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OTHER LAW

**MOST IMPORTANT
QUESTIONS with
ANSWERS**

By: Vinit Mishra Sir



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(STUDENT OF TOP-20)



AIR-10

MEGHANA SAWAKAR
(STUDENT OF TOP-20)

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AIR-?

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THE GENERAL CLAUSES ACT, 1897

Division A - Multiple Choice Questions

MCCQ: The General Clauses Act, 1897 intends to:

- (a) Provide general definitions.
- (b) Applicable to all Central Acts and Regulations.
- (c) Applicable where there is no definition, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context.
- (d) All of the above.

[Study Material]

ANSWER: (d)

MCCQ: The General Clauses Act is one of the oldest Acts, came into force on:

- (a) 01st April, 1897
- (b) 11th March, 1897
- (c) 11th March, 1887
- (d) 01st April, 1868

[Study Material]

ANSWER: (b)

MCCQ: Mr. A died at the age of 72 leaving behind some movable and immovable properties to be distributed between his two sons C & D, as per his registered will. His Will clearly mentioned that all the immovable property should go to C and all the movable property should go to D. Both the brothers divided the property as per will except below mentioned properties, because they could not establish which property should go to whom. Kindly help them by ticking the property/ies which should go to D (as per the provisions of the general Clause Act, 1897):

- (a) Standing crop in the fields
- (b) Cut crop, ready to sell
- (c) Tube well in the agriculture land
- (d) Sandal wood tree

[MTP May 19]

ANSWER: (b)

MCCQ: What among the following could be considered in the term 'Immovable Property' as defined under section 3(26) of the General Clauses Act, 1897?

- (i) The soil for making bricks
- (ii) Right to catch fish
- (iii) Right to drain water

(iv) Doors and Windows of the house

- (a) Only (i) and (iv)
- (b) Only (i), (ii) and (iv)
- (c) Only (i) and (ii)
- (d) Only (ii), (iii) and (iv)

[MTP Nov 2020]

ANSWER: (b)

MCC: Where an act or omission constitutes an offence under two or more enactments, then the offender shall be liable to be prosecuted and punished under

- (a) Under either or any of those enactments
- (b) Twice for the same offence
- (c) Either (a) or (b) as per the discretion of the court
- (d) none of these

[Study Material, ICAI MCQ Booklet, MTP Nov 2020 & MTP Nov 2021]

ANSWER: (a)

Division B - Descriptive Questions

Q.1: X owned a land with fifty tamarind trees. He sold his land and the timber (obtained after cutting the fifty trees) to Y. X wants to know whether the sale of timber tantamount to sale of immovable property. Advise him with reference to provisions of "General Clauses Act, 1897".

[Study Material, May 2018, RTP May 19, RTP Nov 19, MTP Nov 2019, MTP May 21 & Jan 2021]

SOLUTION:

"Immovable Property" [Section 3(26) of the General Clauses Act, 1897]: 'Immovable Property' shall include:

- (i) Land,
- (ii) Benefits to arise out of land, and
- (iii) Things attached to the earth, or
- (iv) Permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.

It is an inclusive definition. It contains four elements: land, benefits to arise out of land, things attached to the earth and things permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth. Where, in any enactment, the definition of immovable property is in the negative and not exhaustive, the definition as given in the General Clauses Act will apply to the expression given in that enactment.

In the instant case, M sold Land along with timber (obtained after cutting trees) of fifty tamarind trees of his land. According to the above definition, Land is immovable property; however, timber cannot be immovable property since the same are not attached to the earth.

OR

What is a document as per the Indian Evidence Act, 1872?

[May 2018]

OR

What do you understand by the term 'Good Faith'. Explain as per the provisions of the General Clauses Act, 1897.

[MTP May 2019]

OR

What do you understand by the term 'Good Faith'. Explain it as per the provisions of the General Clauses Act, 1897. Mr. X purchased a watch from Mr. Y carelessly without proper enquiry. Whether the purchase made could said to be made in good faith.

[Nov 2019]

OR

Define the term "Affidavit" under the General Clauses Act, 1897.

[Nov 2019]

OR

Mrs. K went to a Jewellery shop to purchase diamond ornaments. The owners of jewellery shop are notorious and indulging in smuggling activities. Mrs. K purchased diamond ornaments honestly without making proper enquiries. Was the purchase made in Good faith as per the provisions of the General Clauses Act, 1897 so as to convey good title?

[Nov 2020]

SOLUTION:

In the instance case, the purchase of diamond ornaments by Mrs. K from a jewellery shop, the owners of which are notorious and indulged in smuggling activities, made in good faith, will not convey good title.

As per section 3(22) of the General Clauses Act, 1897, a thing shall be deemed to be done in "good faith" where it is in fact done honestly, whether it is done negligently or not.

The definition of good faith as is generally understood in the civil law and which may be taken as a practical guide in understanding the expression in the Indian Contract Act, 1872 is that nothing is said to be done in good faith which is done without due care and attention as is expected with a man of ordinary prudence. An honest purchase made carelessly without making proper enquiry cannot be said to have been made in good faith so as to convey good title.

Q.2: "The act done negligently shall be deemed to be done in good faith." Comment with the help of the provisions of the General Clauses Act, 1897.

[Jan 21]

SOLUTION:

In general, anything done with due care and attention, which is not malafide is presumed to have been done in good faith.

But, according to section 3(22) of the General Clauses Act, 1897, a thing shall be deemed to be done in "good faith" where it is in fact done honestly, whether it is done negligently or not.

The question of good faith under the General Clauses Act is one of fact. It is to determine with reference to the circumstances of each case.

It is therefore understood that the General Clauses Act, 1897 considers the honesty in doing the Act as a primary test to constitute the thing done in good faith and therefore the act done honestly but with negligence may also be termed as done in good faith as per the General Clauses Act, 1897.

The term “Good faith” has been defined differently in different enactments. This definition of the good faith does not apply to that enactment which contains a special definition of the term “good faith” and there the definition given in that particular enactment has to be followed. This definition may be applied only if there is nothing repugnant in subject or context, and if that is so, the definition is not applicable.

Q.3: Insurance Policies covering immovable property have been held to be immovable property. Examine the validity of the following statements with reference to the General Clauses Act, 1897. [Jan 21]

SOLUTION:

Insurance Policies covering immovable property have been held to be immovable property:
This statement is not valid.

Insurance policy is a written document containing an agreement between the insurer and insured. It includes a matter intended to be used or may be used for the purpose or recording of the matter. Hence, the insurance policies covering immovable property is not covered under the definition of immovable property.

Q.4: ‘Repeal’ of provision is different from ‘deletion’ of provision. Explain

[Study Material, Nov 2018, MTP Nov 19 & MTP Nov 2020]

SOLUTION:

In Navrangpura Gam Dharmada Milkat Trust Vs. Rmtuji Ramaji, AIR 1994 Guj 75 case, it was decided that ‘Repeal’ of provision is in distinction from ‘deletion’ of provision. ‘Repeal’ ordinarily brings about complete obliteration (abolition) of the provision as if it never existed, thereby affecting all incoherent rights and all causes of action related to the ‘repealed’ provision while ‘deletion’ ordinarily takes effect from the date of legislature affecting the said deletion, never to effect total effecting or wiping out of the provision as if it never existed.

