Roll No.												

PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

BENGALURU

End - Term Examinations – December 2025

Date: 27- 12- 2025 **Time:** 09:30am – 12:30pm

School: SOL-PG	**Program:** LL M	
Course Code :PGL1101	**Course Name:** Research Methodology	
Semester: I	**Max Marks**: 100	**Weightage**: 50%

CO – Levels	CO1	CO2	CO3	CO4	CO5
Marks	22	26	17	21	14

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.	What is policy-oriented legal research?	**2 Marks**	**L-1**	**CO1**
2.	List two examples of secondary sources that help in statutory interpretation.	**2 Marks**	**L-1**	**CO2**
3.	What is an operational definition in legal research?	**2 Marks**	**L-2**	**CO2**
4.	Give two database search operators and their use.	**2 Marks**	**L-1**	**CO2**
5.	What is the function of a research ethics committee?	**2 Marks**	**L-1**	**CO4**
6.	Define plagiarism and one academic tool to detect it.	**2 Marks**	**L-2**	**CO3**
7.	What is triangulation in mixed-methods research?	**2 Marks**	**L-2**	**CO4**
8.	Name one statistical test useful for comparing two means with illustrations?	**2 Marks**	**L-1**	**CO4**
9.	What is the primary objective of a literature gap analysis?	**2 Marks**	**L-1**	**CO5**
10.	State one advantage of comparative legal research.	**2 Marks**	**L-1**	**CO5**

Part B

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

11.	**a.**	Formulate a precise research hypothesis and null hypothesis for a quantitative study on the effect of plea bargaining on case disposal time.	**5 Marks**	**L-4**	**CO4**
	b.	Describe briefly how you would test the hypothesis.	**5 Marks**	**L-2**	**CO4**
		Or			
12.	**a.**	Critically evaluate the use of online government portals in legal research, gazettes, legislative trackers.	**5 Marks**	**L-5**	**CO4**
	b.	What are common pitfalls and how can a researcher ensure authenticity of documents?	**5 Marks**	**L-4**	**CO4**

13.	**a.**	Illustrate a case law synthesis on landmark constitutional judgments over 50 years.	**5 Marks**	**L-3**	**CO3**
	b.	Explain a reproducible method for case selection, coding themes, and presenting findings.	**5 Marks**	**L-4**	**CO3**
		Or			
14.	**a.**	Discuss the role of bibliometric and citation analysis in legal scholarship evaluation.	**5 Marks**	**L-4**	**CO3**
	b.	How would you apply it to assess impact of a legal journal?	**5 Marks**	**L-5**	**CO3**

15.	**a.**	A student plans in-depth interviews with litigants for an empirical paper advice him/her regarding the steps to be followed.	**5 Marks**	**L-4**	**CO5**
	b.	Draft (i) an interview protocol containing introduction and 4 core questions), (ii) consent form key elements, and (iii) a coding scheme for thematic analysis.	**5 Marks**	**L-5**	**CO5**
		Or			
16.	**a.**	Explain basic statistical concepts of mean, median, standard deviation, with example.	**5 Marks**	**L-5**	**CO5**
	b.	Demonstrate with a small dataset of five case durations (in months): 3, 5, 6, 6, 10.	**5 Marks**	**L-4**	**CO5**

17.	**a.**	Draft a detailed research sketch outline in 600 words for an LLM thesis that uses comparative legal research to study privacy laws in India and the EU.	**7 Marks**	**L-5**	**CO1**
	b.	With reference to the above Include selection criteria, sources, and limitations.	**8 Marks**	**L-3**	**CO1**
Or					
18.	**a.**	Critically examine issues of reliability and validity in empirical legal research.	**7 Marks**	**L-5**	**CO1**
	b.	How do a researcher strengthen them with concrete measures? Analyse with examples from surveys or experiments.	**8 Marks**	**L-4**	**CO1**

19.	**a.**	Identify five ethical dilemmas unique to legal fieldwork based on confidentiality with victims' rights.	**7 Marks**	**L-5**	**CO2**
	b.	Propose institutional policy recommendations for postgraduate programmes	**8 Marks**	**L-3**	**CO2**
Or					
20.	**a.**	Prepare a sample thesis defence (viva) checklist for examiners.	**7 Marks**	**L-6**	**CO2**
	b.	Mention 10 key criteria to assess methodology robustness and originality.	**8 Marks**	**L-5**	**CO2**

21.	**a.**	A researcher publishes findings based on an algorithmic analysis of court judgments. Later it is found that the coding algorithm misclassified many judgments, advise corrective measures to the researcher.	**10 Marks**	**L-6**	**CO1**
	b.	As an independent reviewer, draft (i) the technical audit steps, (ii) corrective reporting to readers/journal, and (iii) recommendations for transparency (code sharing, reproducible scripts).	**10 Marks**	**L-5**	**CO2**
Or					
22.	**a.**	A student uses survey vendor to collect responses and discovers many bot-generated entries. As supervisor, outline steps to identify bots, clean data, necessary for the cleaning process.	**10 Marks**	**L-4**	**CO3**
	b.	Ethically report the limitations in the thesis.	**10 Marks**	**L-6**	**CO4**