



PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

BENGALURU

Roll No.

End - Term Examinations – MAY 2025

Date: 20-05-2025

Time: 09:30 am – 12:30 pm

School: SOL	Program: BA/BBA/BCOM LLB HONS	
Course Code : LAW2018	Course Name: Interpretation of Statutes	
Semester: VI	Max Marks: 100	Weightage: 50%

CO - Levels	CO1	CO2	CO3	CO4	CO5
Marks	24	26	26	24	-

Instructions:

- (i) Read all questions carefully and answer accordingly.
- (ii) Do not write anything on the question paper other than roll number.

Part A

Answer ALL the Questions. Each question carries 2marks.

10Q x 2M=20M

1.	State one key feature of the golden rule of interpretation.	2 Marks	L1	CO3
2.	Explain the difference between codified and non-codified law.	2 Marks	L2	CO2
3.	Briefly explain significance of Bentham's Utilitarianism in codification of law.	2 Marks	L2	CO1
4.	What is the purposive approach to statutory interpretation?	2 Marks	L1	CO1
5.	Explain the significance of 'long title' of a statute.	2 Marks	L2	CO2
6.	Define retrospective statute.	2 Marks	L1	CO2
7.	Briefly explain Robert Nozick's theory of minimal state.	2 Marks	L2	CO1
8.	Explain what is the presumption regarding constitutionality of statutes?	2 Marks	L2	CO3
9.	Explain the meaning of 'Rule of Interpretation'	2 Marks	L2	CO3
10.	Provide the difference between 'interpretation' and construction' of statute.	2 Marks	L2	CO1

Part B

Answer the Questions.

Total Marks 80M

11.	a.	Critically assess Bentham's utilitarian approach in the context of statutory codification and interpretation. How might a utilitarian judge balance the greatest happiness principle against strict adherence to codified text in a case involving conflicting interests? Discuss.	10 Marks	L2	C01
Or					
12.	a.	Dworkin argued that legal rules should be interpreted as consistent with the moral principles that define a political community, not necessarily the intentions behind rules. By contrast, traditional methods of interpretation would interpret texts in line with authorial intent. Critically analyze.	10 Marks	L2	C01
13.	a.	The General Clauses Act provides standard definitions and rules for interpreting statutes. How does this Act facilitate judicial consistency when interpreting laws? Discuss the significance of the Act and illustrate with examples.	10 Marks	L2	C02
Or					
14.	a.	Discuss the importance of statutory interpretation in the judicial process and its role in ensuring justice and the proper application of laws. How does the interpretation of statutes uphold the principle of separation of powers among the legislature, executive, and judiciary? Illustrate with the help of case laws.	10 Marks	L2	C02
15.	a.	Explain the concept of external aids in statutory interpretation and discuss why courts resort to these aids when internal aids fail to clarify legislative intent. How do external aids enhance the accuracy and fairness of judicial interpretation? Elaborate.	10 Marks	L2	C04
Or					
16.	a.	Discuss in detail the significance of these internal aids in the process of interpretation. How do these aids assist judges in construing unclear or conflicting provisions without resorting to external materials? Additionally, critically evaluate the limitations of internal aids and situations where they might prove insufficient, necessitating the use of external aids.	10 Marks	L2	C04
17.	a.	Explain the significance and utility of the following general rules of interpretation and discuss its significance as an aid to statutory interpretation with the help of case laws: i. Noscitur a sociis ii. Ejusdem generis	15 Marks	L2	C02

Or					
18.	a.	With the aid of case laws, explain Mischief Rule of interpretation and its focus on identifying the “mischief” or defect the statute was intended to remedy. Analyze how this rule enables courts to interpret statutes purposively, especially when the language is ambiguous or outdated.	15 Marks	L2	CO2

19.	a.	A regulation bans “vehicles on footpaths,” but a delivery worker is fined for using an e-scooter to deliver medical supplies during an emergency requirement. Critically examine how the literal, golden, and mischief rules might be applied to this scenario. Which rule would provide the most reasonable outcome, and why? Discuss the implications of each interpretive approach in the context of public purpose and justice.	15 Marks	L4	CO3
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Or					
20.	a.	Critically analyze the application of the following general rules of interpretation with the help of case laws: i. Ut res magis valeat quam pereat ii. Expressio unius est exclusion alterius	15 Marks	L2	CO3

21.	a.	Explain the Literal Rule of interpretation and its emphasis on the plain, ordinary meaning of statutory words with the help of case laws. Further, analyze a hypothetical statute that prohibits "burning garbage in public spaces." A person burns garbage in their backyard, which is privately owned but visible to the public. How would a court apply the Literal Rule here? Discuss the potential injustice if the court strictly adheres to the literal meaning of "public spaces."	20 Marks	L4	CO3
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Or					
22.	a.	With the help of relevant case laws, Discuss the Golden Rule as a modification of the Literal Rule that permits courts to depart from the literal meaning of statutory words to avoid absurdity, injustice, or hardship. Explain the scope and limits of this rule, emphasizing that the modification should only extend as far as necessary to prevent such outcomes.	20 Marks	L4	CO3