Q.5: Mr. Sohan has issued a promissory note of ₹1000 to Mr. Mohan on 17th May 2021 payable 3 months after date. After that, a sudden holiday was declared on 20th August 2021 due to Moharram. As per the provisions of the General Clauses Act 1897, what should be the date of presentment of promissory note for payment? Whether it should be 19th August 2021 or 21st August 2021? [RTP Nov 2021]

ANSWER:

Section 10 of the General Clauses Act 1897 provides where by any legislation or regulation, any act or proceeding is directed or allowed to be done or taken in any court or office on a certain day or within a prescribed period then, if the Court or office is closed on that day or last day of the prescribed

period, the act or proceeding shall be considered as done or taken in due time if it is done or taken on the next day afterwards on which the Court or office is open.

A promissory note of ₹ 1000 was issued by Mr. Sohan to Mr. Mohan on 17th May 2021 which was payable 3 months after date. After that, a sudden holiday was declared on 20th August 2021 due to Moharram.

In the given case, the period of 3 months ends on 17th August 2021. Three days of grace are to be added. It falls due on 20th August 2021 which declared to be a public holiday after the issue of Promissory Note. In the light of provisions of Sec. 10 of the General Clauses Act 1897, the due date will be on next day when office is open i.e. 21st August 2021.

Q.6: A notice was served on Mr. P for appearing in the court. However, the notice could not be served on account of the fact that the house of the Mr. P was found locked. Thus, Mr. P. did not appear in the court at the said date. Examine the situation as per the provisions of the General Clauses Act, 1897 and determine whether Mr. P. will be liable in the given situation. [MTP May 2019]

OR

Mr. Vyas is the owner of House No. 20 in Geeta Colony, Delhi. He has rented two rooms in this house to Mr. Iyer. The Income Tax Authority has served a show cause notice to Mr. Vyas. The said notice was received by Mr. Iyer and returned the notice with an endorsement of refusal. Decide with reference to provisions of "General Clauses Act, 1897", whether the notice was rightfully served on Mr. Vyas. [RTP May 2020]

SOLUTION:

According to section 27 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, where any legislation or regulation requires any document to be served by post, then unless a different intention appears, the service shall be deemed to be effected by:

- (i) Properly addressing
- (ii) Pre-paying, and
- (iii) Posting by registered post.

A letter containing the document to have been effected at the time at which the letter would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.

Hence, where the where the notice could not be served on account of the fact that the house of Mr. P was found locked, it will be deemed that the notice was properly served as per the provisions of Section 27 of the General Clauses Act, and it would be for Mr. P to prove that it was not really served and that he was not responsible for such non-service.

Q.7: Income Tax Act, 1961 provides that the gratuity paid by the government to its employees is fully exempt from tax. You are required to explain the scope of the term 'government' and clarify whether the exemption from gratuity income will be available to the State Government Employees? Give your answer in accordance with the provisions of the General Clauses Act, 1897. [Jan 2021]

ANSWER:

According to section 3(23) of the General Clauses Act, 1897, 'Government' or 'the Government' shall include both the Central Government and State Government.

Hence, wherever, the word 'Government' is used, it will include Central Government and State Government both.

Thus, when the Income Tax Act, 1961, provides that gratuity paid by the government to its employees is fully exempt from tax, the exemption from gratuity income will be available to the State Government employees also.

Q.8: Ajit was supposed to submit and appeal to High Court of Kolkata on 30th March, 2020, which was the last, day on which such appeal could be submitted. Unfortunately, on that day High Court was closed due to total Lockdown all over India due to Covid-19 pandemic. Examine the remedy available to Ajit under the provisions of the General Clauses Act, 1897.

[May 2021]

ANSWER:

The given answer is based on section 10 which deals with "Computation of time" under the General Clauses Act, 1897. Where by any legislation or regulation, any act or proceeding is directed or allowed to be done or taken in any court or office on a certain day or within a prescribed period then, if the Court or office is closed on that day or last day of the prescribed period, the act or proceeding shall be considered as done or taken in due time if it is done or taken on the next day afterwards on which the Court or office is open.

In the question, Ajit was supposed to submit an appeal to High Court on 30th March 2020, which was the last day of filing the same. On that day High Court was closed due to total lockdown all over India.

In line with said provision, Ajit can submit an appeal on the day on which the High Court is open.

Q.9: Ayush and Vipul are good friends and pursuing CA course. While doing group studies for the paper of "Corporate and Other Law", they are confused about the provisions of section 3 of the Companies Act 2013. Section 3 provides "A company may be formed for any lawful purpose by....." Both Ayush and Vipul are in difficulty about the meaning of word "may". Whether it should be taken as mandatory or directory? [RTP May 22]

ANSWER:

The word 'shall' is used to raise a presumption of something which is mandatory or imperative while the word 'may' is used to connote something which is not mandatory but is only directory or enabling. However, sometimes Word 'may' has a mandatory force if directory force will defeat the object of the Act.

However, sometimes the words "may and shall" can be interpreted interchangeably depending on the intention of the legislator.

Ayush and Vipul, two CA students, are confused with the language of the provisions of section 3 of the Companies Act 2013 that whether the word "may" used in section should be considered as mandatory or directory.

In the given case, it can be said that the word “may” should be taken as mandatory force, because the law will never allow the formation of company with unlawful object.

Here the word used “may” shall be read as “shall”. Usage of word ‘may’ here makes it mandatory for a company for the compliance of section 3 for its formation.

Q.10: Examine the validity of the following statements with reference to the General Clauses Act, 1897:

- (i) ‘Things attached to the earth’ have been held to be immovable property.
- (ii) The word “bullocks” could be interpreted to include ‘cows’.

[MTP March 22 (4 Marks)]

ANSWER:

- (i) ‘Things attached to the earth’ have been held to be immovable property: This statement is valid.

As per section 3(26) of the General Clauses Act, 1897, ‘Immovable Property’ shall include:

- (1) Land,
- (2) Benefits to arise out of land, and
- (3) Things attached to the earth, or
- (4) Permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.

It is an inclusive definition. The four elements to the definition includes ‘things permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth’. Hence, the given statement is correct.

- (ii) **The word ‘bullocks’ could be interpreted to include ‘cows’:** This statement is not valid.

Where a word connoting a common gender is available but the word used conveys a specific gender, there is a presumption that the provisions of General Clauses Act, 1897 do not apply. Thus, the word ‘bullocks’ could not be interpreted to include ‘cows’.

Q.11: Give the definition of the following as per the General Clauses Act, 1897:

- (i) “Rule”
- (ii) “Oath”
- (iii) “Person”

[Dec 21]

ANSWER:

- (i) **Rule:** As per section 3(51) of the General Clauses Act, 1897, ‘Rule’ shall mean a rule made in exercise of a power conferred by any enactment, and shall include a Regulation made as a rule under any enactment.

- (ii) **Oath:** As per section 3(37) of the General Clauses Act, 1897, ‘Oath’ shall include affirmation and declaration in the case of person by law allowed to affirm or declare instated of swearing.

