

# INTERPRETATION OF STATUTES & PRINCIPLES OF LEGISLATION

**AtArani Law Academy**

## **SYLLABUS**

### **A) Principles of Interpretation**

- 1. Meaning of Interpretation and Construction of Statute.**
- 2. Basic Rules of Interpretation.**
  - a) Literal or Grammatical Rule of Interpretation.**
  - b) Golden Rule of Interpretation.**
  - c) Mischief Rule of Interpretation.**
- 3. General principle of Interpretation.**
  - a) Statute to be read as a whole.**
  - b) Intention of Legislature Predominates.**
  - c) Statute to be construed to make it effective and workable.**
- 4. Guiding Rules of Interpretation.**
  - a) Causus Omissus.**
- 5. Subsidiary Rules of Interpretation.**
  - a) Use of "Shall" and "May"**
  - b) "It shall be lawful", "Shall have Power"**
  - c) As be deems fit.**
  - d) "or" and "and"**
  - e) Mandatory and Directory Provisions**

## 6. Maxims.

- a) Ejusdem Genesis.
- b) Expressio Unius Est Exclusio Alterius.
- c) Reddendo Singula Singulis.
- d) Generalia Specilibus non Derogant.
- e) Nosciturus asociis.

## 7. Internal Aids to Construction.

## 8. External Aids to Construction.

## 9. Interpretation of Taxing Statute.

## 10. Interpretation of Penal Statute.

## 11. Interpretation of Social and Beneficial Legislation.

## 12. Interpretation of Constitution.

### B) General Clauses Act : The General Clause Act, 1987

### C) Principles of Legislation :

- a) Definition and Nature and scope of Legislation
- b) Criteria and Types of Legislations Individualism
- c) Collectivism and Marxism

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**PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION PAPERS**

## 2023 | Interpretation of Statutes and Principles of Legislation

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks. Candidates are required to give their answer in their own words as far as practicable.*

### Group - A

**Answer any three Questions**

1. (a) What do you mean by "Interpretation of Statute"? Discuss. [10]  
(b) Is there any difference between construction of statutes and interpretation of statutes? [6]
2. (a) What is Golden Rules of Interpretation? Explain with case laws. [8]  
(b) Discuss the rule of Harmonious Construction of Statute. [8]
3. "Intention of the legislature is a common but slippery phrase" - (Watson). Explain the relevance of judicial interpretation of the intention of the legislature. [16]
4. (a) Discuss the "Mischief Rule" and state the reason why often it is termed as the "Heydon's Rule". [6]  
(b) Discuss the Doctrine of Severability and Doctrine of Colourable Legislation. [10]
5. Explain the maxims (any two): [8×8]  
(a) Ejusdem Generis.  
(b) Noscitur a Sociis.  
(c) Generalia Specialibus Non-derogant.
6. What is meant by internal aids to construction of statutes? Explain how preamble and proviso are internal aids. [16]



### Group - B

Answer any one Question

7. Write short notes on (any four): [4×4]

- (a) Union Territory.
- (b) Collector.
- (c) India.
- (d) District Judge.
- (e) Service by post.
- (f) Month and year.

8. Discuss the salient features of the General Clauses Act, 1897 in brief.  
[16]

### Group - C

Answer any one Question

9. (a) Discuss the nature and scope of Legislation.

- (b) What do you understand by the "Delegated legislation"?

10. Briefly discuss the different types of Legislative Instruments. [16]



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## 2022 | Interpretation of Statutes and Principles of Legislation

### Group - A

*Answer any three Questions*

1. "The Golden Rule is that the words of a statute must prima facie be given their ordinary meaning unless that would lead to absurdity in which case the ordinary meaning may be modified to avoid that absurdity" - Explain and illustrate the above rule of interpretation, how far is this rule different from Literal Rule of Interpretation? [10+6]
2. State the components of the rule in Heydon's. Discuss at least two cases decided by the Supreme Court of India where this rule has been applied to arrive at the legislative intent. Do you think that this rule should be applied only when the language of the statute is ambiguous? [10+6]
3. Bring out the distinction between penal and remedial statutes and the rules of interpretation for them. Discuss the present trend in interpretation of penal statutes. [16]
4. Under what circumstances the court can look into the internal and external aids in the interpretation of the statutes? Assess the importance of any two of the following: [4×4]



- (a) Preamble and Long Title.
  - (b) Parliamentary History.
  - (c) Proviso.
  - (d) Statutes in Pari Materia.
5. "Associated words take their meaning from one another under the doctrine of Noscitur-a-sociis." Elucidate the two maxims with the help of decided cases. [8+8]
6. Write notes on the following (any two): [8×8]
- (a) Rule of Purposive Construction;
  - (b) Statute must be read as a whole;
  - (c) Doctrine of Pith and Substance;
  - (d) Doctrine of Severability.

