

2025

LAW

**Interpretation of Statutes and Principles of
Legislation (Honours Paper-III)**

Paper - 505

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 Hours

*The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.**Candidates are required to give answers in their own words as far as practicable.*

Answer **Q. No. 1** and any **five** from the rest.

1. Answer any **ten** questions: 2×10=20

- a) What do you mean by Interpretation of Statute?
- b) State the object of Interpretation.
- c) Point out the difference between Interpretation of Statutes and Construction of Statutes.
- d) What is Harmonious Construction?
- e) What do you mean by Noscitur-a-sociis?
- f) What are the Internal aids to Construction?
- g) What is Generalia Specialibus non-derogant?
- h) What do you mean by subordinate legislation?
- i) State the meaning of Stare decisis.

[Turn over]

- j) What do you mean by the Doctrine of Colourable Legislation?
 - k) What do you mean by remedial statute?
 - l) What do you mean by Finality clause?
2. "The Golden Rule is that the words of a statute must prima facie be given their ordinary meaning unless that would lead to absurdity in which case the ordinary meaning may be modified to avoid that absurdity." - Explain and illustrate the above rule of interpretation. How far is this rule different from Literal Rule of Interpretation? 7+5=12
 3. Statutes must be read as a whole - Explain. 12
 4. State the components of the rule in Heydon's case. Discuss at least two cases decided by the Supreme Court of India wherein this rule has been applied to arrive at the legislative intent. 8+4=12
 5. Explain the rules of Interpretation of the Constitution. 12
 6. Bring out the distinction between Penal and Remedial Statutes and the rules of Interpretation for them. Discuss the present trend in Interpretation of Penal Statutes. 7+5=12
 7. Discuss the 'doctrine of pith and substance' and 'doctrine of colourable legislation' with the help of suitable case laws. 6+6=12

8. Discuss the salient features of the General Clauses Act, 1897. 12

9. Write short notes on any **two** of the following; 6×2=12

- a) Doctrine of harmonious construction
 - b) Ejurdem Generis
 - c) Bentham's Theory of Utilitarianism
 - d) External Aids to Construction
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