The English Legal System

By

Insert Your Name

Presented to

Instructor’s Name, Course

Institution Name, Location

Date Due

**Question 1**

**An Explanation of the UK Drug Policy**

The national challenges associated with illegal drug usage has remained a significant problem for many countries across the globe. It is a problem that has attracted the attention of many governments, with each drafting what they perceive as the most efficient policy to manage such challenges. These challenges range from health problems among the abusers to cases of addiction that contribute to declining trends in the productivity of the citizens. (Monaghan, 2014). The United Kingdom has not been an exception to the drug menace and has also manifested its efforts to manage drug abuse. The responses have been in the form of policy interventions, following wide consultations with relevant authorities. Stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, have been entrusted with the capacity to implement the provisions of these laws as a way of curbing any potential damage from drugs to the future generations.

More particularly in the United Kingdom, an estimated 8.9% of the adult population used an illegal drug between 2011 and 2012. The trend is higher for younger adults aging between 16 and 24, whose percentage over the same duration was 19.3%, indicating that younger people have higher chances of abusing drugs, and to bear the largest portion of associated problems (Monaghan, 2014). Some of the consequences that the country has had to face due to illegal drug use include poor health among its citizens, as well the low quality of life for both the culprits and the immediate families. Furthermore, crimes related to drug use cost the UK a total of £13.3 every year. This state of affairs has, therefore, facilitated the development, advancement, and the implementation of the UK Drug Policy.

The UK drug policy is historical, having been developed decades ago. It is a manifestation of pioneering commitments that the UK has made to fight substance abuse. Under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, the UK policy classifies illegal drugs into different categories, depending on the severity of its effects. Such categories include Class A, Class B, and Class C drugs. The extent and nature of the penalty given to an individual proven to be an abuser vary, depending on the class of drugs abused. For instance, for Class A drugs that include crack cocaine, as well as the heroine, the punishment for abuse is more severe, as compared to the misuse of Class C drugs such as khat and the anabolic steroids (Ghodse et.al, 2013).

Furthermore, the laws are stricter for persons found to be engaging in either the producing or supplying the drugs classified under A. such individuals can face severe punishments including life incarceration. On the other hand, persons found guilty of the same offense, but under class B and C have a less severe punishment of a jail term not exceeding 14 years. Unlike the production and supply of these drugs, procession often receives a less severe punishment. For instance, an individual gets a jail term of 7, 5, and two years for supplying drugs in Class A, B and C respectively. In other cases, such as where law enforcement officers verify that an individual is a first-time possessor of a drug under any of the classes, other less severe punishments such as warnings or on-the-spot fines may be administered (Ghodse et.al, 2013).

The UK drug policy helps to curb the potential damage from drugs on both the current generation, with more emphasis on the future generations. This strategy involves helping drug offenders secure freedom from addiction, safe treatment, and counselling, providing adequate and reliable information on drug use and its effects, as well as restricting the supply of narcotics.

**Question 2**

**Introduction**

According to Allain (2013), the abolishment of slavery did not end entirely end the act. Modern slavery exists despite the formulation and implementation of different laws against slavery. The only slavery that the laws have managed to end is the use of chains and shackles on people and the right to own slaves. However, people continue to live as slaves hitherto, working in various areas across the globe as agricultural workers, prostitutes, entertainers, beauticians and cosmetologists, in take away restaurants, and casinos and the cannabis industry among other areas and careers.

The International Labour Organizations asserts that there are more than 20.9 million slaves in the modern society. The organization defines someone as a slave if s/he is forced to work through physical or mental threats and manipulation, if they are controlled by their ‘employer’ through acts such as physical abuse, mental abuse or any forms or threats of abuse, and if dehumanised or treated as commodity in the delivery of services, and if constrained or offered limited freedom of movement.

1. **Debt bondage or bonded labour**

According to the Supplementary Convention, a debt bondage is the condition or status arising from a pledge by a debtor(s) of his/her or their personal services of persons under his/her control as a form of security for a debt, if the value of the services as reasonably evaluated is not meted towards the liquidation of the length or the debt and the nature of those services are not limited and clearly defined (Weissbrodt, 2016).

The debt bondage occurs where a person incurs a debt to other unscrupulous person or persons that cannot be repaid. With the inability to repay the debt the person is demanded to work in order to pay off the debt in a way that does not provide sufficient means for the individual under bondage to subsist on or repay what is owed (Weissbrodt, 2016).

1. **Serfdom**

This is a form of modern slavery where a statute, custom, legal relationship, or an agreement requires an individual to live and work on someone else’s land and in the process render some determinate service to the owner of the land as a form of reward or not. The person working on the land has no freedom to change their status. This form of slavery existed in Europe and the Middle East but was abolished under the Temporary Slavery Commission of 1924, which regarded it as a form of predial slavery, which involved using slaves to work in agricultural farms and plantations. However, the form of slavery continues to exist in remote areas of the Middle East (Weissbrodt, 2016).

1. **Forced and Early Forced marriage**

This mostly affects women and young girls and involves arranged marriages where the victims are forced against their will to get married. As a form of slavery, the perpetrators use violence and ensure that the victims have a choice to leave the marriage through threats of abuse.

