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FOR CBSE SENIOR SECONDARY EXAM PREPARATION

CBSE Senior Secondary 2027 Syllabus · Legal Studies

EXAM	YEAR	TYPE	SUBJECT
CBSE Senior Secondary	2027	Syllabus	Legal Studies

LEGAL STUDIES (2025-26)

LEGAL STUDIES

Class XI-XII

Subject Code – 074

(Subject Code – 074)

Classes XI-XII (2026-27)

Rationale

The Latin maxim *ignorantia juris neminem excusat*, in plain, which reads as 'ignorance of law is not an excuse'. This is one of the age-old principles followed under Roman Law and even in our own Common Law. If every person of discretion is to know what law is, an effort to teach law outside the remit of a professional law school may have significant social benefits.

Law is a subject that has been traditionally taught in Universities for almost eight centuries. Learning law outside the settings of a professional law school has a number of perceived benefits. Some familiarity with the law enhances one's understanding of public affairs and an awareness of one's entitlements and duties as a citizen. It may also be helpful in eliminating some of the mistaken notions about law and some of the inveterate prejudices about law, lawyers, and the legal system as such. Another advantage is that an understanding of the law can undoubtedly encourage talented students to pursue a career in law – an objective that is laudable in its own right.

The pitfalls of learning law outside the settings of a professional school are rooted in two key assumptions:

1. law is too vast and complicated to be taught in a non-professional setting;
2. the lack of professional trainers and experienced teachers could lead to incorrect appreciation and understanding of law. If an understanding of law is misinformed or ill-formed as some academicians think, it may require greater efforts to unlearn whatever was learnt earlier. Both these criticisms have attracted detailed scrutiny, but at least a few countries have introduced law at the High School level.

The experience of countries that have introduced law has been by and large optimistic. The Central Board of Secondary Education is introducing Legal Studies at the Class XI level. The proposal is to introduce one module in Class XI and a second module in Class XII.

Objectives

- To provide a background of the evolution of the Indian legal system in a short and concise form.
- To focus on the applicability of *justice, equity and good conscience* and more importantly the development of Common Law system in India.
- To provide exposure on various systems of law such as Common Law, Civil Law etc.
- To develop an understanding of the essential features of the Indian Constitution, including the role and importance of Fundamental Rights, Separation of Powers, Structure and operation of Courts, concept of precedent in judicial functioning, the of legislation, basic principles of statutory interpretation, etc.

- To deal with principles of practical utility such as the concept of Rule of Law, principles of justice, differences between criminal and civil cases, the concept of crime and the fundamental theories of punishment, rights available to the accused at various stages of the criminal investigative process, or the key components of Human Rights, etc.
- To understand the fundamental concepts and subject matter of property, contract and tort law.
- To understand the rudimentary aspects of contract law such as formation of contract, terms and conditions of contracts, discharge of contract, etc.
- To enable students to form an understanding of rights and duties and various categories of liability principles which form the bedrock for an understanding of Law.

Competencies expected after this course:

Students will be able to:

- acquire knowledge of legal theory, laws, legal procedure, drafting, interpretation and application of laws;
- identify legal issues from facts, differentiate between ratio decidendi and obiter dicta;
- ask relevant and probing questions to understand the differences among facts, opinions, analyze judgments and recognize and meaningfully respond to legal fallacies;
- apply the law, and draw conclusions by applying analytical reasoning;
- apply knowledge and understanding of law, legal theory and procedure to solve legal problems;
- evaluate, seek feedback and modify solutions to legal problems;
- carry out legal research;
- acquire values such as justice, fairness, openness, honesty, integrity, respect for diversity, and respect for the rule of law; and
- prepare themselves for pursuing higher education in the field of Law

Class XI (2025-26)
Class XI (2026-27)

(BASED ON REVISED BOOK WITH NEW CHAPTERS)

(Textbook Revised in the Academic Year 2022-2023)

S.No.	Units	Marks
1	**Introduction to Political Institutions**	**15**
2	**Basic Features of The Constitution of India**	**15**
3	**Jurisprudence, Nature and Sources of Laws**	**15**
4	**Judiciary: Constitutional, Civil and Criminal Courts and Processes**	**20**
5	**Family Justice System**	**15**
6	**Project**	**20**
	Total	**100**