**Group - B**

**Answer any one Question**

7. Write short notes on (any four): [4×4]
- (a) Collector;
  - (b) India;
  - (c) District Judge;
  - (d) Service by post;
  - (e) Month and Year;
  - (f) Union Territory.
8. Discuss the salient features of the General Clauses Act, 1897 in brief. [16]

**Group - C**

**Answer any one Question**



9. (a) Discuss the nature and scope of Legislation.  
(b) What do you understand by the term "Delegated Legislation"?
10. Briefly discuss the different types of Legislative Instruments. [16]



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## 2021 | Interpretation of Statutes and Principles of Legislation

*Answer any three Questions*

- (a) What do you mean by the term 'Interpretation of Statute'? [10]  
(b) Is there any difference between Interpretation of Statutes & Construction of Statutes? [6]
- (a) What is 'Golden Rule of Interpretation'? - Explain with case laws. [8]  
(b) Discuss the Rule of Harmonious Construction of Statute. [8]
- Bring out the distinction between Penal and Remedial Statutes and the Rules of Interpretation applicable to them. Discuss the recent judicial trend in the Interpretation of Penal Statutes. [16]
- "If the strict grammatical interpretation gives rise to absurdity or inconsistency, the Court could discard such interpretation and adopt an interpretation which will give effect to the purpose of the legislature. This could be done, if necessary, even by modification of the language used" - Discuss the above rule of interpretation of statutes and refer to at least two decided cases in which the courts, in order to avoid the absurdity that the literal rule, if applied, would have resulted in, felt justified to modify the language of the statute to arrive at the true intent of the legislature. [16]



5. Write short notes on any two of the following: [8+8]

- (a) Ejusdem generis.
- (b) Noscitur a Sociis.
- (c) External Aids to Construction.
- (d) Internal Aids to Construction.

6. Discuss the Doctrine of Severability and the Doctrine of Colourable Legislation with suitable case laws. [8+8]

#### Group - B

Answer any one Question

- 7. It is a cardinal principle of interpretation that every statute is prima facie prospective unless it is expressly or by necessary implication made to have retrospective operation. Explain the principles regarding retrospective operation of statutes. [16]
- 8. Write short notes on any two of the following: [8+8]
  - (a) Service by Post.
  - (b) Document.
  - (c) Collector.
  - (d) Will.

#### Group - C

Answer any one Question

- 9. (a) Discuss the nature and scope of Legislation. [8]  
(b) What do you understand by the term 'Delegated Legislation'? [8]
- 10. Briefly discuss the different types of Legislative Instruments. [16]

## 2019 | Interpretation of Statutes and Principles of Legislation





### Group - A

Answer any three Questions

1. (a) What do you mean by Interpretation of Statute? [4]  
(b) Discuss the 'Literal Rule of Interpretation' with decided case laws. [12]
2. (a) Discuss the 'Golden Rule of Interpretation' with relevant case laws. [9]  
(b) Discuss the rule of Interpretation of Penal Statutes. [7]
3. (a) Discuss the Mischief Rule and state the reason why it is often termed as 'Heydon's Rule'.  
(b) Discuss the Doctrine of Severability and Doctrine of Colourable Legislation. [8+8]
4. Explain (any two): [8×2]  
(a) Rule of Ejusdem Generis.  
(b) Statute to be read as a whole.  
(c) Noscitur a Sociis.  
(d) Reddendo Singula Singulis.
5. Discuss (any two): [8×2]  
(a) Generalia Specialibus non-Derogant.  
(b) Mutatis Mutandis.  
(c) Expressio Unius Est Exclusio Alterius.  
(d) Contemporanea Expositio.
6. What is meant by internal and external aids to construction of statutes? Explain in detail with examples. [16]

### Group - B

Answer any one Question

7. (a) Discuss the salient features of the GCA, 1897. [8]  
(b) What is the effect of repeal of an enactment? [8]
8. Write short notes on (any four): [4×4]  
(a) Offence.





