

DISTRIBUTED COMPETITION ASSIGNMENT SAMPLE

LAW

11th 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:

Never, never, never, on cross-examination ask a witness a question you don't already know the answer to, was a tenet I absorbed with my baby-food. Do it, and you'll often get an answer you don't want, an answer that might wreck your case.

Harper Lee "To Kill a Mockingbird."

What do you think the heroine meant by saying this? Clarify her statement. According to the current legislation of the Russian Federation, in the event of false testimony, the witness or victim is criminally liable for this, but the suspect or the accused is not. Why do you think that is the case? Give 3 arguments in favor of and 3 arguments against the heroine's opinion.

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. 300 to 500 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:

- Any legally justified answer regarding what the heroine meant is acceptable. *10 points* are given for the correct reasoning. Competitors get *0 points* if the answer is not substantiated and simply contains phrases like "I agree" or "I disagree".
- Any legally justified answer regarding the impossibility of bringing to justice the suspect or the accused one for false testimony is also acceptable (*10 points* for correct legal reasoning, *0 points* for false argumentation or total lack thereof).

3. A competitor is given *30 points* for citing three arguments for and three arguments against the heroine's opinion (each pair of correct arguments is worth *10 points*). *0 points* are given for only "for" or "against" arguments.
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Part II. Read the task closely. Do not forget to answer ALL questions.

Task 2. (*0 – 15 points*)

The Elista City Court **ordered the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation to pay compensation to a woman who, due to an error made by an employee of the passport and visa service department, was considered dead¹. As a result of this error, the plaintiff was unable to become a surety for her daughter's mortgage loan.** The woman learned from the Internet that she was officially on the list of the deceased. This came as a shock to her. She was stressed out for several days and could not stop crying. The Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, at the expense of the state treasury, paid compensation for moral damage in the amount of RUB 10,000 in favour of the plaintiff.

Think of three other consequences of acknowledging a person legally dead, even though they are actually alive (5 points for each correct example, 15 points maximum).

Evaluation criteria:

1. Competitors get *5 points* for each correctly identified consequence of having officially been proclaimed dead other than the ones listed above (maximum *15 points*).
2. Any ceremonies like the funerals or social consequences are not acceptable as a correct answer. Only legal consequences are considered. Among these are:
 - determining the day of death and the issuance of a legal document;
 - opening of the inheritance on the day of death;
 - termination of personal obligations in relation to the deceased;
 - termination of marriage to a deceased individual;
 - termination of rights related to receiving payments related to the deceased;
 - granting the dependents of the deceased the right to receive pensions and survivors' benefits;
 - termination of all administrative or penal responsibility that were previously in force in relation to the deceased.

¹ Press Service of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kalmykia. Date of publication: 11, 2015. URL: http://vs.kalm.sudrf.ru/modules.php?name=press_dep&op=1&did=904

Task 3. (0 – 15 points)

Find all 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.

Bolshevism is a totalitarian ultra-right ideology with elements of racism and anti-Semitism based on the formation of a strictly decentralized party focused on establishing a democratic state.

Evaluation criteria:

- 1) Not an ultra-right but an ultra-left one– 3 points.
 - 2) Not an ideology but a political trend and a regime – 3 points.
 - 3) With elements of internationalism instead of racism and anti-Semitism – 3 points.
 - 4) Not a decentralized but a centralized party – 3 points.
 - 5) Focused on establishing not a democratic state but the dictatorship of the proletariat – 3 points.
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Task 4. (0 – 20 points)

The prosecutor's office of the Stavropol Krai demanded to protect schoolchildren from the works by Sergei Yesenin and Vladimir Nabokov on the grounds that they are "incompatible with the objectives of the educational process" and contain "eroticism, mysticism, horror and hooligan poems²." Kurbangali Sharipov, senior assistant to the regional prosecutor for supervision over the implementation of laws on minors and youth, said, "It is too early for schoolchildren to read these books." According to him, the works of these authors negatively affect minors, "instilling a fear of the dark and ghosts in them and creating problems in communication between peers." He also added, "If you look at the reports, kids aged 9 to 12 are committing robberies. What do you think they read to do something like that?"

Name two constitutional grounds for introducing censorship in a state governed by the rule of law, and reasonably prove, using legal arguments, that Sharipov is wrong.

² RIA Novosti. Officials in Stavropol Krai demand the schoolchildren to be protected from Yesenin's and Nabokov's works. Date of publication: November 20, 2013. URL: <https://ria.ru/20131120/978440403.html>

Evaluation criteria:

1. Competitors may quote Article 29 of the Russian Constitution: “The propaganda or agitation instigating social, racial, national or religious hatred and strife shall not be allowed. The propaganda of social, racial, national, religious or linguistic supremacy shall be banned.” *5 points* are awarded for each correct reason given (*10 points* maximum). Any broad interpretation of the grounds for censoring is not allowed.
2. Any legal justification of why Sharipov was wrong is acceptable. *10 points* are given for correct argumentation. An unsubstantiated answer or an answer based on “he’s right” or “he’s wrong” formula is worth *0 points*.

It is allowed to cite the prohibition of censorship, the Family Code of the Russian Federation, and the parental upbringing rights that follow from it, which cannot be replaced by an employee of the prosecutor’s office; to indicate the absence of these books in the register of prohibited information as per Article 29 of the Russian Constitution, the absence of state secrets in these works, etc.
