

11.05.2015

Prof. (Dr.) Gurdip Singh
Convenor CLAT 2015 Core Committee

Respected Sir/Ma'am,

At the very onset let me have the pleasure of congratulating you for successfully running world class institutions imparting quality legal education and setting benchmarks in this field.

This email is with reference to a grievance pertaining to the CLAT Examination 2015 conducted for students to seek admission in under graduate courses across 16 National Law Schools of the country. The same examination would decide the fate of about forty thousand students who have paid a decent sum as examination fee and hence the following irregularities are brought to your notice at the earliest possible instance:

1. In one of the questions in Logical Reasoning Section (Blood relation), two answer options were same and there was no clarification (atleast at Indore Centers) about such mistake from the concerned authorities. Moreover in such situation where students get just 36 seconds to crack a question, such errors with no clarification shall have devastating effect as two options might have the same correct answer. Thus the same shall be dealt in a way that the student interest is not hampered.
2. In another question of Logical reasoning the word "*Health*" was in one statement spelt as "*Wealth*" which has caused undue confusion in the minds of students writing examination. The same error was not brought to notice or clarified by the concerned authorities. (atleast at Indore Centers)

Though in both the situations *prima facie* it seems to be a typographical error but in entrance exam like CLAT where the seats are less and competition is stiff, I believe it is unwarranted. Moreover not bringing the same to the student's notice makes it further detrimental for the students.

3. Legal Aptitude Section :

As retrieved from your official website:

"This section will test candidate's interest towards study of law, research aptitude and problem solving abilities. Questions will be framed with the help of legal propositions (described in the paper), and a set of facts to which the said proposition has to be applied. Some propositions may not be "true" in the real sense (e.g. the legal proposition may be that any person who speaks in a movie hall and disturbs others that are watching the movie will be banned from entering any movie theater across India for one year). Candidates will have to assume the "truth" of these propositions and answer the questions accordingly"

Thus the notification clarifies that the questions under this section shall be about legal proposition and facts where such proposition is to be applied. In the examination questions pertaining to case laws etc were asked which are testing legal knowledge. This was not revealed to students preparing for examination (vide your examination notification).

4. Other technical irregularities during examination in online mode are as follows:
- At one of the centers in Indore (i.e Acropolis Institute of Technology and Research), the computer system had a problem and had displayed “Error 404” at least 20 times which has adversely affected the performance of student bearing roll no. 1260121392 sitting in Lab no. 226 A at seat 398.
 - At the same center, when 66 minutes were remaining, the server got down and the session was abruptly expired. Students were made to re enter their user name and password to log in again. This had put them under severe stress and anxiety.
 - At another center in Indore (i.e Sanghvi Institute of Management & Science, Indore) when 96 minutes were remaining there was a power cut and complete blackout. The systems were shut down and restarted. The flow of thoughts of students to solve questions was broken and had adversely affected them [eg. the student solving English passage or lengthy logical reasoning question had to reread and thus a precious time was wasted this way]
 - I am informed of some other errors in other question paper as well, since students were not able to recollect it very clearly so the same is not mentioned out here.
 - I further believe that more centers across the country would have faced such problems. So the same requires further intervention by your kind authority.

Moreover since the question paper is not yet in public domain, thus the above facts are stated based on the statements of the students who had written the examination and at their request. I personally could not examine this examination paper myself, I would request you to ensure the veracity of the facts herein above stated.

CLAT being an exam where 200 questions are to be answered in 120 minutes (i.e 36 seconds per question), every second counts. Such blatant errors and technological faults can be seriously detrimental to the student interest. Moreover in case of errors in the question paper, the duty was of the concern authorities to bring the same to the notice of students at the earliest possible instance. It is unreasonable expectation from a student to figure the error in the question paper, raise doubts and seek clarification as doing so would kill his precious time.

Thus I believe that errors in the question paper and on the top of it the students not being made aware about such errors amounts to irresponsible conduct on the part of organizing university. The online mode of exam has further added to the grief. In CLAT Exam where every single mark matters, I believe such mishappenings are really detrimental to the interest of the students.

Also I would humbly request to take this issue into your kind consideration and take all necessary steps which you deem just, proper and reasonable in this case. Kindly treat it at priority.

Anticipating an acknowledgement and response.

Sincere Regards,

Bahul Kumar Shastri

Advocate

[On behalf of students who have appeared for CLAT 2015]