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Topic: Basics of Law

Subtopic: Definition of Law

Content Nathan Hurwitz:

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<question type="mc">

1. Which of the following does NOT define "law?"

- a. a set of enforceable rules governing the relationships between individuals and their society.
- b. an enforceable system by which we quantify and restrict behaviors
- c. a social goal to which we aspire
- d. a constantly shifting enforceable set of acceptable social behaviors describing our social relationships

Analysis:

- a. Incorrect. A law must be attainable and enforceable. While social goals are nice, laws are rules that every member of a society can follow and should follow; further laws that are not follows need to be enforceable.
- b. Incorrect. A law must be attainable and enforceable. While social goals are nice, laws are rules that every member of a society can follow and should follow; further laws that are not follows need to be enforceable.
- c. Correct. A law must be attainable and enforceable. While social goals are nice, laws are rules that every member of a society can follow and should follow; further laws that are not follows need to be enforceable.
- d. Incorrect. A law must be attainable and enforceable. While social goals are nice, laws are rules that every member of a society can follow and should follow; further laws that are not follows need to be enforceable.

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Level of difficulty: Easy

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<question type="mc">

2. What do laws NOT confer on the members of societies ruled by those laws?

- a. restrictions
- b. freedoms
- c. protections
- d. honors

Analysis:

- a. Incorrect. Laws confer rights, duties, and privileges on members of the societies ruled by those laws.

- b. Incorrect. Laws confer rights, duties, and privileges on members of the societies ruled by those laws.
- c. Incorrect. Laws confer rights, duties, and privileges on members of the societies ruled by those laws.
- d. Correct. Laws confer rights, duties, and privileges on members of the societies ruled by those laws.

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Level of difficulty: Medium

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3. What is the purpose of creating laws?

- a. to maintain order
- b. to create rights
- c. to assign duties
- d. to establish precedent

Analysis:

- a. Correct. The purpose of law is to maintain order in society.
- b. Incorrect. The purpose of law is to maintain order in society.
- c. Incorrect. The purpose of law is to maintain order in society.
- d. Incorrect. The purpose of law is to maintain order in society.

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Level of difficulty: Easy

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<question type="mc">

4. Law is a system of \_\_\_\_\_ governing individuals and their relationships.

- a. duties
- b. rules
- c. rights
- d. privileges

Analysis:

- a. Incorrect. The general definition of law is: a system of rules governing individuals and their relationships.
- b. Correct. The general definition of law is: a system of rules governing individuals and their relationships.
- c. Incorrect. The general definition of law is: a system of rules governing individuals and their relationships.

d. Incorrect. The general definition of law is: a system of rules governing individuals and their relationships.

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5. What is law?

- a. a body of rules
- b. a philosophical construct
- c. a mirror held up to society
- d. the moral underpinnings of any society

Analysis:

a. Correct. Law is a body of rules. It is not merely a philosophical construct, although it does touch on philosophy and philosophy touches on law. Every artifact of every society might be said to be a kind of mirror held up to that society, but this highfalutin answer is more philosophical and historical than an answer to the question of what law is in the moment. Laws can reflect the moral underpinnings of any society, but those moral underpinnings are ethical in nature, rather than legal.

b. Incorrect. Law is a body of rules. It is not merely a philosophical construct, although it does touch on philosophy and philosophy touches on law. Every artifact of every society might be said to be a kind of mirror held up to that society, but this highfalutin answer is more philosophical and historical than an answer to the question of what law is in the moment. Laws can reflect the moral underpinnings of any society, but those moral underpinnings are ethical in nature, rather than legal.

c. Incorrect. Law is a body of rules. It is not merely a philosophical construct, although it does touch on philosophy and philosophy touches on law. Every artifact of every society might be said to be a kind of mirror held up to that society, but this highfalutin answer is more philosophical and historical than an answer to the question of what law is in the moment. Laws can reflect the moral underpinnings of any society, but those moral underpinnings are ethical in nature, rather than legal.

d. Incorrect. Law is a body of rules. It is not merely a philosophical construct, although it does touch on philosophy and philosophy touches on law. Every artifact of every society might be said to be a kind of mirror held up to that society, but this highfalutin answer is more philosophical and historical than an answer to the question of what law is in the moment. Laws can reflect the moral underpinnings of any society, but those moral underpinnings are ethical in nature, rather than legal.

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Level of difficulty: Difficult  
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## True/False Question Type

<question type="true-false">

6. Historically, the study of law has fallen more to police (enforcers), lawyers (arbiters), and legislators (lawmakers) than any other field of study.

T

Incorrect. This statement is false. Historically, the study of law has fallen more to philosophy and philosophers than to any other field of study.

F

Correct. This statement is false. Historically, the study of law has fallen more to philosophy and philosophers than to any other field of study.

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Level of difficulty: Easy

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<question type="true-false">

7. Every society of which we have any historical record has had some system of laws.

T

Correct. This statement is true. Historical records show that every society has had some system of laws. For example, in the fifth and sixth centuries A.D., the Visigoths had a code of law that defined dozens of crimes.

F

Incorrect. This statement is true. Historical records show that every society has had some system of laws. For example, in the fifth and sixth centuries A.D., the Visigoths had a code of law that defined dozens of crimes.

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Level of difficulty: Easy

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<question type="true-false">

8. The enforcement of laws in most societies is punitive, punishing failure to follow those laws, rather than rewarding those who do follow the laws.

T

Correct. This statement is true. Most societies enforce their laws by punishing those who fail to follow them rather than rewarding those who follow them.

F

Incorrect. This statement is true. Most societies enforce their laws by punishing those who fail to follow them rather than rewarding those who follow them.

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Level of difficulty: Easy

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