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SCHOOL OF LAW
 Barasat, Kolkata- 700125

Term End Examination 2025-2026**Programme – B.A. LL.B.-2022****Course Name – Interpretation of Statutes and Principles of Legislation****Course Code - BALLB805B****(Semester VIII)****Full Marks : 60****Time : 2:30 Hours**

[The figure in the margin indicates full marks. Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.]

Group-A

(Multiple Choice Type Question)

1 x 15=15

1. Choose the correct alternative from the following :

(i) Infer the relationship between sections and sub-sections.

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|--|------------------------------|
| a) Sections override sub-sections | b) They have no relation |
| c) Sub-sections expand or qualify sections | d) They are independent laws |

(ii) Show the principle that is expressed by the maxim 'Expressio Unius Est Exclusio Alterius'.

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|------------------------------------|---|
| a) Equity prevails over law | b) The express mention of one thing excludes others |
| c) Courts may supply omitted words | d) General words override specific words |

(iii) Summarize the restraint that the doctrine of Casus Omissus impose on courts.

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|--|--|
| a) Courts may legislate to fill gaps | b) Courts must rely on equity |
| c) Courts must correct legislative omissions | d) Courts should not supply omissions in a statute |

(iv) Show the means of the working of the principle of Reddendo Singula Singulis in interpretation.

- | | |
|---|--|
| a) By applying legal fiction | b) By referring to legislative debates |
| c) By distributing words to their respective subjects | d) By suppressing mischief |

(v) When literal interpretation defeats the object of the statute, what should a court ordinarily do?

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|---|-------------------------|
| a) Apply literal meaning regardless of consequences | b) Ignore the statute |
| c) Modify the meaning to align with statutory purpose | d) Invoke Casus Omissus |

(vi) How does the Mischief Rule assist in interpreting welfare legislation?

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| a) By applying dictionary meanings | b) By restricting benefits |
| c) By advancing the remedy and suppressing the mischief | d) By ignoring legislative history |

- (vii) Why is the Literal Rule said to promote certainty in law?
- It prioritises equity
 - It expands judicial discretion
 - It allows flexibility
 - It ensures predictability and uniform application
- (viii) Why must Ejusdem Generis be applied cautiously by courts?
- Because it replaces legislative intent
 - Because it always restricts rights
 - Because absence of a clear genus defeats its application
 - Because it overrides literal meaning
- (ix) How can courts avoid judicial overreach while interpreting statutes?
- By rewriting provisions
 - By ignoring separation of powers
 - By balancing interpretation with restraint
 - By expanding statutory meaning
- (x) In what way do rules of interpretation preserve separation of powers?
- By ignoring legislative intent
 - By prioritising equity
 - By confining courts to interpretation and not law-making
 - By enabling judicial legislation
- (xi) What is the effect of repeal on pending investigations under the General Clauses Act?
- They require fresh sanction
 - They continue unless a contrary intention appears
 - They abate automatically
 - They are transferred
- (xii) Why must courts read the General Clauses Act harmoniously with other statutes?
- Because it applies equity
 - Because it overrides all laws
 - Because it is a supplementary interpretative aid
 - Because it creates substantive rights
- (xiii) What is the meaning of a legal presumption in statutory interpretation?
- A conclusive proof
 - A judicial fiction
 - An equitable principle
 - An inference accepted until rebutted
- (xiv) How should conflicting presumptions be resolved by courts?
- Ignore presumptions
 - Balance them in light of statutory purpose
 - Apply literal rule only
 - Apply equity
- (xv) What is the significance of legal maxims in interpretation?
- They apply equity
 - They guide interpretative reasoning
 - They override Constitution
 - They replace statutes

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

- Explain the role of the judiciary as an interpreter of law in bridging the gap between legislative intent and practical application. (3)
- A beneficial legislation is capable of two interpretations, one favouring the employer and the other favouring the employee. Which rule should the court apply, and why? (3)
- Explain the Ejusdem Generis doctrine. (3)
- A statute must be interpreted in a way that gives effect to all its provisions. However, one interpretation renders a section meaningless. Explain the rule of interpretation that the court should apply to resolve this conflict. (3)
- A criminal statute prescribes punishment for "theft of movable property." The prosecution attempts to apply it to theft of electricity. While interpreting the statute, explain the interpretative approach that the court should apply. (3)

OR

Explain the challenges associated with the interchangeable use of "or" and "and" in legislation. (3)

Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Demonstrate the interpretative hierarchy between internal and external aids. (5)
8. Explain how courts ensure statutes remain workable when literal interpretation renders provisions impractical. (5)
9. Explain the judicial approach to interpreting welfare legislation affecting vulnerable groups. (5)
10. Suppose two plausible interpretations of a statutory provision are presented before the court. One advances the legislative objective while the other technically conforms to literal wording. Which interpretative approach should the court adopt? (5)
11. Examine the role of contextual interpretation where literal meaning renders a statutory provision ineffective. (5)
12. A State legislature enacts a law regulating intoxicating liquors. Certain provisions also prescribe procedural rules for trial of offences, overlapping with the Code of Criminal Procedure. As counsel, assess the validity of the law applying the reasoning in *Krishna v. State of Madras* (1956). (5)

OR

A crossword competition is operated from outside a State, but participants and revenue are generated largely within the State. Determine whether sufficient territorial nexus exists to justify State taxation. (5)

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