet using only the passage. The aim is to discover the legal test yourself and then apply it to the questions.

PART A - BUILD THE LEGAL MAP

1. WHO IS THE DECISION-MAKER?

The environmental body discussed in the passage is: _____

It was created under: _____

☐ Yes ☐ No Does environmental expertise automatically give power over every dispute involving trees, land or development?

Write one sentence from the passage that supports your answer:

2. FIND THE GATEKEEPER RULE

The NGT can exercise jurisdiction only when the dispute involves a _____ question relating to the _____ arising from implementation of the relevant _____.

Reduce it to a memory rule:

Environmental problem != automatically _____

PART B - WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED?

Question	Your answer
What project was being undertaken?	
What environmental concern was raised?	
What did the NGT direct?	
Was the disputed area officially classified as forest?	
Natural forest or man-made plantation?	
Had the Master Plan been approved?	

Did the Master Plan have statutory force?	
Did the Supreme Court uphold the NGT directions?	

STAR QUESTION - What was the Supreme Court's central objection?

- ☐ Environmental protection is unimportant.
- ☐ Trees may always be removed for development.
- ☐ Environmental principles can be applied only after lawful authority to act is established.
- ☐ Every approved development project is immune from environmental regulation.

PART C - DO NOT MIX THESE THREE IDEAS**BOX 1 - JURISDICTION**

Can the NGT legally act?

Relevant rule:

BOX 2 - ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

If it can act, what principles may guide it?

1. _____
2. _____

BOX 3 - DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL

Has the project received statutory approval?

Does approval mean it can never face environmental scrutiny? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why? _____

PART D - UNDERSTAND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**Which statement best describes sustainable development according to the passage?**

- ☐ Environment must always win.
- ☐ Development must always win.
- ☐ Both interests must be considered together.
- ☐ Whichever project received approval first must win.

Complete: Sustainable development helps the authority _____ competing interests.

But before doing this, the authority must first possess: _____

THE ORDER MATTERS - Number these 1 to 3:

- ___ Apply environmental principles.
- ___ Determine whether the body has legal jurisdiction.
- ___ Balance environmental protection and developmental needs.

PART E - THE TWO EXTREMES TRAP

EXTREME 1

"This project has already been approved. Therefore environmental law can never affect it."

Why is this wrong?

EXTREME 2

"This project may seriously damage the environment. Therefore the NGT automatically has power to intervene."

Why is this wrong?

Complete the Golden Rule:

Development does not create _____.

Environmental concern does not create _____.

PART F - PRINCIPLE DOES NOT EQUAL POWER

An authority says: "I am applying the Precautionary Principle, so I can issue whatever direction is necessary." Is this reasoning complete? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why?

Complete: A legal principle may guide how an authority exercises its power, but it does not automatically _____.

PART G - ONE FACT CHANGES EVERYTHING

FACT	ORIGINAL CASE	NEW CASE
Official forest classification	No	Yes
Relevant statutory basis established	No	Yes
Approved development plan	Yes	Yes

Does the approved plan automatically end environmental scrutiny in the NEW case? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Changed Fact 1: _____

Changed Fact 2: _____

Is there now a stronger legal basis for NGT scrutiny? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why?

PART H - TRUE / FALSE / CORRECT IT

1. Because the NGT specialises in environmental matters, its expertise itself can expand statutory jurisdiction.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE Correction: _____

2. The Supreme Court rejected the Precautionary Principle.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE Correction: _____

3. Sustainable development requires development to prevail whenever a project has statutory approval.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE Correction: _____

4. An approved development project may still face environmental law where a proper legal basis for intervention exists.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE Correction: _____

5. Environmental concern and legal jurisdiction are the same inquiry.

☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE Correction: _____

PART I - SPOT THE DANGEROUS WORD

Underline the word or phrase that makes each statement suspicious:

1. Prior statutory approval conclusively prevents environmental scrutiny.

2. Environmental concern automatically gives the NGT jurisdiction.

3. Forest classification necessarily prohibits every development activity.

4. Environmental harm must already have occurred before the NGT can examine a dispute.

5. Sustainable development always gives priority to environmental protection.

CLAT TRAP ALERT

Words such as always, automatically, conclusively, necessarily, every, never and only are not automatically wrong - but they often make an option broader than the rule in the passage.

PART J - BUILD YOUR OWN RULE

RULE 1 - Jurisdiction: The NGT cannot act merely because _____.

RULE 2 - Environmental Principles: The Precautionary and Polluter Pays Principles are _____.

RULE 3 - Sustainable Development: It requires _____.

RULE 4 - Prior Approval: Prior statutory approval does not _____.

FINAL 30-SECOND CHECK

- ☐ Do environmental concerns themselves create jurisdiction?
- ☐ Does sustainable development create jurisdiction or guide existing jurisdiction?
- ☐ Does prior statutory approval create complete immunity?
- ☐ Did the Supreme Court reject environmental principles?
- ☐ What changes if a relevant environmental enactment actually applies?

CLAT MEMORY FORMULA

POWER -> PRINCIPLE -> BALANCE

POWER: Does the authority have jurisdiction?

PRINCIPLE: Which environmental principles apply?

BALANCE: How should environment and development be balanced?

Remember: Environmental concern cannot create a power that the law does not give.

PRE LEGAL REASONING WORKSHEET- 2

YOUR MISSION

Do not answer Q1-Q5 yet. Use only the passage to complete this sheet. Your task is to discover how habitat protection, protected status and human rehabilitation fit together. When the sheet is complete, return to the MCQs.

