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PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

Presidency University Act, 2013 of the Karnataka Act No. 41 of 2013 | Established under Section 2(f) of UGC Act, 1956
Approved by AICTE, New Delhi | Approved By BCI
Bengaluru

Even Semester Mid Term, March 2026

Date: 11/03/2026

Time: 09:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Course Code: PGL3023

Course Name: Criminal Policy and Sentencing Reform

Semester: Second Semester

Max. Marks: 50

Weightage: 50%

CO - Levels	CO1	CO2
Marks	10	80

PART-A: Answer Following Questions. 10 M

Qn.No	Questions	M	CO	BT
1	Briefly state the principle of proportionality in sentencing.	2	CO1	BT1
2	What is meant by sentencing equity?	2	CO1	BT1
3	Define individualization of sentencing.	2	CO1	BT1
4	What is the importance of rehabilitation in criminal policy?	2	CO1	BT1
5	What is the importance of rehabilitation in criminal policy?	2	CO1	BT1

PART-B: Answer Any 1 Following Questions. 10 M

Qn.No	Questions	M	CO	BT
6	A trial court awards 10 years' imprisonment for a first-time offender convicted of minor financial fraud involving a small monetary loss. Analyse whether the sentence violates the principle of proportionality and the role of judicial discretion in correcting excessive punishment.	10	CO2	BT3
7	Two accused persons commit the same offence of assault. One is a 19-year-old first offender, and the other is a habitual offender with prior convictions. Discuss the principle of individualization guide sentencing in this case with the help of case laws.	10	CO2	BT2

PART-C: Answer Any 1 Following Questions. 10 M

Qn.No	Questions	M	CO	BT
8	<p>A statute prescribes a fixed minimum sentence of 15 years without scope for mitigation, even in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Critically examine whether mandatory sentencing structures undermine proportionality and judicial independence.</p>	10	CO2	BT3
9	<p>A government, responding to public outrage over rising street crimes, amends the penal law to introduce mandatory life imprisonment for repeated theft offences. The law removes judicial discretion and applies uniformly regardless of the value of property stolen.</p> <p>Critically examine the constitutional validity of this reform in light of proportionality, deterrence, and individualization.</p>	10	CO2	BT3

PART-D: Answer Any 1 Following Questions. 10 M

Qn.No	Questions	M	CO	BT
10	<p>A statute criminalizes non-compliance with minor environmental reporting requirements and prescribes imprisonment up to five years. Civil penalties were previously available for such violations.</p> <p>Analyse whether this legislative shift aligns with principles of minimal criminalization and modern criminal policy.</p>	10	CO2	BT3
11	<p>Consider that in a case of aggravated assault, the court permits a restorative justice conference where the offender apologizes and agrees to compensation. The victim consents, and imprisonment is reduced significantly.</p> <p>Critically evaluate whether restorative justice can coexist with deterrence and retributive principles in serious crimes</p>	10	CO2	BT3

PART-E: Answer Any 1 Following Questions. 10 M

Qn.No	Questions	M	CO	BT
12	<p>Imagine that two different High Courts award drastically different sentences for identical corruption offences under the same statute. One imposes rigorous imprisonment for 7 years, while the other awards only a fine and probation, without detailed reasoning.</p> <p>Critically analyse the issue in light of sentencing equity,</p>	10	CO2	BT3

proportionality, and structured sentencing principles.

13

Imagine that in response to increasing organized crime, the government introduces a preventive detention law allowing detention without trial for extended periods based on suspicion of future criminal activity.

Examine the validity of this policy in light of deterrence theory, constitutional governance, and human rights jurisprudence.

10

CO2

BT3