

## Student 9 – 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 focuses on acts that are considered offenses against society or the state, such as theft, assault, or murder. In these cases, the government acts as the prosecutor. For example, if someone is accused of theft, the state brings the case to court.

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

Constitutional law is concerned with interpreting and applying the constitution, focusing on individual rights and the powers of the government. An example would be a legal challenge to a law that someone believes violates constitutional rights.

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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 made up of several levels:

- **Trial Courts:** Where cases are first heard and facts are determined.
- **Appellate Courts:** These review decisions from trial courts to check for legal errors.
- **Supreme Court:** The highest court, whose 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 one branch from becoming too powerful and maintains checks and balances within the legal system.

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### Question 3

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

**Answer:**

Lawyers must adhere to strict ethical standards, including:

- Keeping client information confidential.
- Avoiding conflicts of interest, such as representing clients with opposing interests.
- Acting with honesty and integrity to uphold justice.
- Helping ensure everyone has access to legal representation.

The legal profession has a significant impact on society by upholding justice, protecting rights, and maintaining order. However, 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 that courts follow previous judicial decisions when deciding similar cases.

**Advantages:**

- Brings consistency and predictability to the law.
- Promotes fairness by treating similar cases 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.