

## Student 6 – LAW Answer Sheet

### Question 1

**Explain the differences between criminal law, civil law, and constitutional law. Provide examples of cases or issues relevant to each area.**

**Answer:**

Criminal law is concerned with actions that are considered offenses against society or the state, such as theft, assault, or murder. In these cases, the government brings charges against the accused. For example, if someone is accused of theft, it is the state that prosecutes the individual.

Civil law deals with disputes between individuals or organizations, often involving issues like contracts, property, or personal rights. For example, if two companies have a disagreement over a contract, this would be resolved as a civil case.

Constitutional law involves interpreting and applying a country's constitution, focusing on individual rights and the powers of government. For instance, a case that challenges whether a law is constitutional falls under this area.

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### Question 2

**Describe the structure and function of a typical court system. Why is the separation of powers important in the legal system?**

**Answer:**

A typical court system is organized into several levels:

- **Trial courts** are where cases are first heard and facts are established.
- **Appellate courts** review decisions made by trial courts to check for legal errors.
- **Supreme court** is the highest court, and its decisions set binding precedents for all lower courts.

The separation of powers is crucial because it divides government authority among the legislative (makes laws), executive (enforces laws), and judiciary (interprets laws) branches. This structure prevents any single branch from becoming too powerful and maintains checks and balances in the legal system.

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### **Question 3**

**Discuss the ethical considerations and societal impacts of legal practice.**

**Answer:**

Lawyers are expected to uphold strict ethical standards, such as:

- Maintaining client confidentiality.
- Avoiding conflicts of interest, like representing clients with opposing interests.
- Acting with honesty and integrity to ensure justice is served.
- Supporting access to justice, so everyone can obtain legal representation.

The legal profession has a significant societal impact by upholding justice, protecting individual rights, and maintaining order. Unethical conduct can erode public trust in the legal system and harm individuals or communities.

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### **Question 4**

**Explain the concept of legal precedent and discuss its advantages and limitations in the judicial process.**

**Answer:**

Legal precedent, or stare decisis, means courts follow previous judicial decisions when deciding similar cases.

**Advantages:**

- Brings consistency and predictability to the law.
- Promotes fairness by ensuring similar cases are treated alike.
- Offers guidance to judges and lawyers.

**Limitations:**

- Can make the law slow to adapt to new situations.
  - Past decisions may be outdated or unjust.
  - Too much reliance on precedent can hinder necessary legal reforms.
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### Question 5

**Describe the principles of justice and how they are reflected in legal systems.**

**Answer:**

Principles of justice include:

- **Equality before the law:** Everyone is subject to the same laws.
- **Fairness:** Legal processes must be impartial and unbiased.
- **Due process:** Individuals have the right to a fair hearing and legal representation.
- **Proportionality:** Punishments or remedies should fit the seriousness of the offense.

Legal systems reflect these principles through fair trials, appeals, legal aid, and the protection of fundamental rights.