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**UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING**  
**BACHELOR OF LAWS EXAMINATION – 2021**

**YEAR 1**

**ENGLISH - LEVEL IV**

**Duration: 3 Hours**

**Answer all questions**

**(This paper is to be administered on-site and via Moodle)**

**Important Instructions to Candidates (On-Site)**

- This question paper has 5 questions on 11 pages
- Enter your Index Number on the cover page and on each subsequent page.
- If a page or part of this question paper is not printed, please inform your supervisor immediately.
- Write the answers to the questions in the space provided in the question paper.

<b>Question Number</b>	<b>Marks</b>
<b>1 (5 marks)</b>	
<b>2 (10 marks)</b>	
<b>3 (5 marks)</b>	
<b>4 (25 marks)</b>	
<b>5 (25 marks)</b>	
<b>Total (70 marks)</b>	

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**PART A – GRAMMAR & VOCABULARY**

**Question 1**

**(1/2 x 10 = 5 marks)**

**Nadiya is a student of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo. She speaks of her experience at the university. Change the first-person singular subject (I) of the passage to the third-person singular subject (she) and rewrite the passage in the space provided.**

**Important: Verbs and pronouns should be changed to match the new subject. Do not change the tenses of the passage.**

I am a student of the Faculty of Law. I have been studying online for the past year. With the pandemic, it has been the safest option so far, but I do miss the company of my friends. Of course, I meet them via Zoom, but it is incomparable to meeting in person. I am already a part of several clubs and societies too, and they help me take a break from academic activities. Till the universities reopen, I am determined to do my best with the resources I have.

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**Question 2**

**(1x10 =10 marks)**

**Complete the following sentences with a suitable relative pronoun and a relative clause to make meaningful sentences. Give your answer in the space provided.**

*E.g.: The new entrants who sat the English placement test were divided into levels corresponding to their language proficiency.*

1. I always visit the library \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The election \_\_\_\_\_ was rumoured to have been rigged.
3. The university \_\_\_\_\_ is situated in the heart of Colombo.
4. During the pandemic, my friends \_\_\_\_\_ supported the needy.
5. Every fortnight, my parents \_\_\_\_\_ send me a parcel full of my favourite snacks and sweets.
6. Some politicians \_\_\_\_\_ genuinely serve the country.
7. What is the name of the course \_\_\_\_\_?
8. The Minister's conduct \_\_\_\_\_ was heavily criticized by the public.
9. Although being a university student is not easy, my friends \_\_\_\_\_, make life quite enjoyable.
10. The Prime Minister \_\_\_\_\_ resigned.

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**Question 3**

**(1/2x10 = 5 marks)**

**Use suitable conjunctions and complete the sentences.**

**Marks will be deducted for errors in spelling and capitalization.**

**E.g.: As I have visited the faculty only once, I am not aware of the locations of many of its departments.**

1. The government urges the public to follow the health and safety guidelines \_\_\_\_\_ it helps the authorities control the pandemic.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the bad weather, the organizers decided to continue the cricket match. The fans were thrilled about their decision.
3. You must not take too many days off \_\_\_\_\_ you are a new recruit in the office. It will create a bad impression of you.
4. When I go on trips, I usually carry an extra pair of slippers \_\_\_\_\_ my shoes get wet.
5. People are very deceitful. You should never trust anyone \_\_\_\_\_ you know them closely.
6. I don't mind travelling to Galle every day with you \_\_\_\_\_ we take the highway. The train takes too long!
7. \_\_\_\_\_ my grades were not that impressive last semester, I have decided to study with a plan this time. I hope it will help me improve my grades.
8. People behave \_\_\_\_\_ the government should cater to all their needs. But people can make their lives better if they try hard enough.
9. Students can study from home \_\_\_\_\_ the lectures are conducted online. This saves them both time and money.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ I graduated, I had already started my own business. I am proud of my achievement.

**PART B – READING COMPREHENSION**

**Question 4**

**Read the following texts and answer the questions that follow.**

**Text 1**

**(10 marks)**

What is the Law?

A. Most of us don't spend much time thinking about what "the law" means. The law doesn't enter our daily lives in a recognizable way, and only becomes visible to us when we get a traffic ticket, are denied a government service, buy or sell a house, or dispute a bill. In the real world, the law is an amorphous set of rules that govern individual and group behavior. We don't even know about many of these rules, or we understand them only generally. For example, you don't need to see a written law to know that it's a crime to steal or destroy someone else's property. But the rules have force because if we break them, we can be held responsible by our legal system.

1. State 2 instances mentioned in the passage where the existence of 'the law' becomes obvious to us. (2 marks)

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2. What is the importance of having rules in the form of laws, according to the passage? (2 marks)

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B. That being said, even if we understand what "the law" is, it doesn't mean it always functions in a predictable way (although that's the goal). After all, prosecutors choose whether to bring charges against defendants, so committing a crime doesn't

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necessarily lead to prosecution. And while we might be entitled to a government service—a Social Security payment, for example—that doesn't help much when the Social Security Administration denies a claim. The reality is, laws are applied by real people in the real world, so things don't always play out as perfectly as we might want or expect.

