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Q31

In essence, what does 'Due Process of Law' mean? (a) The principle of natural justice (b) The procedure established by law (c) Fair application of law (d) Equality before law Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2023 · General Studies · 2 marks · Polity and Governance

Indian Constitution, polity, rights, governance - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

The principle of **natural justice**. That is the essence UPSC keyed for due process.

(b)

The **procedure established by law**. That is the **Article 21** phrase; due process is the stricter American cousin.

(c)

Fair application of law. Close, but not the keyed essence.

(d)

Equality before law. **Article 14**, not due process.

Summary

Official key is (a). In this paper 'due process of law' is keyed as the principle of **natural justice** - hearing, bias rule, reasoned action - rather than **Article 21**'s '**procedure established by law**', fair application, or **Article 14** equality.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Procedure established by law

Article 21 text; A.K. Gopalan reading, later thickened in Maneka **Gandhi**.

Natural justice

Nemo judex; audi alteram partem.