CONTENT-

S No.	Unit	Topics
Unit 1	**Introduction to Political Institutions**	
Chapter 1	Concept of State	i. What is a State? ii. The concept of State and Article 12 of the Indian Constitution iii. What is Government? iv. Emergence of the State from Society v. Definition of State vi. Theories on the Origin of State vii. Elements of a State viii. Role of a State
2	Forms and Organs of Government	i. Introduction to the Organs of Government ii. Forms of Government a) Monarchy b) Aristocracy c) Dictatorship d) Democracy iii. Main organs of Government and its functions a) General Functions of Legislature as Organ of Government b) General Functions of Executive as Organ of Government c) General Functions of Judiciary as Organ of Government
3	Separation of Powers	i. Concept of Separation of Powers ii. Historical Background and Evolution of Montesquieu's Doctrine of Separation of Powers a) Montesquieu's Doctrine of Separation of Powers b) Basic Features of the Doctrine of Separation of Powers as enunciated by Montesquieu c) Checks and Balances of Power d) Impact of the Doctrine iii. Evaluation of The Doctrine of Separation of Powers a) Key Benefits and Advantages of The Doctrine of Separation of Powers b) Defects of the Doctrine iv. Separation of Powers In Practice a) Separation of Powers in Britain b) Separation of Powers in the United States of America c) Separation of Powers in India
Unit 2	**Basic features of the Constitution of India**	
1	Salient Features of the Constitution of India	i. Meaning of the term Constitution ii. Definition of the term Constitution iii. Historical Perspective of the Constitution of India iv. Salient Features of the Constitution of India a) Modern Constitution b) Lengthiest written Constitution c) Preamble to the Constitution d) Fundamental Rights; Directive Principles of State Policy; Fundamental Duties e) Constitutional Provision for Amendment of the Constitution of India f) Adult Suffrage

		g) Single Citizenship h) Independent Judiciary i) Emergency Provision j) Federal in form Unitary in character k) Division of Power- Centre- State Relations l) Schedules to the Constitution
2	Administrative law	i. Background ii. Administrative Law and Constitutional Law: Key Differences iii. Reasons for Growth, Development and Study of Administrative law iv. Types of Administrative Actions v. Fundamental Principle of Administrative Law: Rule of Law vi. Droit System
Unit 3	**Jurisprudence, Nature and Sources of Law**	
1	Jurisprudence, Nature and Meaning of Law	i. Introduction ii. Historical Perspective iii. Schools of Law iv. Function and Purpose of Law
2	Classification of Laws	i. Classification of law based on Subject matter ii. Classification of law based on Scope of Law iii. Classification of law based on Jurisdiction
3	Sources of Laws	i. Where does law come from? ii. Custom as a Source of Law iii. Importance of Custom as a Source of Law in India iv. Judicial Precedent as a Source of Law v. Legislation as a Source of Law
4	Law Reform	i. Need for Law Reform ii. Law Reforms in India iii. Recent Law Reforms in Independent India
5	Cyber Laws, Safety and Security in India	i. Introduction ii. Why do we need Cyber Laws? iii. What is Cyber law? iv. What is Cyber safety and Security? v. What is Cyber-crime? vi. Categories of Cyber-crime vii. Cyber law in India viii. Scope or Extent of The Information Technology Act, 2000(IT Act) ix. What was Section 66A IT Act, 2000?
Unit 4	**Judiciary: Constitutional, Civil and Criminal Courts and Processes**	
	Judiciary: Constitutional, Civil and Criminal Courts and Processes	i. Introduction: Establishment of the Supreme Court and High Courts ii. Constitution, Roles and Impartiality a) Independence and Impartiality of the Supreme Court b) Structure and Hierarchy of the Courts in India c) The Civil Process and functioning of Civil Courts iii. The Civil Court Structure a) Common Legal Terminologies b) Types of Jurisdictions c) Res subjudice and Res judicata in Code of Civil Procedure, 1908

