

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – 2021/2022
LEVEL 1- 2nd SEMESTER
FINAL EXAMINATION
DSC1714 – UNDERSTANDING LAW



Duration: 03 Hours

Date: 11th February 2023

Time: 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

INSTRUCTIONS:

- The question paper consists of NINE (09) questions.
- Answer only FIVE (05) questions.
- Answers should be legibly written.
- Answer to each question should begin on a new page.

1. Explain the following situations in relation to entering into a valid contract, under the law of contract. Provide an example for each situation.

- I. Offer
- II. Acceptance
- III. Consideration
- IV. Persons who cannot enter into a valid contract.
- V. Illegal Contracts

(4 x 5 = 20 Marks)

2. A plural legal system is resulted when several legal systems representing different nationalities operate within the same country. Do you agree with the above statement? Discuss in relation to the Sri Lankan legal system.

(20 Marks)

3. The Court is entrusted with the sacred duty of administration of justice. Identify the Courts System in Sri Lanka which is engaged in administration of justice and discuss the jurisdiction of each court.

(20 Marks)

4. Celenica is a developing country. During the last few years, due to the shortsighted political decisions, the economy of Celenica gradually deteriorated. Citizens who could not bear the economic pressure started to engage in peaceful protests around the country. Newton, Upul, Balachandran, Neela and Fathima were five friends in the same age and they joined a peaceful demonstration in the capital city of Celenica, in the recent past. Neela gave a statement to the media on the difficulties the citizens were undergoing and it was broadcasted during the night time news on that day.

Assume the laws of Celenica are identical with the laws of Sri Lanka. Explain the fundamental rights which have been violated in the following situations.

- I. Newton is an ordinary employee of a government department and is duly performing his duties and responsibilities at the place of work. At the end of the year he was due to be promoted, but nevertheless, the management of the department decided not to give him the promotion, citing his political opinions.
- II. Upul was a manager at a government ministry and he intended to establish an employee's union and to contribute to the ongoing protests, through the union. However, the secretary of the ministry informed him that the employees of the ministry cannot form a union.
- III. Police officers visited Balachandran's house at night on the day he joined the protests and took him to the police custody without informing any reason.
- IV. Neela was a development officer of a government department and her Department Head expressed his displeasure on the opinions Neela expressed at the protest and severally warned that she should not express such opinions thereafter.
- V. Fathima participated at a job interview for a government department and she has been well qualified for the position. However, the Head of the Department decided not to recruit her, stating her religion as the reason.

(4 x 5 = 20 Marks)

5. The labour law of the country gets involved in the resolution of disputes in the employment relations.

I. Name five statutes enacted for the purpose of the welfare of employees.

(5 Marks)

II. Discuss two statutes that you have named above.

(15 Marks)

6. Write an article to a newspaper to educate the public on the protection of consumer's rights.

(20 Marks)

7. Write brief notes on the below.

I. Sources of law

II. Criminal Law and Civil Law

III. Different types of employment

IV. Supremacy of the Parliament

V. The constitution of Sri Lanka

(4 x 5 = 20 Marks)

8. Assume that you are a member of a committee appointed to look into the disparities between laws relating to marriage and to draft a uniform law relating to marriage. Prepare a report addressing the issues and disparities in relation to the following aspects.

- Requirements for a valid marriage
- Dissolution of marriage

(20 Marks)

9. "In legal proceedings involving the custody of minor children, the Court will always consider the concept of the best interest of the child"

Critically discuss the above statement in terms of Sri Lankan law of custody.

(20 Marks)

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