| Roll No. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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# PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

## BENGALURU

**End - Term Examinations – December 2025**

**Date:** 12 – 12- 2025 **Time:** 09:30am – 12:30pm

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| **School:** SOL | **Program:** BA/BBA/BCom LLB (Hons.) | |
| **Course Code :** LAW3025 | **Course Name:** Law and Forensic Science | |
| **Semester**: IX | **Max Marks**: 100 | **Weightage**: 50% |

| **CO - Levels** | **CO1** | **CO2** | **CO3** | **CO4** | **CO5** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Marks** | **14** | **12** | **41** | **33** | **-** |

**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**

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| **1.** | Define forensic science and state its importance in the criminal justice system. | **2 Marks** | **L1** | **CO1** |
| **2.** | Briefly explain the doctrine of corpus delicti and its legal relevance. | **2 Marks** | **L2** | **CO1** |
| **3.** | Distinguish between an expert witness and an ordinary witness. | **2 Marks** | **L2** | **CO2** |
| **4.** | Describe the essential components of a crime scene investigation. | **2 Marks** | **L2** | **CO3** |
| **5.** | Mention two key provisions related to expert testimony under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023. | **2 Marks** | **L1** | **CO4** |
| **6.** | Discuss the significance of the frye test (1923) in determining expert evidence admissibility. | **2 Marks** | **L2** | **CO3** |
| **7.** | State two duties of the first responding officer at a crime scene. | **2 Marks** | **L2** | **CO4** |
| **8.** | Explain the role of forensic anthropology in criminal investigations. | **2 Marks** | **L3** | **CO3** |
| **9.** | Define the term “chain of custody” and explain why it is crucial in forensic examination. | **2 Marks** | **L1** | **CO4** |
| **10.** | Identify two major forensic institutions functioning at the national level in India. | **2 Marks** | **L1** | **CO4** |

## Part B

**Answer the Questions.** **Total Marks 80M**

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| **11.** | **a.** | Discuss the relationship between law and science in the administration of justice. How do scientific methods assist the judiciary in arriving at accurate conclusions? | **5*2 Marks** | **L3** | **CO1** |
| | | **Or** | | | |
| **12.** | **a.** | Explain the evolution and objectives of forensic science in India. How has the development of forensic institutions contributed to improving the criminal justice system? | **5*2 Marks** | **L3** | **CO1** |

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| **13.** | **a.** | "Expert testimony is a tool to assist the court, not to replace the reasoning of the judge." Critically analyse this statement in the context of the admissibility and weight of expert evidence under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023. Support your answer with judicial decisions. | **5*2 Marks** | **L4** | **CO2** |
| | | **Or** | | | |
| **14.** | **a.** | "Scientific evidence is reliable only when the expert applying it is competent and unbiased." Evaluate this statement and discuss the qualifications, duties, and ethical responsibilities of an expert witness during trial proceedings. | **10 Marks** | **L4** | **CO2** |

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| **15.** | **a.** | "The credibility of forensic science in India depends more on institutional independence than on scientific advancement." Evaluate this statement in the light of existing forensic infrastructure, accreditation of laboratories, and judicial reliance on expert reports. | **5 Marks** | **L4** | **CO4** |
| | **b.** | Suggest reforms to ensure transparency and autonomy in forensic institutions. | **5 Marks** | **L3** | **CO4** |
| | | **Or** | | | |
| **16.** | **a.** | "Technology can assist justice but cannot substitute human integrity."<br><br>Analyse this statement in the context of forensic technologies such as DNA profiling, digital forensics, and ballistic analysis. | **5 Marks** | **L4** | **CO4** |
| | **b.** | Discuss how courts ensure that technological evidence is used ethically and responsibly. | **5 Marks** | **L3** | **CO4** |

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| **17.** | **a.** | In a hit-and-run case, investigators collected paint chips and tire marks from the scene. The accused denied ownership of the vehicle alleged to have caused the accident. The forensic laboratory report matched the samples to the accused's car. | **8 Marks** | **L4** | **CO3** |

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| | | However, the defence claimed the samples were mixed up during transfer. Discuss the importance of maintaining the chain of custody in forensic investigations. | | | |
| | **b.** | Explain how lapses in evidence handling affect the admissibility and probative value of forensic evidence in court. | **7 Marks** | **L5** | **CO3** |
| | | **Or** | | | |
| **18.** | **a.** | A decomposed body was recovered from a riverbank. The police requested a DNA test to confirm the identity of the deceased. The defence objected, arguing that the DNA samples were collected without consent and that such evidence violated the right to privacy. Analyse the legality and admissibility of DNA evidence in India. | **8 Marks** | **L4** | **CO3** |
| | **b.** | Discuss the judicial approach to balancing the right to privacy with the need for scientific investigation, referring to Selvi v. State of Karnataka and Kathi Kalu Oghad v. State of Bombay. | **7 Marks** | **L5** | **CO3** |

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| **19.** | **a.** | In a case of suspected arson, the forensic team collected chemical residues from the site indicating the presence of petrol. The accused claimed the fire was accidental and challenged the qualifications of the chemical analyst who gave expert testimony. Evaluate the legal standards governing the qualification and credibility of expert witnesses under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023. Support your answer with relevant case law. | **15 Marks** | **L3** | **CO4** |
| | | **Or** | | | |
| **20.** | **a.** | A skeleton was recovered from a construction site. Forensic experts examined bones and concluded that the remains belonged to a middle-aged male who had died approximately five years ago. The defence argued that such conclusions were speculative and unreliable. Discuss the role of forensic anthropology and osteology in criminal identification. | **15 Marks** | **L3** | **CO4** |

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| **21.** | **a.** | In the case of State v. Raman Sharma, the accused was charged with murder. a blood-stained knife, a shirt, and a piece of cloth were seized from the scene and sent to the forensic science laboratory for examination. however, the defence argued that the knife was not properly sealed and that the forensic expert received the articles after ten days, during which no proper record of custody was maintained. the prosecution relied heavily on the serological report to establish guilt. Support your answers with relevant relevant laws.<br><br>Analyse the importance of maintaining a proper chain of custody in forensic investigations. Discuss relevant statutory provisions | **10 Marks** | **L5** | **CO3** |

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| | | under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 and judicial precedent. | | | |
| | **b.** | Critically evaluate how courts strike a balance between procedural irregularities and substantive justice in such cases. | **10 Marks** | **L4** | **CO3** |
| | | **Or** | | | |
| **22.** | **a.** | A robbery-cum-homicide occurred in a residential colony. the investigating officer arrived late and failed to secure the crime scene. several bystanders entered the area, contaminating fingerprints and footprints. No photographs were taken before the recovery of objects. the defence later claimed that the evidence was fabricated and the chain of custody broken. During trial, the forensic expert's testimony was challenged for relying on contaminated evidence. Analyse how improper scene management and lack of documentation affect the credibility of forensic findings and judicial outcomes. Support your answer with the help of relevant case laws. | **10 Marks** | **L5** | **CO3** |
| | **b.** | Also, discuss the duties of the first responding officer and the investigating team in preserving and documenting the crime scene. | **10 Marks** | **L4** | **CO3** |