- (b) Collector.
- (c) India.
- (d) Central Act.
- (e) Union Territory.
- (f) Service by Post.

### Group - C

Answer any one Question

- 9. (a) What is the difference between Bill and Act? [6]  
(b) Discuss the importance of 'Delegated Legislation'. [10]
- 10. Briefly discuss the different types of Legislative Instruments. [16]

## 2018 | Interpretation of Statutes and Principles of Legislation

### Group - A

Answer any three Questions

- 1. What do you understand by the term 'Interpretation of Statutes'?  
Explain the 'Literal or Grammatical Rule of Interpretation' with case law. [4+12]
- 2. (a) Discuss the 'Golden Rule of Interpretation' with relevant case laws. [9]  
(b) Discuss the rule of Interpretation of Penal Statutes. [7]
- 3. (a) Discuss the rule of Harmonious Construction of Statute. [8]  
(b) 'Statutes to be read as a whole' - Explain in a statute with Judicial Pronouncement. [8]
- 4. Explain any two of the following: [8×2]
  - (a) Noscitur a Sociis.
  - (b) Ejusdem Generis.
  - (c) Generalia Specialibus Non Derogant.
  - (d) Rule of Pith and Substance.
- 5. (a) What do you mean by Internal and External aids to Construction?  
Discuss any two aids from each group. [10]  
(b) Explain the rule of Interpretation of Taxing Statutes. [6]





6. Discuss in brief, the different rules of Interpretation of Constitution with case laws. [16]

### Group - B

Answer any one Question

7. (a) Discuss the salient features of the General Clauses Act, 1897. [8]  
(b) What is the effect of repeal of an enactment? [8]
8. Write short notes on any four of the following: [4×4]  
(a) Affidavit.  
(b) Enactment.  
(c) Offence.  
(d) India.  
(e) Property.  
(f) Document.

### Group - C

Answer any one Question

9. (a) Discuss the nature and scope of Legislation. [6]  
(b) What do you mean by 'Delegated Legislation'? Signify the reason for Growth of Delegated Legislation. [10]
10. Explain Bentham's Theory of Utilitarianism. [16]

## 2017 | Interpretation of Statutes and Principles of Legislation

### Group - A

Answer any three Questions

1. (a) What do you mean by the term "Interpretation of Statute"? Discuss. [10]





- (b) Is there any difference between Construction of Statute and Interpretation of Statutes? [6]
2. (a) What is 'Golden Rule of Interpretation'? Explain with case laws. [8]  
(b) Discuss the Rule of Harmonious Construction of Statute. [8]
3. "Intention of the legislature is a common but slippery phrase" - (Watson). Explain the relevance of Judicial interpretation of the intention of the legislature. [16]
4. (a) Discuss the Mischief Rule and state the reason why it is often termed as 'Heydon's Rule'.  
(b) Discuss the Doctrine of Severability and Doctrine of Colourable Legislation. [8+8]
5. What is meant by Internal Aids to Construction of Statutes? Explain how Preamble and Proviso are Internal Aids. [16]
6. Explain any two of the following: [8×2]  
(a) Rule of Ejusdem Generis.  
(b) Mutatis Mutandis.  
(c) Noscitur a Sociis.  
(d) Generalia Specialibus Non-Derogant.

### Group - B

Answer any one Question

7. Write short notes on any four of the following: [4×4]  
(a) Union Territory.  
(b) Collector.  
(c) India.  
(d) District Judge.  
(e) Service by Post.  
(f) Month and Year.
8. Discuss the salient features of the General Clauses Act, 1897 in brief. [16]

### Group - C

Answer any one Question





9. (a) Discuss the nature and scope of Legislation. [8]  
(b) What do you understand by the term 'Delegated Legislation'? [8]  
10. Briefly discuss the different types of Legislative Instruments. [16]



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## 2016 | Interpretation of Statutes and Principles of Legislation

### Group - A

Answer any three Questions

- (a) What do you mean by Interpretation of Statute? [4]  
(b) Discuss the 'Literal Rule of Interpretation' with decided case law. [12]
- (a) Discuss the Rule or 'Harmonious Construction of Statute'. [8]  
(b) Discuss the 'External Aids' to Construction of Statute. [8]
- Explain any two: [8+8]
  - Utres Majis Valeat Quam Parent.
  - Expressio Unius Est Exclusio Alterius.
  - Reddendo Singula Singulis.
  - Ejusdem Generis.
- (a) Explain the Rule of Interpretation of Penal Statute with Case Laws. [8]  
(b) Explain the Rule of Interpretation of Taxing Statute with case laws. [8]
- (a) Explain the nature of 'Consolidating Statute' and 'Amending Statute'. [10]  
(b) 'Statute to be read as a whole' - Explain. [6]

