

Module: English Language

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Religious law

(legal system based on religious teachings for their believers)

Almighty Allah said: "We have already sent Our messengers with clear evidences and sent down with them the Scripture and the balance that the people may maintain [their affairs] in justice..."

(Quran 57:25)

Religious law comes from the sacred texts of various religions. They cover most parts of personal and contract law. Most religious law systems are based on Islamic law (**Sharia**).

Religious laws generally are used in countries that also have other legal systems such as civil or common law.

The **Sharia** is an Arabic word meaning the "right path", known in Islam by the term **Religious Law**. It deals with many topics, including crime, politics, marriage contracts, trade regulations, religious instructions, and economics. It also covers personal matters such as hygiene, diet, prayer, everyday etiquette and fasting. Adherence to sharia is an important part of the Muslim faith. In the strictest sense, sharia is considered in Islam as the infallible law of God.

Sharia law comes from a combination of sources including the Qur'an (the Muslim holy book),

the Hadith (sayings and conduct of the prophet Muhammad) and fatwas (the rulings of Islamic scholars).

Categories of the Islamic Law

Quranic chapters and verses have dealt with few things that are allowed or forbidden in clear words. Islamic legislation has developed a system that divided all human actions in five categories. These acts are there to guide our lives and set boundaries so that we may have healthy spiritual lives, these are:

1. **Wājib**: means obligatory, necessary. An act which must be performed. One will be punished for neglecting a wajib act, e.g., the daily prayers.
2. **Mustahab**, also known as sunnat, means recommended, desirable, better. It refers to the acts which are recommended but not wajib. If one neglects them, he will not be punished; however, if one performs them, he will be rewarded. Ex: Fasting additional days.
3. **Jā'iz** means permitted, allowed, lawful. An act which is permitted and lawful; there is no reward for performing it nor any punishment for neglecting it, e.g., drinking tea.
4. **Makrūh** means reprehensible, disliked, discouraged. An act which is disliked by Islam but not haram. If one does a makrūh act, he will not be punished; however, if he refrains from it, then he will be rewarded.
5. **Harām** means forbidden, prohibited. An act from which one must abstain. If someone performs a haram act, he will be punished either by the Islamic court or in the hereafter or both.

Silent Letters

Silent letters are letters that can not be heard when the word is spoken. It means a letter that we do not say or pronounce. For example in the word 'ghost' , you don't pronounce the letter 'h' because it is silent.

There are many silent letters in English, here are some examples:

Words with Silent Letters :

a: Romantic**ally**, musical**ly**, logical**ly**, artistic**ally**.

b: It is always silent when it follows the letter 'm'. Ex: clim**b**, lam**b**, thum**b**, dum**b**, plum**ber**.

and it is often silent when it comes before 't', ex: sub**t**le, deb**t**, doub**t**.

c: it is silent after 'c'. Ex: musc**le**, fasc**in**ate, scen**e**, scen**ari**o.

d: Wed**ne**sday, hand**s**ome, sandw**i**ch .

e: at the end of a word. Ex: ag**e**, cut**e**, hat**e**, hop**e**, grac**e**, squeez**e**.

g: sign, chapag**ne**, des**ign**, fore**ign**, high, light, daught**er**, bright.

h: it is silent when it follows 'w' like in: wh**at**, wh**en**, wh**y**, wh**is**tle and at the beginning of the word like: **h**onest, **h**our, **h**onour.

i: is usually pronounced except in bus**in**ess, parliam**en**t.

k: it is silent when it comes before 'n' such as: know, knot, knee, knife, knight, knock.

L: could, should, would, calm, folk, salmon, talk, walk half, calf.

N: autumn, column, damn, government.

P: receipt, psychology, psycho.

S: island, isle.

T: listen, Castle, often, asthma, Christmas, whistle.

W: at the beginning of a word and before the letter 'r' and other cases: who, whole, write, wrong, two, sword, wrist, answer.

Legal Translation

Translate the following into Arabic:

Law is any written rule or a collection of rules under the authority of the state or nation.

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Law is a complete body of rules, customs and norms and the court is governing the relations between individuals to the state.

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Legal professions are the legal studies required for someone choosing a career in law to first obtain a law degree or some other form of legal education in order to apply law. Among the categories practicing legal job are: the judge, the lawyers, the solicitors, the jurist and the notaries.

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Active and Passive voice (Present and Past Continuous)

1- Present Continuous:

Form: Active sentences in the present continuous tense have the following structure:

Subject + is, are, am + v (ing) + object.

Ex: I am reading a story.

Passive sentences in the present continuous tense have the following structure:

➡ object + is, are, am + being + p.p + by + subject.

Ex: A story is being read by me.

Ex 2: she is driving the car ➡ The car is being driven by her.

2- Past Continuous:

Form: Active sentences in the past continuous tense have the following structure:

Subject + was/ were + v (ing) + object.

Ex: He was giving a lecture.

Passive sentences in the past continuous tense have the following structure:

➡ Object + was / were + being + p.p + by + subject.

Ex: A lecture was being given by him.

Ex 2: They were saying their prayers. ➡ Their prayers were being said by them.

Exercise: change these sentences into the passive voice:

- The boy was throwing the stone .
- She was writing a novel.
- She was not preparing dinner.
- He was teaching him French.
- I was repairing their bikes.
- They were not eating dinner.
- The postman is delivering the mail.
- Harry Potter is measuring the room.
- The coach is congratulating the team at the moment.

By Miss Askri