		iv. Structure and Functioning of Criminal Courts in India a) Types of Offences b) Criminal Investigations and First Information Report (FIR) c) Criminal Process- Investigation and Prosecution d) Doctrine of autrefois acquit and autrefois convict (i.e. previously acquitted and previously convicted) e) Function and Role of Police v. Other Courts In India a) Family Courts b) Administrative Tribunals
Unit 5	**Family Justice System**	
1	Institutional Framework- Marriage and Divorce	i. Nature of Family Laws in India ii. Human Rights and Gender Perspective iii. Institutional Framework- Family Courts iv. Role of Women in the creation of Family Courts v. Role of Lawyers and Counselors in Family Courts vi. Role of Counselors and Gender Issues vii. Marriage and Divorce
2	Child Rights	i. Child Rights ii. Right to Education iii. Right to Health iv. Right to Shelter v. Child Labour vi. Sexual Abuse vii. Juvenile Justice
3	Adoption	i. Adoption ii. Minor custody and Guardianship
4	Property, Succession and Inheritance	i. Concept of Property: Joint Family Property and Separate Property ii. Inheritance and Succession iii. Intestate Succession iv. Rules relating to Intestate Succession v. Testamentary Succession
5	Prevention of Violence against Women	i. What is Domestic abuse / violence? ii. International Legal Framework iii. III. Laws in India on Prevention of Violence against Women
	PROJECT WORK- One Project	

PROJECT GUIDELINES CLASS 11

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

The project work aims to enable students to:

- identify a legal problem and provide its remedy
- select relevant legal sources and conduct research
- analyze and distinguish between types of cases
- apply case laws and relevant statutory laws

Students can opt for any ONE Project from the three topics given below:

Topic 1: Students can prepare a research project addressing legal issues related to any topic from the textbook or around them that needs immediate redressal.

Some suggested topics-

- Uniform Civil Code
- Law reforms in India
- Juvenile Justice
- Death Penalty
- Any other course related topic

OR

Topic 2- Students can conduct research and draft a report on any recent legislation/ amendment that brought about a social change, for example: Consumer Protection Act, Information Technology Act, Right to Information Act etc.

To conduct research students can examine the conditions that give rise to need for law reform; the agencies of reform; mechanism of reform; assess the effectiveness of law reform in achieving just outcomes with regards to the issue.

METHODOLOGY FOR TOPICS 1 & 2:

The project file should be at least 15 pages.

Steps:-

- Choose a topic
- Gather information from various sources
- Write a statement of purpose of the project
- Support it with research evidence
- Presentation of project should include headings
- List the sources

OR

Topic 3- Understanding the important elements of 'JUDICIAL DECISION'

OBJECTIVES-

The project work aims to enable students to:

- identify a legal problem and provide its remedy
- select relevant legal sources and conduct research
- analyse and distinguish between types of cases
- apply case laws and relevant statutory laws
- understand parts of a judicial decision

METHODOLOGY FOR TOPIC 3:

1. The student is required to select any 5 decided cases where in one case is of criminal nature, one is of civil nature, one is constitutional, one is related to international law and one is of student's choice (PIL if possible).

2. The research on the cases must include the following points:

    a. Name of the case
    b. Parties to the case
    c. Nature of the case (Civil, Criminal or Constitutional)
    d. Facts of the case and issues involved
    e. Decision of the case
    f. Citation of the case

RUBRICS FOR ASSESSMENT

S.no.	Parameters for assessment	Marks
1	Preparation and presentation of file	5 marks
2	Research work	5 marks
3	Understanding and application of legal concept	5 marks
4	Viva	5 marks
Total		**20 marks**

Class XII (2026-2027)

Class XII (2025-2026)

(BASED ON REVISED BOOK WITH NEW CHAPTERS)

(Textbook Revised in the Academic Year 2023-2024)