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6. Discuss in Brief the different rule of Interpretation of Constitution with case laws. [16]

**Group - B**

**Answer any one Question**

7. Discuss the following provisions of the General Clauses Act, 1897: [4×4]
- (a) Effect of Repeal.
  - (b) Computation of Time.
  - (c) Measurement of Distance.
  - (d) Revival of Repealed Enactment.

8. Write short notes on any four: [4×4]

- (a) Central Act.
- (b) Affidavit.
- (c) Document.
- (d) Immovable Property.
- (e) Offence.
- (f) Month and Year.

**Group - C**

**Answer any one Question**

9. (a) What is the difference between Bail and an Act? [6]  
(b) Discuss the importance of 'Delegated Legislation'. [10]
10. Discuss Bentham's Theory of Utilitarianism. [16]

## 2015 | Interpretation of Statutes and Principles of Legislation

**Group - A**

**Answer any three Questions**





1. (a) What do you mean by the term "Interpretation of Statute"?  
Discuss. [10]  
(b) Is there any difference between Constitution of Statutes and Interpretation of Statute? [6]
2. (a) What is 'Golden Rule of Interpretation'? Explain with case laws. [8]  
(b) Discuss the Rule of Harmonious Construction of Statute. [8]
3. (a) Discuss the Mischief Rule of Interpretation with decided case laws. [8]  
(b) Discuss the Rule of Interpretation of Penal Statutes. [8]
4. Explain the different parts of a Statute with illustrations. [16]
5. Explain any two: [8×2]  
(a) Rule of Ejusdem Generis.  
(b) Statute to be read as a whole.  
(c) Noscitur a Sociis.  
(d) Reddendo Singula Singulis.
6. Discuss the following (any two): [8×2]  
(a) Rule of Pith and Substance.  
(b) Doctrine of Severability.  
(c) Doctrine of Colourable Legislation.

**Group - B**

**Answer any one Question**

7. Write short notes on any four: [4×4]  
(a) Offence.  
(b) Collector.  
(c) India.  
(d) District Judge.  
(e) Document.  
(f) Service by Post.
8. Discuss the salient features of the General Clauses Act, 1897 in brief. [16]



### Group - C

Answer any one Question

9. (a) Discuss the nature and scope of Legislation. [10]  
(b) What do you understand by the term 'Delegated Legislation'? [6]
10. Discuss Bentham's Theory of Utilitarianism. [16]



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## 2014 | Interpretation of Statutes and Principles of Legislation

### Group - A

Answer any three Questions

1. What do you understand by the term 'Interpretation of Statute'?  
Explain the Literal or Grammatical Rule of Interpretation with case law. [4+12]
2. (a) Discuss the 'Golden Rule of Interpretation' with relevant case laws. [9]  
(b) Discuss the Rule of Interpretation of Penal Statutes. [7]
3. What do you understand by the term 'Internal and External Aids' to construction? Discuss. [16]
4. (a) Discuss the Rule of Harmonious Construction of Statute. [8]  
(b) 'Statutes to be read as a whole' - Explain. [8]
5. Explain any two: [8×2]  
(a) Noscitur a Sociis.  
(b) Utres Majis Valeat Quam Parent.  
(c) Expressio Unius Est Exclusio Alterius.  
(d) Contemporanea Expositio.
6. Discuss the rules of Interpretation of Constitution. [16]





### **Group - B**

**Answer any one Question**

7. (a) Discuss the object of General Clauses Act, 1897. [8]  
(b) What is the effect of repeal of an enactment? [8]
8. Write short notes on any four: [4×4]
  - (a) Affidavit
  - (b) Immovable Property
  - (c) Document
  - (d) Central Act
  - (e) District Judge
  - (f) Union Territory

### **Group - C**

**Answer any one Question**

9. Explain Bentham's Theory of Utilitarianism. [16]
- 10.(a) State the nature of 'Delegated Legislation'. [10]  
(b) What do you mean by the term 'Sub-delegation of Legislative Power'? [6]





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