### **What is Law?**

**Law** is a set of rules created and enforced by the government to maintain order, protect individuals, and provide justice. Laws guide how people should behave, and if someone breaks the law, they may face punishment, such as fines or imprisonment.

### **Who Follows the Law?**

**Everyone** must follow the law, including citizens, businesses, and the government. Laws apply equally to all people, ensuring fairness and order in society.

### **Law in IT (Information Technology)**

In the world of computers and technology, laws protect information and ensure that technology is used correctly.

#### **Important Areas in IT Law:**

1. **Data Privacy**:
   * **Definition**: Data privacy involves keeping personal information safe and ensuring it is used appropriately.
   * **Example in Pakistan**: The *Personal Data Protection Bill 2020* aims to protect individuals' data by regulating how companies collect, store, and use personal information.
2. **Data Integrity**:
   * **Definition**: Data integrity ensures that data is accurate, consistent, and not altered improperly.
   * **Example in Pakistan**: The *Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016* includes provisions to prevent the tampering of electronic data, ensuring its reliability.
3. **Misuse of Computers**:
   * **Definition**: Misuse of computers refers to illegal activities such as hacking, spreading viruses, or unauthorized access to computer systems.
   * **Example in Pakistan**: The *Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016* makes it illegal to access computers without permission, protecting against cybercrime.

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### **How is Data Protected?**

Data is protected through several methods, including:

1. **Encryption**:
   * **Definition**: Encryption scrambles data so that only authorized people with the correct key can read it.
   * **Example**: In Pakistan, companies handling sensitive information use encryption to protect their data from unauthorized access.
2. **Firewalls**:
   * **Definition**: Firewalls are security systems that block unauthorized access to computers or networks.
   * **Example**: Organizations in Pakistan use firewalls to safeguard their networks from cyber-attacks.
3. **Legal Protection**:
   * **Definition**: Laws ensure that companies handle data responsibly and securely.
   * **Example in Pakistan**: Under *PECA 2016*, companies are required to take measures to protect personal data from misuse or unauthorized access.

**Who Makes the Law?**

Laws are made by **legislative bodies** such as parliaments or congresses. In Pakistan, the National Assembly and Senate are the main legislative bodies that discuss, vote on, and pass laws.

### **Where Do Laws Come From?**

Laws come from two main sources: **Common Law** and **Statute Law**.

**Common Law** is based on past court decisions. It isn’t written down, and it guides how judges make decisions. This system is used in Commonwealth countries, while countries like Germany and France have their own written laws.

**Statute Law** is made by Parliament. These are laws created through official Acts. In the last 200 years, many new laws have been added to deal with changes in society, like rules about child labor and computer use. For example, the Theft Act 1968 brought together old theft laws into one clear law.

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### **Judicial System in Pakistan**

The **judicial system** in Pakistan is the structure of courts that interpret and apply the law to settle disputes and administer justice.

### **How Courts Work in Pakistan:**

1. **Trial Courts (Lower Courts)**:
   * **Role**: Handle most cases first by looking at the facts and making decisions.
   * **Example in Pakistan**: *Session Courts* deal with serious criminal cases, while *Civil Courts* handle disputes between individuals.
2. **Appellate Courts**:
   * **Role**: Review decisions made by lower courts to check for errors.
   * **Example in Pakistan**: *High Courts* in each province review cases from lower courts.
3. **Supreme Court**:
   * **Role**: The highest court that deals with significant cases, often involving constitutional issues.
   * **Example in Pakistan**: The *Supreme Court of Pakistan* is the final court of appeal and can review decisions made by the High Courts.

### **Criminal Law vs. Civil Law in Pakistan**

1. **Criminal Law**:
   * **Definition**: Criminal law deals with serious offenses like theft, murder, or fraud.
   * **Punishments**: May include jail time, fines, or other penalties.
   * **Example in Pakistan**: Criminal cases are handled under laws like the *Pakistan Penal Code*.
2. **Civil Law**:
   * **Definition**: Civil law deals with disputes between individuals or organizations, such as contract disagreements or property disputes.
   * **Punishments**: Usually involve compensation or court orders to resolve disputes.
   * **Example in Pakistan**: Civil cases are often settled in civil courts, dealing with matters like property or family law.

### **Litigation in Pakistan**

**Litigation** is the process of resolving disputes by taking them to court. It involves filing a case, presenting evidence, and getting a legal judgment.

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### **Legislative Process in Pakistan**

The legislative process in Pakistan involves several steps to make a law:

1. **Proposal**:
   * **Definition**: A new law is suggested or proposed.
   * **Example in Pakistan**: A member of the *National Assembly* may propose a new law.
2. **Discussion and Changes**:
   * **Definition**: Lawmakers discuss the proposed law and may make changes.
   * **Example in Pakistan**: The proposed law is debated in the *National Assembly* and *Senate*.
3. **Voting**:
   * **Definition**: Lawmakers vote on whether to approve the law.
   * **Example in Pakistan**: Both the *National Assembly* and *Senate* must pass the law for it to move forward.
4. **Approval**:
   * **Definition**: The law may need approval from a higher authority, like the President.
   * **Example in Pakistan**: The law is sent to the *President of Pakistan* for approval.
5. **Becoming Law**:
   * **Definition**: If approved, the proposal becomes a law.
   * **Example in Pakistan**: Once the President signs it, the proposal becomes an official law.

**UK Legislative System**

* **House of Commons**: (Like national Assembly)
  + **Role**: Elected members discuss and vote on laws.
  + **Example**: The House of Commons debates laws before they move to the House of Lords.
* **House of Lords**: (Like Senate)
  + **Role**: Reviews and suggests changes to laws passed by the House of Commons.
  + **Example**: The House of Lords adds extra scrutiny and may suggest changes to laws.
* **Act of Parliament**:
  + **Definition**: A law approved by both Houses and given royal approval by the Queen.
  + **Example**: Once both Houses agree, the law is sent to the Queen, and it becomes an Act of Parliament.

In the UK legislative system:

* The **House of Commons** is referred to as the national assembly. It consists of elected members who discuss and vote on laws.
* The **House of Lords** is similar to a senate. It reviews and suggests changes to the laws passed by the House of Commons.

Together, these two houses work to create and approve laws, which then receive royal approval to become Acts of Parliament.

### **US Legislative System**

* **Congress**:
  + **Role**: The main body that makes laws in the USA. It has two parts: the House of Representatives and the Senate.
  + **Example**: Congress works together to create and pass laws that apply across the whole country.
* **i-House of Representatives**: **(National Assembly)**
  + **Role**: Represents the people, with members from each state based on population size.
  + **Example**: They propose and vote on laws that reflect the needs of their communities.
* **ii)-Senate**:
  + **Role**: Represents all states equally, with two members from each state.
  + **Example**: The Senate reviews, amends, and votes on laws passed by the House of Representatives.
* **Act of Congress**:
  + **Definition**: A law that has been passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate and then signed by the President.
  + **Example**: After Congress agrees on a law, it goes to the President. If signed, it becomes an official law, known as an Act of Congress.
* **State Legislatures**:
  + **Role**: Each state has its own law-making body that creates laws for that state.
  + **Example**: State legislatures handle issues specific to their state, like education or transportation