- (iii) **Person:** As per section 3(42) of the General Clauses Act, 1897, “Person” shall include:

- (1) Any company, or

- (2) Association, or
- (3) Body of individuals, whether incorporated or not.

Q.12: Mr. A (landlord) staying in Delhi, rented his flat of Bengaluru to Mr. B (tenant) for ₹20,000 per month to be paid annually. An agreement was made between them that during the tenancy period, if A requires his flat to be vacated, one-month prior notice is to be given to Mr. B. After eight months a notice was sent by Mr. A to Mr. B to vacate his flat by registered post which was refused to be accepted by Mrs. C (wife of Mr. B) and Mr. B denied to vacate the flat on ground of non-receipt of notice. Examine, as per the General Clauses Act, 1897, whether the notice is tenable? **[Nov 2022 (4 Marks)]**

ANSWER:

According to Section 27 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, where any legislation or regulation requires any document to be served by post, then unless a different intention appears, the service shall be deemed to be effected by:

- (i) Properly addressing
- (ii) Pre-paying, and
- (iii) Posting by registered post.

Case Laws

- (i) In Smt. Vandana Gulati Vs. Gurmeet Singh alias Mangal Singh, AIR 2013 All 69, it was held that where notice sent by registered post to person concerned at proper address is deemed to be served upon him in due course unless contrary is proved.
- (ii) In Jagdish Singh Vs. Nathu Singh, AIR 1992 SC 1604, it was held that where a notice is sent by the landlord by registered post and the same is returned by the tenant with an endorsement of refusal, it will be presumed that the notice has been served.

In other words, Endorsement 'not claimed/not met' is sufficient to prove deemed service of notice.

In the given question, Mr. A has served the notice to Mr. B by registered post which was refused to be accepted by Mrs. C (wife of Mr. B). However, Mr. B cannot deny to vacate the flat on ground of non- receipt of notice, since Mrs. C had refused to accept the notice served by Mr. A through registered post.

Hence, the notice served by Mr. A is tenable provided one- month prior notice given to Mr. B.

INTERPRETATION OF STATUTES

Division A - Multiple Choice Questions

MCCQ: As per a Rule of an Educational Institution, every student may come on weekends for extra classes but every student shall appear on a weekly test conducted in the institute, which means –

- (a) Attending weekend classes is optional but appearing in weekly test is compulsory
- (b) Attending weekend classes is compulsory but appearing in weekly test is optional
- (c) Attending weekend classes and appearing in weekly test, both are compulsory for students
- (d) Attending weekend classes and appearing in weekly test both are optional for students.

[Study Material, ICAI MCQ Booklet & MTP Nov 19]

ANSWER: (a)

MCCQ: When word 'include' is used to define any term, the definition is called

- (a) Prima facie restrictive and exhaustive
- (b) Prima facie extensive
- (c) Both exhaustive and extensive
- (d) Neither exhaustive nor extensive

[Nov 19]

ANSWER: (b)

MCCQ: Which rule of construction is applicable where there is a real and not merely apparent conflict between the provisions of an Act, and one of them has not been made subject to the other –

- (a) Rule of Beneficial construction
- (b) Rule of Literal construction
- (c) Rule of Harmonious construction
- (d) Rule of Exceptional construction

[Study Material, ICAI MCQ Booklet & MTP May 2019]

ANSWER: (c)

MCCQ: Which of the following will override if there is conflict in interpretation of any point in Preamble and plain provision given in any statutory Act as per the General Clauses Act, 1897?

- (a) Preamble will override the plain provision of the Act
- (b) The plain provision of the Act will override the Preamble
- (c) The court will decide which of the above two will override

(d) Provide summary of the entire Act

[Nov 2020]

ANSWER: (b)

MCQ: An aid that expresses the scope, object and purpose of the Act—

- (a) Title of the Act
- (b) Heading of the Chapter
- (c) Preamble
- (d) Definitional sections

[Study Material, ICAI MCQ Booklet, MTP May 21 & RTP Nov 2020]

ANSWER: (c)

Division B - Descriptive Questions

Q.1: The 'statute should be read as a whole'. Explain the statement.

[RTP Nov 2018]

SOLUTION:

It is the elementary principle that construction of a statute is to be made of all its parts taken together and not of one part only. The deed/ statute must be read as a whole in order to ascertain the true meaning of its several clauses, and the words of each clause should be so interpreted as to bring them into harmony with other provisions – if that interpretation does not violence to the meaning of which they are naturally susceptible. And the same approach would apply with equal force with regard to Acts and Rules passed by the legislature.

One of the safest guides to the construction of sweeping general words is to examine other words of like import in the same enactment or instrument to see what limitations must be imposed on them. If we find that a number of such expressions have to be subjected to limitations and qualifications and that such limitations and qualifications are of the same nature, that circumstance forms a strong argument for subjecting the expression in dispute to a similar limitation and qualification.

(Rule of Harmonious construction)

Q.2: Differentiate Mandatory Provision from a Directory Provision. What factors decide whether a provision is directory or mandatory?

[MTP May 2021]

SOLUTION:

Practically speaking, the distinction between a provision which is 'mandatory' and one which is 'directory' is that when it is mandatory, it must be strictly observed; when it is 'directory' it would be sufficient that it is substantially complied with. However, we have to look to the substance and not merely the form, an enactment in mandatory form might substantially be directory and, conversely, a statute in directory form may in substance be mandatory. Hence, it is the substance that counts and must take precedence over mere form. If a provision gives a power coupled with a duty, it is mandatory: whether it is or is not so would depend on such consideration as:

- The nature of the thing empowered to be done,
- The object for which it is done, and
- The person for whose benefit the power is to be exercised.

Q.3:

- (i) **What is the effect of proviso? Does it qualify the main provisions of an Enactment?**
- (ii) **Does an explanation added to a section widen the ambit of a section?** **[MTP May 2021]**

ANSWER:

- (i) Normally a Proviso is added to a section of an Act to except something or qualify something stated in that particular section to which it is added. A proviso should not be, ordinarily, interpreted as a general rule. A proviso to a particular section carves out an exception to the main provision to which it has been enacted as a Proviso and to no other provision.

[Ram Narian Sons Ltd. Vs. Commissioner of Sales Tax AIR (1955) S.C. 765]

- (ii) Sometimes an explanation is added to a section of an Act for the purpose of explaining the main provisions contained in that section. If there is some ambiguity in the provisions of the main section, the explanation is inserted to harmonise and clear up and ambiguity in the main section. Something may added be to or something may be excluded from the main provision by insertion of an explanation. But the explanation should not be construed to widen the ambit of the section.

Q.4: Explain the impact of the two words “manes” and “includes” in a definition, while interpreting such definition. **[May 2021]**

ANSWER:

Impact of the words “Means” and “Includes” in the definitions- The definition of a word or expression in the definition section may either be restricting of its ordinary meaning or may be extensive of the same.

When a word is defined to ‘**mean**’ such and such, the definition is ‘prima facie’ restrictive and exhaustive, we must restrict the meaning of the word to that given in the definition section.

But where the word is defined to ‘**include**’ such and such, the definition is ‘prima facie’ extensive, here the word defined is not restricted to the meaning assigned to it but has extensive meaning which also includes the meaning assigned to it in the definition section.

