



*For Performance Measurement*

**ZIMBABWE SCHOOL  
EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL  
(ZIMSEC)**

**ORDINARY LEVEL SYLLABUS/SCHOOL  
CERTIFICATE**

**LAW  
(2292)**

**EXAMINATION SYLLABUS FOR NOVEMBER EXAMINATION ONLY**

## **Aims**

1. To stimulate a study of the principles and practice of law.
2. To encourage an understanding of the place of law and the legal system within society.
3. To contribute to general education by stimulating a critical interest in legal affairs.

## **Assessment Objectives**

Having followed the course, candidates should be able to:

1. demonstrate understanding of the fundamental concepts, principles and rules underlying the subject of law;
2. demonstrate a basic understanding of specific areas of criminal and civil law and use the concepts and terms contained in those areas;
3. evaluate the position of law and the legal system within society.

## **Form of Examination**

Paper 1 (2 hours)

Questions will be drawn from the whole syllabus. Candidates will be required to answer **four** questions out of eight.

Paper 2 (2 hours)

Questions will be in the form of legal problems. The paper will be divided into **five** sections in accordance with the syllabus Part II B; Criminal Law; Civil Liberties; Law of Contract; Family Law; Law of Torts. **Two** questions will be set on each section, and candidates will be required to answer **four** questions, each from a different section.

## **Syllabus**

*Part I – Introduction to Law*

- (a) *What is Law?*  
Defining law: the purpose of law within society.
- (b) *Legal Systems*  
Common law systems, civil law systems; religious laws e.g. Islamic, Hindu, Chinese.

- (c) *Civil and Criminal Law*  
The distinctions between civil and criminal law and how these two areas of law overlap and complement each other.
- (d) *Legal Personality*  
Natural and artificial.

## *Part II*

### *A. General Aspects of English Law*

#### *(a) The Courts and Personnel of the Law*

Description of the courts and their functions.

The legal profession; barristers and solicitors. The Judiciary – function, appointment, removal and independence; the Lord Chancellor, the Master of the Rolls, the Lord Chief Justice, the Attorney General, the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The contributions of laypersons to the legal system e.g. Magistrates and juries.

#### *(b) The problems of Going to Law*

Obstacles; the cost of litigation; the problems of delay and procedure.

Possible solutions and alternative means of settling disputes; legal aid; tribunals (e.g. Immigration Adjudicators and Appeals Tribunal), arbitration, conciliation; a national legal service.

#### *(c) Common Law and Equity*

A brief history of the Common Law and Equity contrasting their development.

#### *(d) Sources of English Law*

Common Law – the doctrine of binding precedent. Law Reports.

The process of legislation; delegated legislation.

The rules of statutory interpretation

B. *Specific Aspects of English Law*

(a) *Criminal Law*

The elements of a crime – actus reus and mens rea.

Specific offences against the person; Murder, Manslaughter (including involuntary manslaughter i.e. diminished responsibility and provocation).

Specific offences against property; theft, criminal damage.

The General Defences to Crime; insanity, infancy, intoxication, self defence, duress.

Basic principles of sentencing; retribution, deterrence and rehabilitation.

(b) *Civil Liberties*

Specific freedoms; freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement.

International agreements to protect the freedom of the individual; The United Nations Charter, the European Convention on Human rights.

(c) *Law of Contract*

The definition of a contract. The formation of a contract; the elements of offer and acceptance, consideration, intention to create legal relations, contractual capacity.

The definition of privity of contract. Contractual terms; conditions and warranties; express and implied terms.

Discharge of a contract; performance, agreement, frustration and breach.

Remedies for breach of contract (in outline only); damages, rescission, specific performance.

(d) *Family Law*

Law of marriage, law of children, law of divorce.

(e) *Law of Torts*

General principles of tort liability.

Torts against the person; assault, battery, false imprisonment.

Torts against property; trespass to land, private nuisance.

The tort of negligence, and the defences of *volenti non fit injuria* and contributory negligence.