

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
Advocate-On-Record Examination- June, 2025
Question Paper- III
Advocacy and Professional Ethics

Total marks:100

Time: 3 Hours

1. Kindly read all the questions carefully before writing your answer.

2. All the questions carry equal marks of 10.

3. Please answer either of the alternative questions in question no. 4 and 8.

1. What are the rules to govern creation and maintenance of a website by an Advocate-On-Record? Please answer with reasons whether you approve or disapprove, in part or full, to include the following in your website as an Advocate-On-Record;
 - A. Your name, qualification, contact details with address of your residence/ office.
 - B. Names of your associates with qualification and other details.
 - C. Other accomplishments, such as foreign degrees, awards, honour, public and/or Bar office(s) held.
 - D. Names of prominent clients represented.
 - E. Link to Books/Articles/Speeches.
 - F. Your success rate in comparison with other AOR's.
 - G. The photographs with background of Supreme Court of India and images of your office, your addressing the court and your social interaction with the judges.

2. (i) A big chunk of land, in which you would have substantial share in compensation, is acquired for public purpose. You are approached by other landholders affected by same acquisition to conduct the proceedings for determination of fair compensation for their landholding as an Advocate. Would you agree to act as an advocate for these proceedings on behalf of the other landholders, and if yes, would you agree for any of the following options;
 - A. To appear pro-bono on behalf of all the other landholders.
 - B. To appear without charging any fees for some of the landholders, each of whom promise to persuade five other landholders to engage you on payment of your fees.
 - C. To appear on payment of 50% of the fees and the 50% payable only after successful outcome of the proceedings with determination of fair compensation at the agreed rate.
 - D. To appear on payment of full fees in the beginning and bonus fees @ 25% of compensation over and above the agreed rate.
 - E. To appear free without any fees to begin with but sharing 50% of the compensation as may be awarded.

(ii) Instead of land-holder in above scenario (i), the dependents of the victims of a road accident approach you with proposals A to E above.

Please give your answer with respect to all the five options in scenarios (i) and (ii) above with brief reasons for the steps you would take in case the fees due to you in any of the options above is not paid after final determination of the compensation.

3. A Chief Minister arrested on charges of corruption, perceived in large section of media as an act of political rivalry and mischief, resigns after an adverse order and denial of bail by the High Court. The Special Leave Petition filed by you on behalf of this former chief minister is due to be heard shortly. In the meantime;
- A. Would you release the contents of your petition to the media to demonstrate in public how unjustly your client has been treated?
 - B. Would you answer the queries from media about the arguments in your petition to put your point of view in ongoing perception war in the matter?
 - C. Would you join the media debate after the verdict in the matter is in favour of your eminent client who has resumed the office of Chief Minister?
 - D. Would you join the media debate after the verdict in the matter is against you but widely criticized as violating the human rights and liberty?
 - E. Would you pen an article only on the legal issues before, during and after the hearing in this matter?

Please elaborate your answer with expectation from media in reporting of sensational and ordinary cases.

4. How do you describe an actionable 'misconduct' by a lawyer? Please describe in brief at least five heads of misconduct with reference to cases decided by Supreme Court of India.

OR

What are the duties of an advocate towards Court, Client and Opposite side?

5. In light of attorney-client privilege, how would you proceed further in a matter as Advocate-On-Record when your client admits of committing of the offence you are to defend on his behalf in appeal? Please elaborate your role as lawyer to espouse the cause of your client, sometimes described as guns-on- hire, vis-a-vis your duty as an officer of the court to assist in dispensation of justice.
6. Are lawyers liable to be proceeded against in case of professional negligence towards the client under the Consumer Protection Act? Please elaborate the rationale for your answer with response to opinion that like the responsibility of the Doctors towards the patient, the lawyers must also be liable to the clients, subject to adjudication by the Consumer Forum of professional negligence on part of the lawyers. Which are the important judgments in this regard?

7. As part of advocacy and court craft, one must have wisdom to know when not to argue. Please elaborate this with at least seven features which can be termed as instances of bad advocacy.
8. Is virtual hearing really necessary, desirable and effective, though not preferred in a section of Bar and Bench? What are the ethics and etiquettes to be observed in course of virtual hearing?

OR

In an urgent engagement to e-file a Special Leave Petition on behalf of clients based outside Delhi, the proposed petitioners are father, son and daughter. It is informed that father is suffering from Alzheimer with periods of lucidity. The papers are forwarded electronically with telephonic information that *Vakalatnama* is signed by father on PDF in the period of lucidity, however, without attestation. How would you go about it? How would you ensure that pleading are seen and approved by all the petitioners? How would you deal with proposal for settlement in course of hearing which appears fair and reasonable to you?

9. Please explain your views on strike by lawyers for causes like creation of a bench of High Court, crime against lawyers in court premises, filling of vacancies of judges etc. What according to you are effective alternatives to strike by lawyers to avoid suffering for litigants?
10. Mediation has emerged as one of the foremost method of Alternate Dispute Resolution. What are the professional, ethical and other challenges in your duty to advice and conduct mediation to have fair resolution of dispute of your client in course of mediation? How would you respond to proposal for special fee if a dispute is settled through mediation instead of prolonged litigation?