Example:

Definition of Director [section 2(34) of the Companies Act, 2013]—Director means a director appointed to the board of a company. The word “means” suggests exhaustive definition.

Definition of Whole time director [Section 2(94) of the Companies Act, 2013]—Whole time director includes a director in the whole time employment of the company. The word “includes” suggests extensive definition. Other directors may be included in the category of the whole time director.

Q.5: Differentiate between interpretation and construction. **[MTP May 2021]**

ANSWER:

'Construction' as applied to a written statute or document means to determine from its known elements its true meaning or the intention of its framers. Construction involves drawing conclusions beyond the actual expressions used in the text. This is done by referring to other parts of the enactment and the context in which the law was made. Thus, when you construe a statute you are attempting to ascertain the intention of the legislature.

Difference between Interpretation and Construction:

It would also be worthwhile to note, at this stage itself, the difference between the terms 'Interpretation' and Construction. While more often the two terms are used interchangeably to denote a process adopted by the courts to ascertain the meaning of the legislature from the words with which it is expressed, these two terms have different connotations.

Interpretation is the art of ascertaining the meaning of words and the true sense in which the author intended that they should be understood.

It is the drawing of conclusions from a statute that lie beyond the direct expression of the words used therein. [Bhagwati Prasad Kedia v. C.I.T, (2001)]

It is the duty of the courts to give effect to the meaning of an Act when the meaning can be equitably gathered from the words used. Words of legal import occurring in a statute which have acquired a definite and precise sense, must be understood in that sense. (State of Madras v. Gannon Dunkerly Co. AIR 1958)

Thus, where the Court adheres to the plain meaning of the language used by the legislature, it would be 'interpretation' of the words, but where the meaning is not plain, the court has to decide whether the wording was meant to cover the situation before the court. Here, the court would be resorting to 'construction'. Conclusions drawn by means of construction are within the spirit though not necessarily within the letter of the law.

In practice construction includes interpretation and the terms are frequently used synonymously.

Q.6: Write short note no:

- (i) Proviso
- (ii) Explanation,

With reference to interpretation of Statutes, Deeds and Documents.

[MTP March 22 (3 Marks)]

ANSWER:

- (i) **Proviso:** The normal function of a proviso is to except something out of the enactment or to qualify something stated in the enactment which would be within its purview if the proviso were not there. The effect of the proviso is to qualify the preceding enactment which is expressed in terms which are too general. As a general rule, a proviso is added to an enactment to qualify or create an exception to what is in the enactment. Ordinarily a proviso is not interpreted as stating a general rule.

It is a cardinal rule of interpretation that a proviso to a particular provision of a statute only embraces the field which is covered by the main provision.

- (ii) **Explanation:** An Explanation is at times appended to a section to explain the meaning of the text of the section. An Explanation may be added to include something within the section or to exclude something from it. An Explanation should normally be so read as to harmonise with and clear up any ambiguity in the main section. It should not be so construed as to widen the ambit of the section.

The meaning to be given to an explanation will really depend upon its terms and not on any theory of its purpose.

Q.7: Explain the Mischief Rule/ the rule in Heydon's case for interpretation of statute. Also give four matters it considers in construing an Act, [Dec 21 (3 Marks)]

ANSWER:

Mischief Rule/ Heydon's Rule: Where the language used in a statute is capable of more than one interpretation, the most firmly established rule for construction is the principle laid down in the Heydon's case. This rule enables, consideration of four matters in constituting an Act:

- (1) What was the law before making of the Act
- (2) What was the mischief or defect for which the law did not provide,
- (3) What is the remedy that the Act has provided, and
- (4) What is the reason for the remedy.

The rule then directs that the courts must adopt that construction which 'shall suppress the mischief and advance the remedy'. Therefore, even in a case where the usual meaning of the language used falls short of the whole object of the legislature, a more extended meaning may be attributed to the words, provided they are fairly susceptible of it. If the object of any enactment is public safety, then its working must be interpreted widely to give effect to that object. Thus, in the case of Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 the main object being provision of compensation to workmen, it was held that the Act ought to be so construed, as far as possible, so as to give effect to its primary provisions.

However, it has been emphasized by the Supreme Court that the rule in Heydon's case is applicable only when the words used are ambiguous and are reasonably capable of more than one meaning [CIT v. Sodra Devi (1957) 32 ITR 615 (SC)].

Q.8: In what way are the following terms considered as external aid in the interpretation of statutes:

- (i) Historical Setting
- (ii) Use of Foreign Decisions

[Dec 21 (5 Marks)]

ANSWER:

- (i) **Historical Setting:** The history of the external circumstances which led to the enactment in question is of much significance in construing any enactment. We have, for this purpose, to take help from all those external or historical facts which are necessary in the understanding and

comprehension of the subject matter and the scope and object of the enactment. History in general and Parliamentary History in particular, ancient statutes, contemporary or other authentic works and writings all are relevant in interpreting and construing an Act.

- (ii) **Use of Foreign Decisions:** Foreign decisions of countries following the same system of jurisprudence as ours and given on laws similar to ours can be legitimately used for construing our own Acts. However, prime importance is always to be given to the language of the Indian statute. Further, where guidance can be obtained from India decisions, reference to foreign decision may become unnecessary.

Q.9: Explain in reference to Interpretation of Statutes, the cases where Rule of Ejusdem Generis will not apply. **[Nov 2022 (3 Marks)]**

ANSWER:

The Rule of Ejusdem Generis will not apply in the following situations:

1.	If the preceding item is general, as well as that which follows this rule cannot be applied.
2.	Where the particulars words exhaust the whole genus.
3.	Where the specified objects enumerated are essentially diverse in character.
4.	Where there is an express intention of legislature that the general term shall not be read ejusdem generis the specific terms.

Q.10: What is the effect of proviso? Does it qualify the main provisions of the enactment? Explain it with reference to Interpretation of statutes. **[May 22 (4 Marks)]**

ANSWER:

Normally a Proviso is added to a section of an Act to except something or qualify something stated in that particular section to which it is added. A proviso should not be, ordinarily, interpreted as a general rule. Usually, a proviso is embedded in the main body of the section and becomes an integral part of it.

The effect of the proviso is to qualify the preceding enactment which is expressed in terms which are too general.

It is a cardinal rule of interpretation that a proviso or exception to a particular provision of a statute only embraces the field which is covered by the main provision. It carves out an exception to the main provision to which it has been enacted as a proviso and to no other. (Ram Narain Sons Ltd. vs. Assistant Commissioner of Sales Tax, AIR 1955 SC 765).

THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MANAGEMENT ACT, 1999

Division A - Multiple Choice Questions

MCCQ: In September, 2021, Mr. Purshottam Saha visited Atlanta as well as Athens and thereafter, London and Berlin on a month-long business trip, for which he withdrew foreign exchange to the extent of US\$ 50,000 from his banker State Bank of India, New Delhi branch. In December, 2021 he further, withdrew US\$ 50,000 from SBI and remitted the same to his son Raviyansh Saha who was studying in Toronto, Canada. In the first week of January, 2022, he sent his ailing mother Mrs. Savita Saha for a specialised treatment along with his wife Mrs. Rashmi Saha to Seattle where his younger brother Pranav Saha, holder of Green Card, is residing. For the purpose of his mother's treatment and to help Pranav Saha to meet increased expenses, he requested his banker SBI to remit US\$ 75,000 to Pranav Saha's account maintained with Citibank, Seattle. In February, 2022, Mr. Purshottam Saha's daughter Devanshi Saha got engaged and she opted for a 'destination marriage' to be held in August, 2022 in Zurich, Switzerland. While on a trip to Dubai in the last week of March, 2022, he again withdrew US\$ 35,000 to be used by him and Devanshi Saha for meeting various trip expenses including shopping in Dubai. Later, the event manager gave an estimate of US\$ 2,50,000 for the wedding of Devanshi Saha at Zurich, Switzerland. Which option do you think is the correct one in the light of applicable provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 including obtaining of prior approval, if any, from Reserve Bank of India since Mr. Purshottam Saha withdrew foreign exchange on various occasions from his banker State Bank of India.

- (a) In respect of withdrawal of foreign exchange on various occasions from his banker State Bank of India and remitting the same outside India during the financial year 2021-22, Mr. Purshottam Saha is not required to obtain any prior approval.
- (b) In respect of withdrawal of US\$ 35,000 in the last week of March, 2022, for a trip to Dubai, Mr. Purshottam Saha must have obtained prior approval of Reserve Bank of India since the maximum amount of foreign exchange that can be withdrawn in a financial year is US\$ 1,75,000.
- (c) After withdrawing US\$ 1,00,000, Mr. Purshottam Saha must have obtained prior approval of Reserve Bank of India for the remaining remittances made during the financial year 2021-22, otherwise SBI would not have permitted further withdrawals.
- (d) After withdrawing US\$ 50,000, Mr. Purshottam Saha must have obtained prior approval of Reserve Bank of India for the remaining remittances made during the financial year 2021-22, otherwise SBI would not have permitted further withdrawals.

[Study Material]

ANSWER: (a)

MCCQ: M/s. Kedhar Sports Academy, a private coaching club, provides coaching for cricket, football and other similar sports. It coaches sports aspirants pan India. It also conducts various sports events and campaigns, across the country. In 2022, to mark the 25th year of its operation, a cricket tournament (akin to the format of T-20) is being organized by M/s.

Kedhar Sports Academy in Lancashire, England, in the first half of April. The prize money for the 'winning team' is fixed at USD 40,000 whereas in case of 'runner-up', it is pegged at USD 11,000. You are required to choose the correct option from the four given below which signifies the steps to be taken by M/s. Kedhar Sports Academy for remittance of the prize money of USD 51,000 (i.e. USD 40,000+USD 11,000) to England keeping in view the relevant provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:

- (a) For remittance of the prize money of USD 51,000, M/s Kedhar Sports Academy is required to obtain prior permission from the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Youth Affairs and Sports).
- (b) For remittance of the prize money of USD 51,000, M/s Kedhar Sports Academy is required to obtain prior permission from the Reserve Bank of India.
- (c) For remittance of the prize money of USD 51,000, M/s Kedhar Sports Academy is not required to obtain any prior permission from any authority, whatsoever, and it can proceed to make the remittance.
- (d) For remittance of the prize money of USD 51,000, M/s Kedhar Sports Academy is required to obtain prior permission from the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs).

[Study Material]

ANSWER: (c)

MCCQ: Akash Ceramics Limited, an Indian company, holds a commercial plot in Chennai which it intends to sell. M/s. Super Seller, a real estate broker with its Head Office in the USA, has been appointed by Akash Ceramics Limited to find some suitable buyers for the said commercial plot in Chennai which is situated at a prime location. M/s. Super Seller identifies Glory Estate Inc., based out of USA, as the potential buyer. It is to be noted that Glory Estate Inc. is controlled from India and hence, is a 'Person Resident in India' under the applicable provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. A deal is finalised and Glory Estate Inc. agrees to purchase the commercial plot for USD 600,000 (assuming 1 USD = ₹ 70). According to the agreement, Akash Ceramics Limited is required to pay commission @ 7% of the sale proceeds to M/s. Super Seller for arranging the sale of commercial plot to Glory Estate Inc. and commission is to be remitted in USD to the Head Office of M/s. Super Seller located in USA. Considering the relevant provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, which statement out of the four given below is correct (ignoring TDS implications arising under the Income-tax Act, 1961):

- (a) There is no requirement of obtaining prior permission of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for remittance of commission upto USD 25,000 by Akash Ceramics Limited to M/s. Super Seller but for the balance commission of USD 17,000, prior permission of RBI is required to be obtained.
- (b) There is no requirement of obtaining prior permission of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for remittance of commission upto USD 30,000 by Akash Ceramics Limited to M/s. Super Seller but for the balance commission of USD 12,000, prior permission of RBI is required to be obtained.
- (c) There is no requirement of obtaining prior permission of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for remittance of entire commission of USD 42,000 by Akash Ceramics Limited to M/s. Super Seller.

- (d) It is mandatory to obtain prior permission of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for remittance of entire commission of USD 42,000 by Akash Ceramics Limited to M/s. Super Seller.

[Study Material]

ANSWER: (d)

MCCQ: Mohita Periodicals and Mags Publications Limited, having registered office in Chennai, has obtained consultancy services from an entity based in France for setting up a software programme to strengthen various aspects relating to publications. The consideration for such consultancy services is required to be paid in foreign currency. The compliance officer of Mohita Periodicals and Mags Publications Limited, Mrs. Ritika requires your advice regarding the foreign exchange that can be remitted for the purpose of obtaining consultancy services from abroad without prior approval of Reserve Bank of India. Out of the following four options, choose the one which correctly portrays the amount of foreign exchange remittable for the given purpose after considering the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 and regulations made thereunder:

- (a) Permissible amount of foreign exchange that can be remitted by Mohita Periodicals and Mags Publications Limited for obtaining consultancy services from an entity based in France without prior approval of RBI is US\$ 50,000,000.
- (b) Permissible amount of foreign exchange that can be remitted by Mohita Periodicals and Mags Publications Limited for obtaining consultancy services from an entity based in France without prior approval of RBI is US\$ 10,000,000.
- (c) Permissible amount of foreign exchange that can be remitted by Mohita Periodicals and Mags Publications Limited for obtaining consultancy services from an entity based in France without prior approval of RBI is US\$ 5,000,000.
- (d) Permissible amount of foreign exchange that can be remitted by Mohita Periodicals and Mags Publications Limited for obtaining consultancy services from an entity based in France without prior approval of RBI is US\$ 1,000,000.

[Study Material]

ANSWER: (d)

MCCQ: After five years of stay in USA, Mr. Umesh came to India at his paternal place in New Delhi on October 25, 2021, for the purpose of conducting business with his two younger brothers Rajesh and Somesh and contributed a sum of ₹ 10,00,000 as his capital. Simultaneously, Mr. Umesh also started a proprietary business of selling artistic brass ware, jewellery, etc. procured directly from the manufacturers based at Moradabad. Within a period of two months after his arrival from USA, Mr. Umesh established a branch of his proprietary business at Minnesota, USA. You are required choose the appropriate option with respect to residential status of Mr. Umesh and his branch for the financial year 2022-23 after considering the applicable provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:

- (a) For the financial year 2022-23, Mr. Umesh and his branch established at Minnesota, USA, are both persons resident outside India.

