

What is Law?

Worksheet

Law is a body of enforceable rules, created by legislatures, courts or custom, that governs conduct in a society and is backed by state enforcement - courts, police and penalties.

Questions

1. Which best defines law?

- A) A system of enforceable rules governing behavior in society
- B) Any personal opinion about right and wrong
- C) A voluntary code with no consequences
- D) Only the rules written in a constitution

2. A dispute between two companies over a contract falls under

- A) Private (civil) law
- B) Public law only
- C) International law only
- D) No legal category

3. Which of these is a formal source of law?

- A) Legislation passed by a parliament
- B) A personal diary entry
- C) An unverified rumor
- D) An unenforced local habit

4. The 'rule of law' means

- A) Everyone, including the government, is bound by the law
- B) Only ordinary citizens must follow the law
- C) Officials can ignore laws when convenient
- D) Law only applies to criminal conduct

5. A driver runs a red light and is fined by the police. What type of law applies?

6. A supplier fails to deliver goods ordered under a signed agreement. What type of law applies?

7. A parliament passes a new law requiring seatbelts. What source of law is this?

8. Define: What is law?

9. Define: What are the two broad types of law?

10. Define: What are the main sources of law?

Answer Key

1. A) A system of enforceable rules governing behavior in society - Law is distinguished from mere morality by being formally enforceable by the state.
2. A) Private (civil) law - Disputes between private parties over agreements are civil/private law matters.
3. A) Legislation passed by a parliament - Statutes and legislation are a primary formal source of law, alongside case law and custom.
4. A) Everyone, including the government, is bound by the law - Rule of law requires that government power itself is limited and accountable under law.
5. The state, not another individual, is enforcing a rule against unsafe conduct. This is a public/criminal law matter - the case is framed as 'The State v. the driver.' The outcome is a penalty (fine or license points) imposed by a court or agency.
6. Two private parties have a dispute arising from their agreement. This falls under private/civil law - specifically contract law. The buyer can sue for damages or performance; there is no criminal punishment involved.
7. The rule is created by an elected legislative body. This is statutory law (legislation), one of the main sources of law alongside case law (precedent) and custom. Once in force, it binds everyone within the jurisdiction.
8. A system of enforceable rules created by government, courts or custom to regulate behavior and resolve disputes.
9. Public law (state vs individual, e.g. criminal, constitutional) and private law (individual vs individual, e.g. contract, property).
10. Legislation (statutes), case law (precedent from court decisions), and custom or constitutional principles.

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