3. Why does the author say that laws do not always function in a predictable way? (2 marks)

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4. Give an example from the passage of an instance when laws do not have the desired effect. (1 mark)

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- C. This explanation also applies to other parts of the legal profession, such as the availability and interpretation of evidence used to prove a case in court. Different people have different understandings not only of factual events—for example, whether you or the other driver ran a stop sign—but different understandings about what the law means. It's because of these different interpretations that people often end up in court.

Simply put, successful litigation starts with solid preparation—and the first step is finding the law that applies to your case.

[The paragraphs of text 1 are adapted from: Elias, S., & Levinkind, S. (2018). *Legal Research How to Find & Understand the Law* (18<sup>th</sup> ed.). Nolo.]

5. According to the passage, interpretation plays a major role in the process of the enforcement of laws. Do you think that this can unfairly affect a plaintiff at any point? Justify your answer using 2-3 sentences. (3 marks)

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**Text 2**

**(10 marks)**

Theories of justice

A. Justice in the most general sense refers to people getting what is fair or what is their due. At the heart of every **plausible** notion of justice is the principle that equals should be treated equally— that people should be treated the same unless there is a morally relevant reason for treating them differently. When we ask what justice demands in society’s allocation of health care, for example, we are dealing with matters of **distributive justice**— justice regarding the fair distribution of society’s advantages and disadvantages, or benefits and burdens, including income, property, employment, rights, taxes, and public service.

1. What is justice, as defined in the passage? (1 mark)

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2. What is the core value that defines the idea of justice? (1 mark)

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3. In your own words, explain the term ‘distributive justice’. Elaborate your answer with an example from the passage. (3 marks)

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4. Build a sentence of your own to bring out the contextual meaning of the word 'plausible' (2 marks)

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B. Debates about ethical allocations of health care resources rely heavily on general theories of justice. To justify a particular scheme of allocation, philosophers, politicians, and others may appeal to a theory of justice, and those who criticize the scheme may do so by arguing against that underlying theory of justice or by offering an **alternative** theory they believe to be superior. Three types of theories have had— and continue to have— an enormous impact on the discussions: libertarian, utilitarian, and egalitarian.

[The paragraphs of text 1 are adapted from Vaughn, L. (2010). *Bioethics: Principles, issues, and cases* (Vol. 58). New York: Oxford University Press.]

5. According to the passage, what forms the basis of the debates on the ethical allocations of health care resources? (1 mark)

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6. Build a sentence of your own to bring out the contextual meaning of the word 'alternative' (2 marks)

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**Text 3**

**(05 marks)**

On the topic of abortion

Most opposition to abortion relies on the premise that the fetus is a human being, a person, from the moment of conception. The premise is argued for, but, as I think, not well. Take, for example, the most common argument. We are asked to notice that the development of a human being from conception through birth into childhood is continuous; then it is said



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that to draw a line, to choose a point in this development and say “before this point the thing is not a person, after this point it is a person” is to make an arbitrary choice, a choice for which in the nature of things no good reason can be given. It is concluded that the fetus is, or anyway that we had better say it is, a person from the moment of conception. But this conclusion does not follow. Similar things might be said about the development of an acorn into an oak tree, and it does not follow that acorns are oak trees, or that we had better say they are. Arguments of this form are sometimes called “slippery slope arguments”— the phrase is perhaps self-explanatory— and it is dismaying that opponents of abortion rely on them so heavily and uncritically.

[Text adapted from Vaughn, L. (2010). *Bioethics: Principles, issues, and cases* (Vol. 58). New York: Oxford University Press.]

1. What is the most popular argument posited by many who oppose abortions? (2 marks)

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2. What is the comparison used by the author to dispute the argument posited by those who oppose abortions? (3 marks)

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**PART C – WRITING**

**Question 5**

**(25 marks)**

**Write an argumentative essay of 300-350 words on one of the topics given below. You can limit your essay to 5 paragraphs.**

**Marks will be given for content, organisation, grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics (i.e., spelling, punctuation, and capitalisation)**

**Important: This essay should be 100% original writing. You are not required to use any external sources (E.g., websites, books, etc.) for this essay. If content is copied from any such external sources without following accepted referencing guidelines, you will be heavily penalized.**

1. In a multicultural and multi-ethnic society, segregation of children into schools dominated by religious doctrines should not be permitted. Do you agree?
2. The pandemic has exacerbated the inequalities that existed in the Sri Lankan society. Do you agree?
3. Education is a right, not a commodity. What is your stance on this statement?

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*\*\*End of question paper\*\**