- (b) For the financial year 2022-23, Mr. Umesh is a resident in India but his branch established at Minnesota, USA, is a person resident outside India.
- (c) For the financial year 2022-23, Mr. Umesh and his branch established at Minnesota, USA, are both persons resident in India.
- (d) For the financial year 2022-23, Mr. Umesh is a person resident outside India but his branch established at Minnesota, USA, is a person resident in India.

[Study Material]

ANSWER: (c)

Division B - Descriptive Questions

Q.1: Mr. X had resided in India during the financial year 2019-2020 for less than 182 days. He had come to India on April 1, 2020 for carrying on business. He intends to leave the business on April 30, 2021 and leave India on June 30, 2021. Determine his residential status for the financial years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 up to the date of his departure?

ANSWER

As explained in the above illustration, Mr. X will be considered as a 'person resident in India' from 1st April 2020. As regards, financial year 2021-2022, Mr. X would continue to be an Indian resident from 1st April 2021.

If he leaves India for the purpose of taking up employment or for business/vocation outside India, or for any other purpose as would indicate his intention to stay outside India for an uncertain period, he would cease to be person resident in India from the date of his departure. It may be noted that even if Mr. X is a foreign citizen, has not left India for any of these purposes, he would be considered, 'person resident in India' during the financial year 2021-2022. Thus, it is the purpose of leaving India which will decide his status from 1st July 2021.

Q.2: Mr. Z had resided in India during the financial year 2019-2020. He left India on 1st August, 2020 for United States for pursuing higher studies for three years. What would be his residential status during financial year 2020-2021 and during 2021- 2022?

ANSWER

Mr. Z had resided in India during financial year 2019-2020 for more than 182 days. After that he has gone to USA for higher studies. He has not gone out of or stayed outside India for or on taking up employment, or for carrying a business or for any other purpose, in circumstances as would indicate his intention to stay outside India for an uncertain period. Accordingly, he would be 'person resident in India' during the financial year 2020-2021. RBI has however clarified in its AP circular no. 45 dated 8th December 2003, that students will be considered as non-residents. This is because usually students start working there to take care of their stay and cost of studies.

For the financial year 2021-2022, he would not have been in India in the preceding financial year (2020-2021) for a period exceeding 182 days. Accordingly, he would not be 'person resident in India' during the financial year 2021-2022.

Q.3: Toy Ltd. is a Japanese company having several business units all over the world. It has a robotic unit with its head quarters in Mumbai and has a branch in Singapore. The Headquarters at Mumbai controls the Singapore branch of the robotic unit. What would be the residential status of the robotic unit in Mumbai and that of the Singapore branch?

ANSWER

Toy Ltd. being a Japanese company would be a person resident outside India. [Section 2(w)]. Section 2(u) defines 'person'. Under clause (viii) thereof person would include any agency, office or branch owned or controlled by such 'person'. The term such 'person' appears to refer to a person who is included in clauses (i) to (vi). Accordingly, robotic unit in Mumbai, being a branch of a company, would be a 'person'.

Section 2(v) defines 'person resident in India'. Under clause (iii) thereof 'person resident in India' would include an office, branch or agency in India owned or controlled by a person resident outside India. Robotic unit in Mumbai is owned or controlled by a person 'resident outside India'. Hence, it would be 'person resident in India'.

The robotic unit headquartered in Mumbai, which is a person resident in India as discussed above, controls the Singapore branch, Hence, the Singapore branch is a 'person resident in India'.

Q.4: Miss Alia is an airhostess with the British Airways. She flies for 12 days in a month and thereafter takes a break for 18 days. During the break, she is accommodated in 'base', which is normally the city where the Airline is headquartered. However, for security considerations, she was based at Mumbai. During the financial year, she was accommodated at Mumbai for more than 182 days. What would be her residential status under FEMA?

ANSWER

Miss Alia stayed in India at Mumbai 'base' for more than 182 days in the preceding financial year. She is however employed in UK. She has not come to India for employment, business or circumstances which indicate her intention to stay for uncertain period. Under section 2(v)(B), such persons are not considered as Indian residents even if their stay exceeds 182 days in the preceding year. Thus, while Miss Alia may have stayed in India for more than 182 days, she cannot be considered to be a Person Resident in India.

If however she has been employed in Mumbai branch of British Airways, then she will be considered a Person Resident in India.

Q.5: 'Printex Computer' is a Singapore based company having several business units all over the world. It has a unit for manufacturing computer printers with its Headquarters in Pune. It has a Branch in Dubai which is controlled by the Headquarters in Pune. What would be the residential status under the FEMA, 1999 of printer units in Pune and that of Dubai branch?

ANSWER

Printex Computer being a Singapore based company would be person resident outside India [(Section 2(w)]. Section 2 (u) defines 'person' under clause (viii) thereof, as person would include any agency, office or branch owned or controlled by such person. The term such person appears to refer to a person who is included in clause (i) to (vi). Accordingly, Printex unit in Pune, being a branch of a company would be a 'person'.

Section 2(v) defines a person resident in India. Under clause (iii) thereof person resident in India would include an office, branch or agency in India owned or controlled by a person resident outside India. Printex unit in Pune is owned or controlled by a person resident outside India, and hence it, would be a 'person resident in India.'

However, Dubai Branch though not owned is controlled by the Printer unit in Pune which is a person resident in India. Hence, the Dubai Branch is a person resident in India.

Q.6: Mr. Sane, an Indian National desires to obtain Foreign Exchange for the following purposes:

- (i) Remittance of US Dollar 50,000 out of winnings an a lottery ticket.
- (ii) US Doller 1,00,000 for sending a cultural troupe on a tour of U.S.A.

Advise him whether he can get Foreign Exchange and if so, under what conditions?

ANSWER

Under provisions of section 5 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 certain Rules have been made for drawal of Foreign Exchange for Current Account transactions. As per these Rules, Foreign Exchange for some of the Current Account transactions is prohibited. As regards some other Current Account transactions, Foreign Exchange can be drawn with prior permission of the Central Government while in case of some Current Account transactions, prior permission of Reserve Bank of India is required.

- (i) In respect of item No.(i), i.e., remittance out of lottery winnings, such remittance is prohibited and the same is included in First Schedule to the Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) Rules, 2000. Hence, Mr. Sane cannot withdraw Foreign Exchange for this purpose.
- (ii) Foreign Exchange for meeting expenses of cultural tour can be withdrawn by any person after obtaining permission from Government of India, Ministry of Human Resources Development, (Department of Education and Culture) as prescribed in Second Schedule to the Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) Rules, 2000. Hence, in respect of item (ii), Mr. Sane can withdraw the Foreign Exchange after obtaining such permission.

In all the cases, where remittance of Foreign Exchange is allowed, either by general or specific permission, the remitter has to obtain the Foreign Exchange from an Authorised Person as defined in Section 2(c).

Q.7: State which kind of approval is required for the following transactions under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:

- (i) X, a Film Star, wants to perform along with associates in New York on the occasion of Diwali for Indians residing at New York. Foreign Exchange drawal to the extent of US dollars 20,000 is required for this purpose.
- (ii) R wants to get his heart surgery done at United Kingdom. Up to what limit Foreign Exchange can be drawn by him and what are the approvals required?

