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D. Pattern of Examination and Test Centers

(i) The selection process shall be conducted in three phases: Part I- Multiple Choice Based Questions, testing the candidates' ability to understand and apply the law, and comprehension skills; Part II- Subjective Written Examination, covering writing and analytical skills; Part III- Interview.

(ii) Part I and Part II shall be conducted on the same day in two sessions at the following centres across India i.e. Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Dehradun, Delhi, Gandhinagar,

Guwahati, Hyderabad, Imphal, Jodhpur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Pune, Raipur, Ranchi, Srinagar, Thiruvananthapuram and Visakhapatnam. A break of one hour shall be provided to candidates between the conducting of Parts I and II.

(iii) Part I shall be conducted by OMR sheets or in online/hybrid mode at the test centers, as may be specified by the Chief Justice from time to time. Part II shall also be conducted in physical mode/ pen-paper mode/online/hybrid mode.

(iv) The number of test centers may be increased or decreased, subject to the number of applications received and as per directions of the Chief Justice or the Committee of Judges on Law Clerks.

(v) Necessary arrangements shall be made at the test centers for candidates with special needs or persons with disabilities, as per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and the applicable guidelines of the Government of India.

E. Constitution and Responsibility of Examination Board

(i) The Chief Justice or the Committee of Judges on Law Clerks constituted by the Chief Justice, shall constitute the Examination Board, comprising of advocates/academicians/legal professionals /judges from district judiciary with an experience of 10 years or above and/or one Officer working in the Centre for Research and Planning or the Registry for the purpose of coordination.

(ii) The Examination Board in consultation with the Chief Justice or the Committee of Judges on Law Clerks shall nominate Examiners for evaluation of answer sheets of Subjective Written Examination (Part II).

- (iii) The concerned Registrar shall coordinate between the Examination Board and the Committee of Judges on Law Clerks or the Chief Justice.
- (iv) The Examination Board shall be responsible for setting the question paper for Part I (Multiple Choice Based Questions) and Part II (Subjective Written Examination), as provided in this Annexure.
- (v) The Examination Board shall ensure the availability of a 'sample guide' of questions and answers, so that the candidates know the kind of answers they are expected to provide.
- (vi) The Examination Board shall adhere to the highest standards of integrity, honesty, and confidentiality in assisting the Registry in this process.

Exam Pattern & Syllabus

F. Format and Type of Questions

(i) Part I of the selection process shall consist of 100 Multiple Choice questions (MCQs) of 1 mark each to be done in 2 ½ hours, and shall consist of the following questions:(a) A reading comprehension passage in English, followed by objective type related questions on the passage; (b) Objective type analytical questions, testing the candidates' ability to understand and apply law, including the Constitution of India, CrPC, CPC, IPC, Indian Evidence Act, and Contract Act; and (c) Objective type questions on recent developments in law and jurisprudence in the last one year. There shall be a negative marking/ deduction of 0.25 marks for each incorrect answer. The MCQs shall include relevant provision of the statute, wherever necessary.

(ii) Part II shall be of 3^{1/2} hours (including 30 minutes reading time) and 300 marks, and would consist of the following questions:

(A) Question 1- Brief Preparation: This question shall require the candidate to prepare a brief synopsis or precis of a case file not longer than 750 words, i.e. approximately 2 sides of a single page. The candidate would be provided with a copy of a Special Leave Petition or Civil/Criminal Appeal or Writ Petition.

Parameters for judging this question include: (a) ability of the candidate to identify and marshal the relevant facts; (b) identification of legal issues before the High Court/Appellate Tribunal; (c) comprehensive analysis of the issues as done by the High Court in the impugned decision; (d) ratio of the impugned decision; (e) relevant grounds before the Supreme Court; (f) ability to condense information and structure the document logically; and (g) brevity.

(B) Question 2 - Preparation of a draft research memo: In this question, the candidate shall be provided with a brief factual dispute, the relevant statutes and precedents to decide the dispute, along with certain irrelevant decisions which modify the line of precedent. The candidate would be required to formulate a draft reasoned memo not longer than 500-750 words (i.e. approximately two sides of a paper leaf) on the dispute. (75 marks)

Parameters for judging this question include: (a) ability to use relevant legal sources; (b) use of legal language; (c) exposition of the law; (d) analysis of the facts and applicability of the law to the facts; and (e) structure of the opinion.

(C) Question 3 - Analytical Question: In this question, a candidate shall be required to answer one out of five analytical questions in 350-500 words. (75 marks)

Parameters for judging this question include: (a) presentation and development of an argument through reasons and appropriate examples; (b) coherence and structure of the answer; (c) sentence construction and grammar.

G. Results

(i) Candidates who do not obtain the minimum qualifying marks of 40% or such cut-off as may be specified in Part I will automatically be rejected and the Examination Board would not be required to assess their answer sheets for Part II.

(ii) In order to qualify in Part II, a candidate needs to secure minimum 50% marks or such cut-off as may be specified.

(iii) After the assessment of the answers sheet of Part II, the Registry shall prepare the results of the Written Examination based on the combined marks secured in both Part I and Part II.

(iv) The individual score of candidates shall be provided on the individual registration portal, where the candidate had registered himself/ herself at the time of submitting the online application.

(v) A list of candidates according to the marks scored in Part I and Part II who are to be considered for the interview, along with cut-off score, shall be published on the website of the Supreme Court.

(vi) The candidates qualifying for the interview would be asked to submit a preference list of the Judges' offices in a sequence of their choice under whom they intend to work.

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