

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
 ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES 2024/2025
 LEVEL 1: SECOND SEMESTER
 FINAL EXAMINATION
 DSC1714 – UNDERSTANDING LAW



Date : 03rd August 2025

Time: 09.30a.m -12.30p.m

Total number of questions 09

Answer FIVE (05) questions only.

Answer the questions in PART I, and any four questions from PART II

PART I - This question is compulsory.

1. Answer the following questions.

- i. Why is law important to society? Explain its role and significance.
- ii. What is the concept of the rule of law? Discuss its principles and importance in a democratic society.
- iii. What are the main issues or challenges you have identified in the Sri Lankan legal framework?
- iv. What suggestions or solutions can you propose to address the problems within the Sri Lankan legal framework?

(5 X 4 = 20 Marks)

PART II - Answer any FOUR (04) questions from this part.

- 2. "A plural legal system emerges when multiple legal traditions, often representing different communities or national groups, operate simultaneously within a single country."**

Do you agree with this statement? Discuss with specific reference to the Sri Lankan legal system, highlighting the origins, application, and interaction of its various personal and general laws.

(20 Marks)

3. "The court system plays a vital role in the administration of justice".

Identify the different courts in Sri Lanka involved in this process and discuss the jurisdiction and functions of each court.

(20 Marks)

4. Discuss the following concepts.

- i. The concept of the supremacy of Parliament. How does this principle affect the relationship between the legislature and other branches of government? Provide examples to support your answer.
- ii. The doctrine of separation of powers and its importance in maintaining a balanced government. Illustrate with examples how this principle operates in Sri Lanka's constitutional framework.

(10 x 2 = 20 Marks)

5. Discuss which fundamental rights have been violated in the following incidents, using your knowledge of fundamental rights in Sri Lanka.

- i. Aruna, a public school teacher, converted to another religion and began wearing religious symbols at school. The principal told him to remove them or face disciplinary action.
- ii. Chaminda was taken into police custody for questioning. While in custody, officers beat him to force a confession.
- iii. Shanika, a qualified applicant, was denied a government scholarship solely because she belongs to a minority ethnic group.
- iv. Ravi was arrested during a protest and detained for several days without being told the reason or presented before a judge.
- v. Nisansala posted a social media video criticizing government policies. Police later warned her to delete the video or face arrest.

(4 x 5 = 20 Marks)

6. Discuss the methods provided under the Industrial Disputes Act No. 43 of 1950 for resolving industrial disputes in workplaces.

(20 Marks)

7. Discuss the legal validity of the following incidents using your knowledge of contract law

- i. Nimal is 17 years old and agrees to sell his motorbike to his friend Ruwan for Rs. 150,000. Ruwan pays the money, but later Nimal refuses to hand over the bike.
- ii. Asha agrees to pay Rs. 50,000 to Sunil if he helps her smuggle banned goods into the country. Later, Asha refuses to pay.
- iii. A retired father signs a land deed transferring his property to his son because the son threatened to stop taking care of him if he didn't sign.
- iv. Ravi told Kumar that a used car had never been in an accident, and Kumar bought it based on that statement. Later, Kumar found out the car had been seriously damaged before.
- v. Tharanga sent a written offer to sell her laptop to Nadeesha for Rs. 80,000. Nadeesha read the letter and decided to accept, but never informed Tharanga.

(4 x 5 = 20 Marks)

8. You have been invited to write a newspaper article to educate the general public about family law in Sri Lanka. Prepare a well-structured and informative article covering the key aspects of Sri Lankan family law.

In your response, explain the main legal provisions relating to marriage, divorce, maintenance, and custody. Highlight any legal challenges or reforms needed in this area and suggest how the law can better protect family rights in a modern society.

(20 Marks)

9. Write brief notes on the below.

- i. Sources of law
- ii. Protection of consumer's rights.
- iii. Different types of employment
- iv. Requirements for a valid marriage

(5 x 4 = 20 Marks)