ANSWER

Approval to the following transactions under FEMA, 1999:

- (i) Foreign Exchange drawals for cultural tours require prior permission/approval of the Ministry of Human Resources Development (Department of Education and Culture) irrespective of the amount of foreign exchange required. Therefore, in the given case X, the Film Star is required to seek permission of the said Ministry of the Government of India.
- (ii) Individuals can avail of foreign exchange facility within the limit of USD 2,50,000 only. Any additional remittance in excess of the said limit for the expenses requires an approval from RBI. However, in connection with medical treatment abroad, no approval of the Reserve Bank of India is required. Therefore, R can draw foreign exchange up to amount estimated by a medical institute offering treatment.

Q.8: Referring to the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, state the kind of approval required for the following transactions:

- (i) M requires U.S. \$ 5,000 for remittance towards hiring charges of transponders.
- (ii) P requires U.S. \$ 2,000 for payment related to call back services of telephones.

ANSWER

Under section 5 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, and Rules relating thereto, some current account transactions require prior approval of the Central Government, some others require the prior approval of the Reserve Bank of India, some are freely permitted transactions and some others are prohibited transactions. Accordingly,

- (i) It is a current account transaction, where M is required to take approval of the Central Government for drawal of foreign Exchange for remittance of hire charges of transponders.
- (ii) Withdrawal of foreign exchange for payment related to call back services of telephone is a prohibited transaction. Hence, Mr. P cannot obtain US \$ 2,000 for the said purpose.

Q.9: Suresh resided in India during the Financial Year 2020-2021. He left India on 15th July 2021 for Switzerland for pursuing higher studies in Biotechnology for 2 years. What would be his residential status under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 during the Financial Years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023?

Mr. Suresh requires every year USD 25,000 towards tuition fees and USD 30,000 for incidental and stay expenses for studying abroad. Is it possible for Mr. Suresh to get the required Foreign Exchange and, if so, under what conditions?

ANSWER

Residential Status: According to section 2(v) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, 'Person resident in India' means a person residing in India for more than 182 days during the course of preceding financial year [Section 2(v)(i)]. However, it does not include a person who has gone out of India or who stays outside India for employment outside India or for any other purpose in such circumstances as would indicate his intention to stay outside India for an uncertain period.

Generally, a student goes out of India for a certain period. In this case, Mr. Suresh who resided in India during the financial year 2020-2021 left on 15.7.2021 for Switzerland for pursuing higher studies in Biotechnology for 2 years, he will be resident as he has gone to stay outside India for a 'certain period'. RBI has however clarified in its AP circular no. 45 dated 8th December 2003, that students will be considered as non-residents. This is because usually students start working there to take care of their stay and cost of studies.

Mr. Suresh will be treated as person resident in India for Financial year 2021 – 2022 till 16th July 2021 and from 17th July 2021, he will be considered as person resident outside India.

However, during the Financial Year 2022-2023, Mr. Suresh will be considered as person resident outside India as he left India on 15th July 2021.

Foreign Exchange for studies abroad: According to Para I of Schedule III to Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions), Amendment Rule, 2015 dated 26th May, 2015, individuals can avail of foreign exchange facility for the studies abroad within the limit of USD 2,50,000 only. Any additional remittance in excess of the said limit shall require prior approval of the RBI. Further proviso to Para I of Schedule III states that individual may be allowed remittances (without seeking prior approval of the RBI) exceeding USD 2,50,000 based on the estimate received from the institution abroad. In this case the foreign exchange required is only USD 55,000 per academic year and hence approval of RBI is not required.

Q.10:

- (i) **Mr. P has won a big lottery and wants to remit US Dollar 20,000 out of his winnings to his son who is in USA. Advise whether such remittance is possible under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.**
- (ii) **Mr. Z is unwell and would like to have a kidney transplant done in USA. He would like to know the formalities required and the amount that can be drawn as foreign exchange for the medical treatment abroad**

ANSWER

Remittance of Foreign Exchange (Section 5 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999): According to section 5 of the FEMA, 1999, any person may sell or draw foreign exchange to or from an authorized person if such a sale or drawal is a current account transaction. Provided that Central Government may, in public interest and in consultation with the reserve bank, impose such reasonable restrictions for current account transactions as may be prescribed.

As per the rules, drawal of foreign exchange for current account transactions are categorized under three headings –

1. Transactions for which drawal of foreign exchange is prohibited,

2. Transactions which need prior approval of appropriate government of India for drawal of foreign exchange, and
3. Transactions which requires RBI's prior approval for drawl of foreign exchange.
 - (i) Mr. P wanted to remit US Dollar 20,000 out of his lottery winnings to his son residing in USA. Such remittance is prohibited and the same is included in the Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) Rules, 2000.

Hence Mr. P Cannot withdraw foreign exchange for this purpose.

- (ii) "Remittance of foreign exchange for medical treatment abroad" requires prior permission or approval of RBI where the individual requires withdrawal of foreign exchange exceeding USD 250,000. The Schedule also prescribes that for the purpose of expenses in connection with medical treatment, the individual may avail of exchange facility for an amount in excess of the limit prescribed under the Liberalized Remittance Scheme, if so required by a medical institute offering treatment.

Therefore, Mr. Z can draw foreign exchange up to the USD 250,000 and no prior permission/ approval of RBI will be required. For amount exceeding the above limit, authorised dealers may release foreign exchange based on the estimate from the doctor in India or hospital or doctor abroad.

Q.11: Mr. Rohan, an Indian Resident individual desires to obtain Foreign Exchange for the following purposes:

- (a) US\$ 120,000 for studies abroad on the basis of estimates given by the foreign university.
- (b) Gift Remittance amounting US\$ 10,000.

Advise him whether he can get Foreign Exchange and if so, under what condition(s)?

ANSWER

- (A) Remittance of Foreign Exchange for studies abroad: Foreign exchange may be released for studies abroad up to a limit of US \$ 250,000 for the studies abroad without any permission from the RBI. Above this limit, RBI's prior approval is required. Further proviso to Para I of Schedule III states that individual may be allowed remittances exceeding USD 250,000 based on the estimate received from the institution abroad. In this case since US \$ 120,000 is the drawal of foreign exchange, so permission of the RBI is not required.
- (B) Gift remittance exceeding US \$ 10,000: Under the provisions of section 5 of FEMA 1999, certain Rules have been made for drawal of foreign exchange for current account transactions. Gift remittance is a current account transaction. Gift remittance exceeding US \$ 250,000 can be made after obtaining prior approval of the RBI. In the present case, since the amount to be gifted by an individual, Mr. Rohan is USD 10,000, there is no need for any permission from the RBI.

THE LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT, 2008

Division A - Multiple Choice Questions

MCCQ: Which of the following cannot be converted into LLP?

