



## Even Semester End Term Examinations, May / June 2026

**Date: 18/05/2026**

**Time: 09.30 AM - 12.30 PM**

**Course Code: PGL3023**

**Course Name: Criminal Policy and Sentencing Reform**

**Semester: Second Semester**

**Max. Marks: 100**

**Weightage: 50%**

| CO - Levels  | CO1       | CO2       | CO3       | CO4       | CO5       |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Marks</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>36</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>54</b> | <b>44</b> |

### PART A: Answer Following Questions. 20 M

| Qn.No | Questions                                                                                            | M | CO  | BT  |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----|-----|
| 1     | What is "retributive justice"? How does it justify punishment?                                       | 2 | CO1 | BT1 |
| 2     | Define "equity" in sentencing. Why is it considered a fundamental principle?                         | 2 | CO2 | BT1 |
| 3     | What is a "diversion program"? Name one category of offenders it is typically designed for.          | 2 | CO3 | BT1 |
| 4     | What is the "three-strikes law"? State one criticism of this approach.                               | 2 | CO4 | BT2 |
| 5     | What is the difference between "parole" and "probation" in the context of sentencing?                | 2 | CO3 | BT1 |
| 6     | What is meant by "individualization of punishment"? Give one example of how it operates in practice. | 2 | CO2 | BT1 |
| 7     | What is "criminal justice reform"? Name two key drivers that make reform necessary.                  | 2 | CO4 | BT1 |
| 8     | What are "sentencing commissions"? What is their role in maintaining consistency in sentencing?      | 2 | CO2 | BT1 |
| 9     | How does the concept of "digital surveillance" affect the future of criminal policy?                 | 2 | CO5 | BT2 |
| 10    | What is the "penal populism" phenomenon? How does it influence sentencing policy?                    | 2 | CO5 | BT2 |

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

| Qn.No | Questions | M | CO | BT |
|-------|-----------|---|----|----|
|-------|-----------|---|----|----|

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|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----|-----|
| 11 | Examine the role of theoretical frameworks, particularly deterrence, rehabilitation, and restorative justice, in shaping the objectives and practice of criminal policy across different jurisdictions.                                | 10 | CO1 | BT4 |
| 12 | Analyze the historical shift in criminal policy from purely punitive approaches to rehabilitation-centered models, and evaluate whether modern criminal justice systems have achieved the right balance between punishment and reform. | 10 | CO1 | BT5 |

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

| Qn.No | Questions                                                                                                                                                                                              | M  | CO  | BT  |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----|-----|
| 13    | Examine the comparative sentencing frameworks adopted in India and the United Kingdom, and evaluate how each system balances judicial discretion with consistency and fairness in sentencing outcomes. | 10 | CO3 | BT5 |
| 14    | Analyze the concept of sentencing disparity and examine how race, gender, and socio-economic status have been shown to influence sentencing decisions in various jurisdictions.                        | 10 | CO3 | BT4 |

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

| Qn.No | Questions                                                                                                                                                                                                   | M  | CO  | BT  |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----|-----|
| 15    | Critically examine the need for sentencing reform in India with specific reference to over-criminalization, under-trial prisoners, and prison overcrowding, and suggest key reform measures.                | 10 | CO4 | BT5 |
| 16    | Examine the role of legislators, the judiciary, advocacy groups, and the public in driving sentencing reform and evaluate which stakeholder has the most significant impact on achieving meaningful change. | 10 | CO4 | BT5 |

**PART E: Answer Any 1 Following Questions. 15 M**

| Qn.No | Questions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | M  | CO  | BT  |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----|-----|
| 17    | <p>Rajan is a 45-year-old farmer convicted for the third time of possessing a small quantity of marijuana for personal use. Under the applicable "three-strikes" law, he is automatically sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, as this is his third conviction for a drug offence.</p> <p>Examine whether the "three-strikes" sentencing law violates the principles of proportionality and individualization, and evaluate the constitutional and human rights concerns raised by mandatory life sentences for non-violent drug offences.</p> | 15 | CO4 | BT5 |
| 18    | A state in India is running an overcrowded prison system. An NGO proposes the introduction of community-based rehabilitation centers where non-violent offenders serve their sentences while undergoing vocational training and counseling. The government is                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 15 | CO4 | BT5 |

hesitant, citing public safety concerns and political opposition.

Examine the case for replacing short-term custodial sentences with community rehabilitation programs and evaluate the political, social, and legal challenges that prevent such reform from being implemented.

**PART F: Answer Any 1 Following Questions. 15 M**

| Qn.No | Questions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | M  | CO  | BT  |
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| 19    | <p>A global report reveals that countries with rehabilitative prison systems — focusing on education, therapy, and skill-building have recidivism rates as low as 20%, while countries relying on purely punitive imprisonment systems report recidivism rates exceeding 65%. India's current recidivism rate stands at approximately 50%.</p> <p>Evaluate what this comparative data reveals about the relationship between correctional policy and recidivism, and examine what structural changes India must make to its correctional system to achieve better rehabilitation outcomes.</p>                                               | 15 | CO2 | BT5 |
| 20    | <p>A country enacts a comprehensive sentencing reform law that (i) abolishes mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent offences, (ii) requires judges to consider rehabilitation potential before imposing custodial sentences, and (iii) establishes a Sentencing Review Commission to monitor and correct inconsistencies. Five years after implementation, crime rates remain unchanged but reoffending rates drop by 30% and prison population reduces by 25%.</p> <p>Examine what the outcomes of this reform law reveal about the objectives of sentencing and evaluate whether the results justify the reform approach adopted.</p> | 15 | CO2 | BT5 |

**PART G: Answer Any 1 Following Questions. 20 M**

| Qn.No | Questions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | M  | CO  | BT  |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----|-----|
| 21    | <p>Two neighbouring countries share similar crime rates and demographics. Country A uses a purely punitive sentencing system, long imprisonment, no parole, no rehabilitation programs. Country B uses a rehabilitative system shorter sentences, mandatory education programs, vocational training, and structured reintegration support. After ten years, Country A reports a recidivism rate of 70% and a prison population that has tripled. Country B reports a recidivism rate of 22% and a prison population that has decreased by 30%.</p> <p>Evaluate what this comparative analysis reveals about the relationship between sentencing philosophy and criminal justice outcomes, and examine the lessons that criminal policy makers in India should draw from this data to reform the Indian sentencing system.</p> | 20 | CO5 | BT5 |

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|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----|-----|
| 22 | <p>The government of a country is considering enacting a comprehensive Criminal Policy Reform Act. Three major proposals are on the table: (i) introduction of restorative justice mechanisms for all non-violent offences, (ii) abolition of custodial sentences below one year and their replacement with community sentences, and (iii) establishment of an independent Sentencing Commission with data-driven sentencing guidelines. Human rights groups support all three proposals; law enforcement agencies oppose all three.</p> <p>Critically examine each of the three proposed reforms, assess the arguments of both supporters and opponents, and evaluate which combination of reforms would most effectively advance the objectives of contemporary criminal policy.</p> | 20 | CO5 | BT5 |
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