S.No.	Units	Marks
Unit 1	**Judiciary**	08
Unit 2	**Alternative Dispute Resolution in India (ADR)**	08
Unit3	**Topics in Law- I (Business Laws)** Chapter 3 (A) - Law of Contract Chapter 3 (B) - Law of Torts Chapter 3 (C) - Law of Property Chapter 3 (D) - Intellectual Property Law	20
Unit 4	**Topics in Law- II (General Laws)** Chapter 4 (A) -Law and Sustainable Development Chapter 4 (B)- Forms of Legal Entities Chapter 4 (C) - Criminal Laws in India	10
unit 5	**Concept of Human Rights** Chapter 5 (A)-Human Rights in India Chapter 5 (B)-Human Rights Violations-Complaint Mechanism (Quasi-Judicial Bodies)	10
Unit 6	**International Law**	08
Unit 7	**Legal Profession in India**	08
Unit 8	**Legal Services**	08
	Project	**20**
	Total	**100**

Theory- 80 marks (One Paper)
Internal Assessment- Project Based Assessment- 20 marks

Contents-

S.No.	Unit	Topics
Unit 1	**Judiciary**	a) Structure, Hierarchy of Courts, and Legal Officers in India b) Constitution, Roles and Impartiality c) Appointments, retirement and removal of Judges d) Tribunals e) Courts and Judicial Review
Unit 2	**Alternative Dispute Resolution in India (ADR)**	a) Adversarial and Inquisitorial Systems b) Meaning and scope of ADR c) Arbitration d) Mediation e) Conciliation f) Lok Adalat g) Ombudsman h) Lokpal and Lokayukta
Unit 3	**Topics in Law I (Business Laws)**	
Chapter 3A	Law of Contract	a) Introduction to Contracts b) Formation of Contract c) Intention to Contract d) Consideration e) Capacity to Contract f) Consent g) Types of Contracts h) Discharge of Contract i) Remedies in case of breach
Chapter 3 B	Law of Torts	a) Concept of law of Torts b) Sources of Law of Torts c) Intentional Tort d) Defamation e) Negligence f) Strict Liability g) Absolute Liability
Chapter 3 C	Law of Property	a) Types of Property b) Who can transfer property c) Essential of a valid transfer d) Types of Transfer- Sale, Lease, Exchange, Gift
Chapter 3 D	Intellectual Property Law	a) Meaning of Intellectual Property b) International Obligations that have shaped Indian IPR c) WIPO d) Copyright e) Patent

		f) Trademark g) Geographical Indication h) Design
Unit 4	**Topics in Law II (General Laws)**	
Chapter 4 A	Law and Sustainable Development	a) Introduction b) Initiatives under International Scenario c) Provisions under Indian Constitution d) Environment Protection Act, 1986 e) Pollution Control Boards
Chapter 4 B	Forms of Legal Entities	Types of Legal Entities in India a) Sole Proprietorship b) Partnership c) Limited Liability Partnership d) Private Limited company e) Public Limited Company f) One Person Company
Chapter 4 C	Criminal Laws in India	a) Objectives of Criminal law b) Legislations for Criminal laws in India c) Distinction between Intention and Motive d) Stages of crime e) The Indian Evidence Act f) Admission and Confession
Unit 5	**Concept of Human Rights**	
Chapter 5 A	Human Rights in India	a) Introduction 1. Historical Context b) Indian Constitutional framework on Human Rights and related Laws in India 1. The Preamble 2. Fundamental Rights-Part III of the Constitution 3. Directive Principles-Part IV- Articles 36-51 4. Fundamental Duties- Part IV(A)- Article 51 A
Chapter 5 B	Human Rights Violations- Complaint Mechanism (Quasi-Judicial bodies)	a) What are Quasi- Judicial Bodies? b) Various Human Rights Commissions 1. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) 2. National Commission for Minorities 3. National Commission for Women (NCW) a) National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes b) National Commission for Protection of Child's Rights (NCPCR)
Unit 6	**International Law**	a) Introduction b) Historical Evolution of International Law c) What is International Law?