- (a) Partnership firm
- (b) Private company
- (c) Listed company
- (d) Unlisted Company

ANSWER: (c)

MCCQ: The approved name of LLP shall be valid for a period of _____ from the date of approval:

- (a) 1 Month
- (b) 2 Months
- (c) 3 Months
- (d) 6 Months

ANSWER: (a)

MCCQ: Name of the Limited Liability Partnership shall be ended by:

- (a) Limited
- (b) Limited Liability partnership or LLP
- (c) Private Limited
- (d) OPC

ANSWER: (b)

MCCQ: Which one of the following statements about limited liability partnerships (LLPs) is incorrect?

- (a) An LLP has a legal personality separate from that of its members.
- (b) The liability of each partner in an LLP is limited.
- (c) Members of an LLP are taxed as partners.
- (d) A listed company can convert to an LLP.

ANSWER: (b)

MCCQ: For the purpose of LLP, Resident in India means:

- (a) Person who has stayed in India for a period of not less than 182 days during the current year.
- (b) Person who has stayed in India for a period of not less than 180 days during the immediately preceding one year.
- (c) Person who has stayed in India for a period of not less than 181 days during the immediately preceding one year
- (d) Person who has stayed in India for a period of not less than 120 days during the financial year.

ANSWER: (d)

Division B - Descriptive Questions

Q.1: “LLP is an alternative corporate business form that gives the benefits of limited liability of a company and the flexibility of a partnership”. Explain.

ANSWER

LLP is an alternative corporate business form that gives the benefits of limited liability of a company and the flexibility of a partnership

Limited Liability: Every partner of a LLP is, for the purpose of the business of LLP, the agent of the LLP, but not of other partners (Section 26 of the LLP Act, 2008). The liability of the partners will be limited to their agreed contribution in the LLP, while the LLP itself will be liable for the full extent of its assets.

Flexibility of a partnership: The LLP allows its members the flexibility of organizing their internal structure as a partnership based on a mutually arrived agreement. The LLP form enables entrepreneurs, professionals and enterprises providing services of any kind or engaged in scientific and technical disciplines, to form commercially efficient vehicles suited to their requirements. Owing to flexibility in its structure and operation, the LLP is a suitable vehicle for small enterprises and for investment by venture capital.

Q.2: Mr. Ankit Sharma wants to form a LLP taking him, his wife Mrs. Archika Sharma and One HUF as partners for that. Whether this LLP can be incorporated under LLP Act, 2008? Explain.

ANSWER

Section 5 of Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 provides any individual or body corporate may be a partner in an LLP. However, an individual shall not be capable of becoming a partner of a LLP, if –

- (a) He has been found to be of unsound mind by a Court of competent jurisdiction and the finding is in force;
- (b) He is an undischarged insolvent; or
- (c) He has applied to be adjudicated as an insolvent and his application is pending.

Further, Section (2)(1)(e) provides that a Body Corporate it means a company as defined in 'clause (20) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013 and includes –

- (i) An LLP registered under this Act;
- (ii) An LLP incorporated outside India; and
- (iii) A company incorporated outside India,

But does not include –

- (i) A corporation sole;
- (ii) A co-operative society registered under any law for the time being in force; and
- (iii) Any other body corporate (not being a company as defined in 'clause (20) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013, or a limited liability partnership as defined in this Act), which of Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf.

Therefore, HUF is not covered in the definition of body corporate and cannot be partner in LLP.

Q.3: There is an LLP by the name Ram Infra Development LLP which has 4 partners namely Mr. Rahul, Mr. Raheem, Mr. Kartar and Mr. Albert. Mr. Rahul and Mr. Albert are non – resident while other two are resident. LLP wants to take Mr. Rahul and Mr. Raheem as Designated Partner. Explain in the light of Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 whether LLP can do so?

ANSWER

According to Section 7 of LLP Act, 2008 every LLP shall have at least two designated partners who are individuals and at least one of them shall be a resident in India. Further, explanation to the section provides, the term “resident in India” means a person who has stayed in India for a period of not less than one hundred twenty days during the financial year. Hence, in the given problem, besides Mr. Ram and Mr. Raheem, Mr. Albert should also be designated partners.

Q.4: Mr. Mudit is the creditor of Devi Ram Food Circle LLP. He has a claim of ₹ 10,00,000 against the LLP but the worth of the assets of LLP are only ₹ 7,00,000. Now Mr. Mudit wants to make the partners of LLP personally liable for the deficiency of ₹ 3,00,000. Whether by virtue of provisions of Limited Liability Act, 2008, Mr. Mudit can claim the deficiency from the partners of Devi Ram Food Circle LLP?

ANSWER

A limited liability partnership is a body corporate formed and incorporated under this Act and is a legal entity separate from that of its partners. The LLP itself will be liable for the full extent of its assets but the liability of the partners will be limited. Creditors of LLP shall be the creditors of LLP alone. In other words, creditors of LLP cannot claim from partners. The liability of the partners will be limited to their agreed contribution in the LLP. Hence the creditors of Devi Ram Food Circle LLP are the creditors of Devi Ram Food Circle LLP only. Partners of LLP are not personally liable towards creditors. Mr. Mudit can not claim his deficiency of ₹ 3,00,000 from the partners of Devi Ram Food Circle LLP.

Q.5: M/s Vardhman Steels LLP was incorporated on 01.09.2022. On 01.01.2023, one partner of a partnership firm named M/s Vardhimaan Steels is registered with Indian Partnership Act, 1932 since 01.01.2000 requested ROC that as the name of LLP is nearly resembles with the name of already registered partnership firm, the name of LLP should be changed. Explain whether M/s Vardhman Steels LLP is liable to change its name under the provisions of Limited Liability Act, 2008?

ANSWER

Section 15 of LLP Act, 2008 provides no LLP shall be registered by a name which, in the opinion of the Central Government is –

- (a) Undesirable; or
- (b) Identical or too nearly resembles to that of any other ‘LLP or a company or a registered trade mark of any other person under the Trade Marks Act, 1999’.

Further, section 17 provides, if the name of LLP is identical with or too nearly resembles to –

- (a) That of any other LLP or a company; or
- (b) A registered trade mark of a proprietor under the Trade Marks Act, 1999

Then on an application of such LLP or proprietor referred to in clauses (a) and (b) respectively or a company, the CG may direct that such LLP to change its name within a period of 3 months from the date of issue of such direction.

Following the above provisions, LLP need not change its name if its name resembles with the name of a partnership firm. These provisions are applicable only in case where name is resembles with LLP, company or a registered trade mark of a proprietor.

Hence, M/s Vardhman Steels LLP need not change its name even it resembles with the name of partnership firm.

Q.6: Kanik, Priyansh, Abhinav and Bhawna were partners in Singh Jain & Associates LLP. Abhinav resigned from the firm w.e.f. 01.11.2022 but this was not informed to ROC by LLP or Abhinav. Whether Abhinav will still be liable for the loss of firm of the transactions entered after 01.11.2022?

ANSWER

According to section 24(3), where a person has ceased to be a partner of a LLP (hereinafter referred to as “former partner”), the former partner is to be regarded (in relation to any person dealing with the LLP) as still being a partner of the LLP unless –

- (a) The person has notice that the former partner has ceased to be a partner of the LLP; or
- (b) Notice that the former partner has ceased to be a partner of the LLP has been delivered to the Registrar.

Hence, by virtue of the above provisions, as no notice of resignation was given to ROC, Abhinav will still be liable for the loss of firm of the transaction entered after 01.11.2022.