PART A - FIND THE BIG IDEA

1. WHAT DOES 'WILDLIFE CONSERVATION' PROTECT?

- ☐ Only individual wild animals
- ☐ Only trees located inside forests
- ☐ Animals, habitats and wider ecological systems
- ☐ Only species facing immediate extinction

In your own words, conservation in this passage means:

2. WHY DOES HABITAT MATTER?

Complete the chain:

FOREST / HABITAT -> supports _____ -> protects _____ -> maintains _____

Therefore, protecting wildlife is broader than merely preventing _____.

PART B - BUILD THE CASE MAP

Question	Your answer
What land/environmental setting was involved?	
Who required rehabilitation?	
What protected statuses are mentioned?	
What environmental duty did the Court emphasise?	
Did protected status make human hardship irrelevant?	Yes / No
Could rehabilitation defeat conservation restrictions?	Yes / No
What type of solution did the passage prefer?	

STAR QUESTION - Which sentence best captures the Court's approach?

- ☐ Protected status means rehabilitation needs disappear.
- ☐ Rehabilitation needs permit protected land to be used freely.
- ☐ Conservation and legitimate rehabilitation must be addressed compatibly.
- ☐ Wildlife law matters only when individual animals are directly harmed.

PART C - PROTECTED ON PAPER OR PROTECTED IN PRACTICE?**FORMAL STATUS**

A land may be declared a Reserved Forest, Wildlife Sanctuary or Tiger Reserve.

PRACTICAL PROTECTION

Ask whether governmental decisions actually respect the conservation purpose of that protected status.

Complete the rule:

A protected-area declaration is not enough if _____

Protected status must influence actual _____

Why would a declaration be undermined if inconsistent activities were freely permitted?

PART D - DO NOT FALL INTO THE TWO EXTREMES**EXTREME 1 - HUMAN NEEDS ALWAYS WIN**

"Families need rehabilitation, so conservation restrictions may be ignored."

Why is this too broad?

EXTREME 2 - CONSERVATION ENDS ALL HUMAN DUTIES

"The land is protected, so the State has no further responsibility towards displaced persons."

Why is this too broad?

Complete the TWO-SIDED RULE:

Rehabilitation needs do not automatically _____ conservation restrictions.

Protected status does not automatically _____ the State's responsibility towards displaced persons.

PART E - THE COMPATIBILITY TEST

When there are two possible rehabilitation solutions, what should you compare?

Human need: Does the option provide _____?

Conservation need: Does the option preserve _____?

Best legal solution: the option that _____

CLAT DECISION TEST

Do not ask only: 'Which option helps people?' or only: 'Which option protects wildlife?'

Ask: 'Which lawful option addresses rehabilitation WITHOUT defeating the conservation purpose of the protected area?'

PART F - FOREST DOES NOT MEAN ONLY TREES

Complete the ecological chain using the passage:

FORESTS

↓

support _____

↓

provide _____

↓

contribute to wider _____

Therefore, why would an option focusing only on whether individual trees or animals are directly harmed be incomplete?

PART G - ONE FACT CHANGES THE BEST SOLUTION

FACT	SITE X	SITE Y
Location	Inside sensitive breeding corridor	Outside protected area
Housing	Available	Comparable housing available
Livelihood access	Available	Comparable access available

Effect on habitat	Fragments breeding corridor	Does not interfere with corridor
Family preference	Closer to former homes	Less preferred

Do both sites attempt to address rehabilitation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Which site better protects the conservation purpose? Site _____

What fact is legally more important than mere preference?

Complete: Where a workable alternative exists outside the sensitive habitat, the passage suggests that compatibility with _____ becomes an important consideration.

PART H - TRUE / FALSE / CORRECT IT

- Wildlife conservation in the passage is limited to preventing the killing of animals.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE If false, correct it: _____
- Protected environmental status must have practical significance in governmental decision-making.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE If false, correct it: _____
- Once land becomes a Tiger Reserve, rehabilitation needs become legally irrelevant.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE If false, correct it: _____
- Rehabilitation may be legitimate, but it should not become a means of defeating conservation restrictions.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE If false, correct it: _____
- Forests matter only because of the number of trees standing within their boundaries.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE If false, correct it: _____
- Where alternative rehabilitation sites exist, their compatibility with conservation may be legally important.
☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE If false, correct it: _____

PART I - SPOT THE CLAT TRAP WORD

Underline the word or phrase that makes each statement too absolute:

- Human rehabilitation must always prevail over protected-area restrictions.
- Protected status automatically removes every State responsibility towards displaced persons.
- Forest protection is concerned only with preserving individual trees.
- Families have an unrestricted right to choose resettlement inside protected land.
- A protected declaration by itself is always sufficient even if inconsistent activities continue.

TRAP ALERT

Words such as always, automatically, only, every, unrestricted and necessarily often turn a balanced rule into an absolute or whether the passage actually supports that absolute result.

PART J - PREPARE FOR THE FIVE MCQs

Before answering the questions, complete these five mini-rules:

1. Conservation protects species AND _____.
2. Protected status must be implemented _____.
3. Conservation does not make _____ irrelevant.
4. Rehabilitation cannot be used to _____.
5. When alternatives exist, prefer a solution that meets human needs while _____.

FINAL 30-SECOND CHECK

- ☐ Can I explain why habitat protection is part of wildlife conservation?
- ☐ Can I explain why a protected declaration must affect real decisions?
- ☐ Can I reject both 'human needs always win' and 'conservation always ends rehabilitation'?
- ☐ Can I identify which of three statements contradicts the passage?
- ☐ Can I choose between two rehabilitation sites by using the compatibility test?

CLAT MEMORY FORMULA

HABITAT -> PROTECTED PURPOSE -> HUMAN NEED -> COMPATIBLE SOLUTION

1. What ecological system is being protected?
2. What practical effect must protected status have?
3. What legitimate rehabilitation need remains?
4. Which solution meets that need without defeating conservation?

Remember: Neither conservation nor rehabilitation automatically erases the other.