



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE LAW ASSESSMENT

CONTENT SPECIFICATION

2017

## **CAMBRIDGE LAW ASSESSMENT: SAMPLE ASSESSMENT MATERIALS**

The Cambridge Law Assessment is intended to complement the other elements of our admissions process, such as your interview, your personal statement, and the record of your academic performance to date.

You will have one hour to answer one essay based question from a choice of several. The questions will not require that you have any prior knowledge of the law. We are looking to test your general skills of comprehension and exposition.

### **Sample Assessment One**

#### **Instructions**

The assessment will last for one hour.

Answer **one** of the following questions.

1. It may be argued that fighting crime would be made very much easier if everyone was required to have their DNA registered, so that DNA found at the scene of a crime could always be matched to an individual. Would you support such a change in the law? If not, is it justifiable to register anyone's DNA, and, if so, on what grounds?
2. 'As society becomes more sophisticated, there ceases to be a need for general rules. All justice should be individualised.'

Discuss.

3. In English law companies are considered to have their own legal personality which means that they can make contracts, must pay taxes, can sue and be sued. Do you think companies should be capable of being convicted of crimes? If so, in what circumstances do you think companies should be convicted?

## Sample Assessment Two

### Instructions

The assessment will last for one hour.

Answer **one** of the following questions.

1. Is there ever justification for attacking the values enshrined in foreign legal systems, or for attacking the ideas of right and wrong found in the cultures of other nations?
2. Should a drug dealer ever be punished for the death of someone who overdoses on drugs that he has supplied?
3. Some forms of conduct that would normally constitute a criminal offence will not constitute such an offence if the person affected by the conduct has consented to it.
  - a. Do you agree that this is a sensible position for the law to have adopted?  
**and**
  - b. Should consent on the part of the person affected by the conduct always have the effect of relieving the person who undertook the conduct of criminal liability? In addressing this matter, consider the following situations:
    - i. a boxing match
    - ii. the killing of a terminally-ill person who wishes to be killed

## Sample Assessment Three

### Instructions

The assessment will last for one hour.

Answer **one** of the following questions.

1. In some legal systems, judges are allowed to refuse to enforce laws which they consider to be contrary to fundamental principles such as human rights.
  - a. Do you think that judges should have such power?  
  
**and**
  - b. If you were asked to draft rules setting out the circumstances in which judges should be allowed to refuse to enforce laws, what considerations would you wish to take into account?
2. Do we owe greater moral duties to our family and friends than we owe to all other people in the world? Why, or why not?
3. The law of intellectual property protects people's rights in such things as inventions, trademarks and ideas. Do you think the following should be protected as intellectual property and, if so, what do you think might be the consequences of such protection:
  - a. a perfume
  - b. your name
  - c. information that a famous model has had cosmetic surgery?

## Marking Criteria

When marking the papers of candidates who sit the Cambridge Law Assessment, markers will take into account the following criteria in evaluating candidates' responses:

- identification of and engagement with the issues raised by the question
- whether the candidate has produced a coherent, well-structured and balanced argument
- whether the candidate has explained his or her reasoning in a clear and logical way
- clarity of written expression

Each assessment paper is to be assigned a mark out of 10 in order to allow for ease of comparison of candidates. The mark assigned is to follow the same scale as that which is used when assessing the performance of candidates at interview, which is:

10	Exceptional applicant – must take
9	Very strong – definitely worth an offer
8	Strong – worth an offer
7	Probably worth an offer
6	Possibly worth an offer
5	Doubtful of an offer
4	Weak
1-3	Probably unacceptable