

## DISTRIBUTED COMPETITION ASSIGNMENT SAMPLE

### LAW

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Time needed to complete the tasks – 120 minutes

Maximum number of points – 100

#### **Part I.**

**Task 1.** Write an essay on the suggested topic. Give detailed answers to the questions asked. (0 – 50 points)

*Read the following excerpt:*

“That is where the mistake lies, that we are in the habit of considering that the prosecutors and the judges in general are some kind of liberal persons. There was a time when they were such, but now it is quite different. They are just officials, only troubled with their pay-day. They receive their salaries and want them increased, and it is there that their principles end. They will accuse, judge, and sentence anyone.”

“Yes; but do laws really exist that can condemn a man to Siberia for reading the Bible with his friends?”

“Not only to be exiled to the less remote parts of Siberia, but even to the mines, if you can only prove that reading the Bible they took the liberty of explaining it to others not according to orders, and in this way condemned the explanations given by the Church. Blaming the Greek orthodox religion in the presence of the common people means, according to Statute . . . the mines.”

“Impossible!”

“I assure you it is so. I always tell these gentlemen, the judges,” the barrister continued, “that I cannot look at them without gratitude, because if I am not in prison, and you, and all of us, it is only owing to their kindness. To deprive us of our privileges, and send us all to the remote parts of Siberia, would be an easy thing for them.”

*Leo Tolstoy. Resurrection.*

*Do you agree with the barrister’s opinion? Explain your answer using legal line of argument. Define the notion of “miscarriage of justice” using legal terminology. Give two examples of miscarriages of justice that you know and describe how they may be fixed using legal line of argument. Also give two examples of how a common person may have been brought to legal responsibility but was not due to the insignificance of their infraction or imperfections of the police state.*

**Essay is a small abstract on the suggested topic which contains author's ideas and reflections regarding the problem in question. It is written in a free form. Requirements:**

**1. 200 to 400 words.**

**2. The essay should contain substantiated answers to the questions posed.**

**3. Competitors can rely on their knowledge in law and social studies. Reflections on common issues not related to the legal aspect of the problem will not be evaluated.**

**Evaluation criteria:**

- 1) When answering the question on whether to agree with the stated opinion, competitors may either agree or disagree. The answer should contain the competitor's own definition of miscarriage of justice using legal terminology (*10 points*). A competitor gets *0 points* if the answer is not substantiated and simply contains phrases like "I agree" or "I disagree" without defining a miscarriage of justice. A competitor gets *5 points* if they define "miscarriage of justice" but do not substantiate their agreement or disagreement.
- 2) A competitor gets *10 points* for each of the two examples of miscarriages of justice and correct ways to fix them (maximum *20 points*) and *0 points* for unsubstantiated examples or examples with false arguments.
- 3) A competitor gets *10 points* for each of the two correct examples of insignificant infractions or imperfections of a police state (maximum *20 points*) and *0 points* for unsubstantiated examples or examples with false arguments.

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**Part II. Read the task closely. Do not forget to answer ALL questions.**

**Task 2.** (*0 – 15 points*)

The limitation period may be preclusive, that is, it may preclude legal responsibility after a certain period of time or may be used at court's discretion.

*What is the limitation period in penal and civil procedural law? In your opinion, when should or should not the limitation period be used? Give at least two "for" and two "against" examples. Formulate a legally based opinion which should presuppose that the limitation period must not apply to crimes committed to a victim when they were a minor. Explain your answer and give at least three reasons.*

**Evaluation criteria:**

- 1) A competitor gets *5 points* for the correct definition of the limitation period according to the penal and civil procedural law. They get *0 points* if the definition does not state what

type of law it is connected to, or if it is given separately in relation to either civil or penal procedural law and this has been clearly stated.

- 2) A competitor gets 5 points for giving all of the correct examples of using or not using the limitation period and 0 points for less than two oppositely directed examples.
- 3) A competitor gets 5 points for giving a substantiated answer with at least three reasons in favour of not applying the limitation period crimes committed to a victim when they were a minor and 0 points for giving less than one reason or a wrong answer.

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**Task 3.** (0 – 15 points)

*Find all the mistakes in the definition below. Explain your answer. You get maximum 15 points for all mistakes identified. The number of points per each mistake found is divided by the number of mistakes.*

Plutocracy is a form of government in which power is concentrated in the hands of a relatively small group of citizens (the rich, military, political elite, relatives of the ruler) and which has formal advantages enshrined in the law over the rest of the people but does not directly affect the election of the ruler. In a plutocratic state, citizens can exercise the right to make political decisions directly.

**Evaluation criteria:**

- 1) Not a form of government but a political regime (3 points).
- 2) It isn't necessary to legalize equality – it's better to imitate democratic institutions (3 points).
- 3) The higher-ups' advantages are based on informal institutions (3 points).
- 4) The higher-ups influence the elections (3 points).
- 5) Citizens are not actually involved in political decision-making (3 points).

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**Task 4.** (0 – 20 points)

“There is no better sign of a bad city structure than the abundance of lawyers and doctors in them.”

*Plato*

*Why do you think Plato thought that the abundance of lawyers and doctors was bad for a city? Back up your answer based on Plato's philosophy. What makes the profession of lawyers and doctors similar and different in terms of professional risks? Give three or more uniting and separating factors.*

**Evaluation criteria:**

- 1) A competitor gets *5 points* for a substantiated answer based on Plato's philosophy and *0 points* for a poorly substantiated answer.
- 2) A competitor gets *15 points* for giving three or more uniting and separating factors (each pair of factors worth *5 points*) and *0 points* for giving only the uniting or the separating factors.

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