

Faculty of Law

End Semester Examination May 2025

LW3CO42 Interpretation of Statutes

Programme	:	LL.B. (Hons.)	Branch/Specialisation	:	All
Duration	:	3 hours	Maximum Marks	:	60

Note: All questions are compulsory. Internal choices, if any, are indicated. Assume suitable data if necessary. Notations and symbols have their usual meaning.

Section 1 (Answer all question(s))				Marks CO BL
Q1. What is the primary function of the court in statutory interpretation?				1 1 2
<input type="radio"/> To legislate laws <input type="radio"/> To amend laws		<input checked="" type="radio"/> To interpret laws <input type="radio"/> To create policies		
Q2. The principle of Ejusdem Generis means:				1 1 2
<input type="radio"/> Words should be interpreted strictly <input type="radio"/> Every word should be given its natural meaning		<input checked="" type="radio"/> General words take their meaning from specific words preceding them <input type="radio"/> A statute should be read as a whole		
Q3. The golden rule of interpretation is applied when:				1 1 2
<input checked="" type="radio"/> The literal rule leads to an absurdity <input type="radio"/> The statute is ambiguous		<input type="radio"/> The mischief rule fails <input type="radio"/> The law is based on international principles		
Q4. The Heydon's Case is associated with which rule of interpretation?				1 1 2
<input type="radio"/> Literal rule <input type="radio"/> Golden rule		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Mischief rule <input type="radio"/> Rule of harmonious construction		
Q5. What is the primary purpose of the Doctrine of Pith and Substance?				1 1 2
<input type="radio"/> To determine the constitutionality of a law based on its impact on fundamental rights. <input type="radio"/> To establish a clear hierarchy of legislative powers between different levels of government.		<input checked="" type="radio"/> To clarify the true nature and purpose of a law, especially when there are overlaps in legislative powers. <input type="radio"/> To ensure that all laws are consistent with international human rights treaties.		
Q6. Which of the following is not considered an internal aid to interpretation?				1 1 2
<input type="radio"/> Preamble <input checked="" type="radio"/> Parliamentary debates		<input type="radio"/> Marginal notes <input type="radio"/> Chapter headings		
Q7. The term "means" in a statute is used to indicate:				1 1 2
<input type="radio"/> An exhaustive definition <input type="radio"/> A non-restrictive term		<input checked="" type="radio"/> An inclusive definition <input type="radio"/> A vague interpretation		
Q8. Which of the following is not an external aid to interpretation?				1 1 2
<input type="radio"/> Legislative debates <input type="radio"/> International treaties		<input type="radio"/> Statement of objects and reasons <input checked="" type="radio"/> Preamble		
Q9. Which of the following is not a recognized presumption in statutory interpretation?				1 1 2
<input type="radio"/> Statutes are valid <input checked="" type="radio"/> Statutes do not intend injustice		<input type="radio"/> Statutes have extraterritorial application <input type="radio"/> Statutes operate prospectively		

Q10. The principle of presumption against absurdity ensures that:

1 1 2

- Laws are interpreted to avoid illogical or unreasonable results
- The literal meaning is always applied
- International laws override domestic laws
- Laws should always be in favor of the accused

Section 2 (Answer all question(s))

Marks CO BL
3 1 2

Q11. What is the difference between "interpretation" and "construction"?

Rubric	Marks
Interpretation.	1.5
Construction.	1.5

Q12. (a) Critically analyze the different theories of interpretation.

7 4 4

Rubric	Marks
Theories of Interpretation	1
Utilitarianism	2
Individualism	2
Libertarianism	2

(OR)

- (b)** Discuss the role of the General Clauses Act, 1897, in statutory interpretation, with special reference to Sections 6 to 8.

Rubric	Marks
Discuss the General Clauses Act, 1897.	4
Sections 6 to 8 of General Clauses Act	3

Section 3 (Answer all question(s))

Marks CO BL
2 2 3

Q13. Define the literal rule of Interpretation with the help of decided case laws.

Rubric	Marks
Literal Rule	1
Decided case laws	1

Q14. Explain the mischief rule with reference to Heydon's Case.

3 2 3

Rubric	Marks
Mischief Rule.	1
Heydon's Case.	2

Q15. (a) Discuss the rule of harmonious construction? Illustrate with examples and cited case laws.

5 2 2

Rubric	Marks
Define Rule of Harmonious Construction.	2.5
examples and cited case laws.	2.5

(OR)

(b) Explain the rule of purposive construction in statutory interpretation. How does it differ from the literal rule?

Rubric	Marks
Rule of Purposive Construction in statutory interpretation.	2
Difference between the Literal Rule and the Rule of Purposive Construction	3

Section 4 (Answer any 2 question(s))

Marks CO BL

Q16. Explain the role of preambles, explanations, and provisos in statutory interpretation.

5 2 2

Rubric	Marks
Role of Preamble in Interpretation	1.5
Explanation in Interpretation	1.5
Role of Proviso in Interpretation.	2

Q17. Discuss the meaning and importance of legal expressions such as "means," "includes," and "that is to say".

5 3 3

Rubric	Marks
Define "means".	2
Define "includes".	2
Discuss 'that is to say'	1

Q18. Explain the significance of marginal notes in statutory interpretation.

5 1 3

Rubric	Marks
significance of marginal notes in statutory interpretation.	5

Section 5 (Answer any 2 question(s))

Marks CO BL

Q19. Explain the principle of "Implied Prohibition" with an example or illustration.

5 1 2

Rubric	Marks
Meaning of Implied Prohibition	2
Explanation of Implied Prohibition	2
Example or Illustration	1

Q20. Discuss the role of legislative history and debates in statutory interpretation.

5 3 2

Rubric	Marks
Meaning of Legislative History and debate	2
Role of Legislative history and debate in interpretation	3

Q21. Explain the concept of "Pith and Substance" and its role in statutory interpretation.

5 3 3

Rubric	Marks
Concept of "Pith and Substance".	2
Role of Pith and Substance in statutory interpretation	2
Example or Illustration	1

Section 6 (Answer any 2 question(s))

Marks CO BL

Q22. Describe the presumption of the territorial operation of statutes.

5 3 3

Rubric	Marks
Presumption of the territorial operation of statutes.	4
Example or Illustration	1

Q23. Explain the presumption against absurdity in statutory interpretation.

5 3 2

Rubric	Marks
Discussion on presumption against absurdity in statutory interpretation	4
Example or Illustration	1

Q24. Explain the presumption against impairing obligations or permitting advantage from one's own wrong.

5 4 4

Rubric	Marks
presumption against impairing	2
permitting advantage from one's own wrong.	3