1. **Human trafficking**

This form of modern enslavement involves the transfer of persons from one area (mostly their home) to other areas through force and forcing them into other forms of slavery. The victim lacks control over the situation as the whole process occurs without their consent.

1. **Exploitation and child labour**

The exploitation of people and the engagement of children in forced labour or trafficking is a form of slavery which continues to exist in the modern society despite the development of various laws against the act. This form of slavery involves trafficking children and using them to perform domestic, industrial or agricultural work.

In accordance with the law, children have the right to life and to be raised by a family, and the right to international protection, which protect children from exploitation. Child trafficking and child labour go against these basic children rights and take children away from their families and often expose them to forced labour in dangerous jobs, which further infringe on their right to life or subject them to debt bondage and physical abuse. Even with the development of various laws for the protection of children from child abuse and trafficking, these cases remain adamant in China, France, the US, and UK among other countries around the world.

1. **Forced prostitution, exploitation of women through prostitution and sexual exploitation**

Sexual slavery and exploitation exist distinctly from prostitution and occurs without the financial gains or rewards to the victim. These forms of slavery relate closely with forced prostitution but differ in that the individual in question is not a prostitute. Mainly, these forms of exploitation involve coerced or forced exploitation of the victim(s). According to Weissbrodt (2016), sexual slavery comprises of sexual exploitation of persons using force.

On the other hand, forced prostitution occurs when a person, male or female, is prostituted against his or her consent/will. The process may include force causing physical abuse or may involve manipulation through acts such as taking family members of the prostitute hostage, or the threat of using the family member (mainly children) as prostitutes.

**International Legal Methods for Alleviating Modern Slavery**

The international community has made great efforts to eliminate modern slavery through the development and implementation of various laws against the acts discussed above. Such laws and critical documents and declarations against slavery include:

* Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 – argues for the right of every person to live freely and equally in dignity and enjoy all rights accorded to him or her by the law. It calls for the prohibition of slavery and all forms of slavery and forbids holding any person in slavery or servitude.
* The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – prohibits acts of holding any person in servitude or slavery and all forms of slavery. Further, it illegalizes acts of forcing persons into labour.
* The Supplementary Convention, which was formed to tackle the issue of slavery in all its forms in 1956 prohibits debt bondage, serfdom, forced labour, human trafficking and forced prostitution among other forms of slavery. It further criminalizes acts of conveying or attempting to convey persons or slaves from one region to another.
* The Rome Statute of the ICC terms enslavement in all forms as a crime against humanity which falls within the jurisdiction of the Court (BBC, 2016).
* Most recently, the Modern Slavery Act criminalizes all acts of slavery previously mentioned among others such as forced labour (The Anti-Slavery Organization, 2015). The Act focuses on eliminating all forms of slavery and ensuring that every person enjoys their rights and dignity (The Anti-SLavery Organization, 2016).

**Question 3**

Preparing for exams may at times seem like a huge mountain that must be climbed, an aspect that may cause anxiety and panic among students. Nevertheless, proper preparation for exams is important in minimizing such anxiety and building confidence. The online third tutorial was highly effective in helping me understand the specific aspects of preparation for exams that were initially a challenge to me, thus allowing me to effectively prepare for my W102 exams.

One of the most important issues around exam preparation as presented in the tutorial involves proper revision of one’s study material. Through effective revision, one is able to develop a deep understanding of the concepts presented in the study materials. It was evident from the tutorial that proper revision involves breaking down what ought to be achieved into small tasks to allow for proper allocation of time and effort. As such, it is important to establish what ought to be revised, when to revise, and the methods that one is to use to revise. It is important to note that not all the material that one has is important to revision process and that most of it may be irrelevant when considering content to answer exam questions. With this in mind, selecting what to revise is a highly important factor to consider before starting the revision process. One highly effective approach that I have used in preparation for the W102 exam is refereeing to the module and identifying the various topics that require more attention. This is followed by referring to past examinations papers to identify the trends in development of questions on the selected topics. This has allowed me to make projections and predictions of the questions and to have a deeper insight of the various areas that are of interest to examiners on each of the topics within the module.

The tutorial also emphasized on the disadvantages of cramming, and instead advocates for reading to understand. Cramming allows individuals to keep the acquired information within the short-term memory, thus making it vulnerable to displacement by another other information. as such, to ensure that I am able to hold onto information not only throughout the exam process but also into my future professional life, I have been able to allocate different topics as much time as possible, allowing for in-depth analysis of the concepts and practical reading, an aspect that allows for storage of the acquired information into the long-term memory.

Apart from refraining from cramming, the tutorial also emphasized on the importance of attending groups when revision for exams. Group discussions allow all members to participate in active revising, an aspect that stores information into the long-term memory and prepares one for effective response to exam questions. On the other hand, the application of memory strategies was also noted to be a highly effective approach towards revising. Case in point, to remember the seven colours of the rainbow, one may choose to remember the term ROYGBIV, as this would allow them to keep less information which can be expounded during the exam to promote success. Most importantly, the tutorial emphasized on the importance of maintaining calm prior to the examination and avoiding anxiety by employing relaxation approaches as anxiety may lead one into panic and interfere with the proper revision schedule. I have been able to avert anxiety by having enough sleep and engaging in cardio exercise to relieve the tension after revisions and to release stress.

Word Count (2270)

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