		d) Sources of International Law e) International Human Rights f) International Law & Municipal Law g) International Law & India h) Dispute Resolution
Unit 7	**Legal Profession in India**	a) The Advocate Act,1961 b) Lawyers and Professional Ethics c) Advertising by Lawyers d) Liberalization and Globalization of legal profession e) Women and Legal Profession f) Legal Education in India, USA and UK g) Opportunities for Law Graduates
Unit 8	**Legal Services**	a) Brief history of Legal services b) Free Legal Aid under Criminal law c) Legal aid by the State d) Legal Aid under the Indian Constitution e) National Legal Services Authority(NALSA) f) Legal Services Authority Act,1987 g) Legal Aid in context of social justice and Human Rights
	PROJECT WORK	**Detailed Guideline given below for reference**

PROJECT GUIDELINES for Class XII

INTRODUCTION:

The student is required to do a project on 'Understanding Case Laws'

OBJECTIVES:

The project work aims to enable students to:

- identify a legal problem and provide its remedy
- select relevant legal sources and conduct research
- analyse and distinguish between types of cases
- apply case laws and relevant statutory laws

METHODOLOGY-: The student is required to select any **3 decided cases** related to the curriculum where one must be civil in nature, one criminal and one constitutional in character.

The research on the cases must include the following points:

- Name of the case
- Parties to the case
- Citation to the case
- Bench
- Nature of the case (Civil, Criminal or Constitutional)
- Facts of the case and issues involved
- Decision of the case including Ratio Decidendi and Obiter Dicta

Rubrics

Topic	Exceeding (76-100 percent)	Accomplished (61-75 percent)	Developing (34-60 percent)	Beginning 13(15-33 percent)
Presentation of all facts of the case	• All the relevant facts are presented clearly in a chronological, organized, logical and interesting sequence • The facts are supported with relevant evidence related to the case	• Most of the crucial facts have been stated sequentially as per the happening of the case	• Some facts are stated but not in a sequential manner	• Only a few unrelated and irrelevant facts have been stated
Statement of Legal problem and prediction about outcome	• Legal problem has been precisely defined and unambiguously stated • Analysis of the legal problem has been done thoroughly and predicts clear outcome with logical reasoning	• Legal problem has been nearly correctly stated • Analysis of the legal problem predicts a near clear outcome	• Legal problem has been vaguely conceived • Analysis of the Legal problem does not predict a clear outcome	• Legal problem has not been identified clearly, • No analysis of the legal problem has been done to predict the outcome
Information gathering	• The information gathered in relation to the case is relevant and sufficient to encompass all crucial facts and all applicable laws	• The information gathered in relation to the case is relevant and sufficient to encompass only crucial facts without applicable laws	• The information gathered in relation to the case is relevant but insufficient to encompass all relevant facts and applicable laws	• The information gathered in relation to the case is insufficient

Establishing correlation in facts	• All of the crucial facts are well correlated to each other and presented in a logically persuasive manner	• Most of the crucial facts have been stated and are correlated to each other and presented in a logically persuasive manner	• Some of the stated facts are correlated to each other and presented in a logical manner	• The stated facts lack correlation and are not presented in a logically persuasive manner
legal analysis and reasoning	• Legal analysis is done by organizing evidence to accentuate differences, or similarities related to case. Use superior inductive and deductive reasoning abilities and present analogy.	• Legal analysis is done by organizing some evidence but organization is less than effective. Shows less Logical reasoning (inductive deductive) than required.	• Legal analysis is done by organizing some evidences but organization is not effective. Logical reasoning (inductive – deductive) is missing.	• List some evidences but not able to organize it. Legal analysis is incoherent
Identification of decidendi and obiter dicta	• Ratio decidendi and Obiter dicta has been identified in a crystal clear terms	• Ratio decidendi and Obiter dicta has been little less clearly identified	• Ratio decidendi and Obiter dicta has been vaguely identified	• Ratio decidendi and Obiter dicta has not been identified
Reflections on the Case	• Corroborate alternative arguments with research and innovation. Question existing beliefs. Show inconsistencies in existing body of evidence to arrive at result. Analyse pros and cons of existing decision viz a viz alternative solutions.	• Identify connection between existing laws and their application in this case. Consider alternative arguments to affect the present outcome.	• Analyse from a personal perspective why a particular action/decision has happened.	• repeats only what has happened in the case