



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
MOCK TEST FOR JCA

MT: SCI-O6

Time Allowed: 120 Mins

Question Paper Specific Instruction

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

Attempts **all** the questions.

Marks allotted for a particular question/part are indicated against it.

Word limits of the answers, if specified, should be adhered to.

You must **not disclose** your identity in any of your answers.

Answers must be written in **English** only.

CANDIDATES MUST STRIKE OFF THE BLACK PAGE WITH CROSS LINE.

For Official use:

Question: 01	Question: 02	Question: 03	



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Maximum Marks: 100

Q1. Read the following passage very carefully and answer the questions given in the last.

(i) The legal system has traditionally focused on punishing criminal actions rather than understanding the underlying psychological factors that drive criminal behavior. While punishment serves as a deterrent, it does little to address the root causes of crime. Criminal psychology seeks to analyze the mindset of offenders, identifying patterns of thought, emotional triggers, and environmental influences that contribute to unlawful behavior. The question then arises: Should the law prioritize understanding criminal intent and psychological rehabilitation over mere punitive measures?

(ii) Throughout history, legal systems have evolved from harsh retributive justice—where punishments such as public executions and physical torture were common—to a more rehabilitative approach. Modern criminology suggests that many crimes stem from deep-seated psychological issues, including trauma, socioeconomic struggles, and mental disorders. Studies indicate that individuals with a history of abuse or neglect are more likely to engage in criminal behavior. If the law were to incorporate criminal psychology into sentencing and rehabilitation programs, it could potentially reduce recidivism rates and offer more effective solutions for crime prevention.

(iii) Guilt plays a crucial role in shaping a criminal's behavior. It can manifest as remorse, leading to confession and a desire for redemption, or it can develop into denial and further criminal actions. Psychologists argue that criminals who exhibit genuine remorse are more likely to be rehabilitated than those who show no emotional response to their actions. This raises the ethical dilemma: Should courts consider a criminal's sense of guilt when determining punishment? Can guilt be a sign of moral rehabilitation, warranting lighter sentences?

(iv) However, focusing too much on psychology over punitive justice poses challenges. Some argue that an excessive emphasis on criminal psychology might lead to undue leniency, allowing dangerous individuals to exploit the system. The difficulty of assessing genuine remorse versus manipulative behavior further complicates judicial decisions. Additionally, legal systems must strike a balance between justice for victims and rehabilitation for offenders. If the law prioritizes criminal intent over criminal action, it risks undermining the fundamental principle of justice that holds individuals accountable for their deeds.

(v) In light of these debates, the question remains: Should legal frameworks be restructured to integrate criminal psychology into judicial proceedings? If so, how can





the law distinguish between those who can be rehabilitated and those who pose a continuous threat to society? While psychology provides valuable insights into criminal behavior, the effectiveness of legal systems depends on maintaining a balance between understanding motives and ensuring justice for victims.

Q1.1 Write in your own words what the passage suggests about the relationship between criminal psychology and legal justice. (5 marks)

Q1.2 How has the legal system evolved in its approach to crime and punishment? (5 marks)

Q1.3 Explain how guilt influences a criminal's behavior, according to the passage. (5 marks)

Q1.4 What are the challenges of incorporating criminal psychology into legal judgments? (5 marks)

Q1.5 Write the antonym of the underlined words in the passage. (5 marks)

Q1.6 Find out the word in the passage that means the same as: (5 marks)

- Punishment
- Confession
- Manipulative
- Rehabilitation
- Accountability

Q2. Make a précis of the following passage. (Answer should not exceed 100 words) (30 Marks)

Urbanization, often seen as a hallmark of progress and economic growth, harbors some of the darkest realities of modern civilization. Cities, once symbols of opportunity, have become breeding grounds for extreme poverty, inequality, and human suffering. As rural populations migrate to urban centers in search of better livelihoods, they are met with harsh economic disparities, skyrocketing living costs, and an unforgiving system that relegates the poor to slums—overcrowded settlements where basic amenities like clean water, sanitation, and healthcare are scarce.

The rapid expansion of slums is an undeniable consequence of unchecked urbanization. In cities like Mumbai, Nairobi, and São Paulo, millions live in informal settlements, relying on makeshift housing made of scrap materials, exposed to hazardous living conditions. These areas lack legal recognition, leaving residents vulnerable to forced evictions, police brutality, and exploitation by slumlords. Governments, unable or unwilling to provide affordable housing, prioritize





commercial developments, pushing the urban poor further into the periphery. Meanwhile, gentrification—a process where affluent populations drive up housing prices—displaces thousands, exacerbating the homelessness crisis and deepening socio-economic divides.

Employment opportunities, often the driving force behind urban migration, fail to accommodate the influx of workers. The urban poor are forced into exploitative labor markets, working long hours in sweatshops, construction sites, and informal sectors for meager wages. Without job security or social protections, they live in perpetual precarity, unable to escape the cycle of poverty. Child labor is rampant in these settings, with young children forced to work in hazardous conditions instead of attending school, perpetuating generational poverty. Women, particularly in slum areas, face additional hardships, including unsafe working environments, wage discrimination, and heightened risks of sexual exploitation.

Crime and violence are inextricably linked to urban poverty. Slums become hubs for gang activity, drug trafficking, and human exploitation, as desperate individuals turn to crime for survival. The lack of law enforcement in these areas allows criminal networks to thrive, trapping young men in cycles of violence and incarceration. The absence of educational opportunities and job prospects fuels frustration and disillusionment, creating conditions ripe for radicalization and civil unrest. In some cities, slums have become lawless territories, where gangs wield more power than the state, enforcing their own brutal justice systems.

Beyond crime, urban poverty takes a severe toll on health and well-being. Slum residents suffer from malnutrition, respiratory diseases, and waterborne illnesses due to poor sanitation and pollution. The absence of healthcare infrastructure leaves millions untreated, leading to high child mortality rates and lower life expectancy. Infectious diseases spread rapidly in these densely populated areas, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, where social distancing was impossible, and access to medical facilities was limited. Mental health issues, exacerbated by extreme stress, unemployment, and substance abuse, remain largely unaddressed, deepening the crisis.

Climate change further compounds the suffering of slum dwellers. Rising sea levels, heatwaves, and flooding disproportionately affect informal settlements, which lack proper drainage systems and climate-resilient infrastructure. In cities like Dhaka and Jakarta, entire slum communities are frequently displaced by natural disasters, forcing families into perpetual cycles of homelessness and instability. Governments, rather than investing in sustainable urban planning, often respond with forced





evictions, rendering thousands jobless and without shelter. The environmental degradation caused by unregulated urban expansion also contributes to worsening air and water pollution, making slums even more uninhabitable.

Migration, often seen as an escape from poverty, presents its own set of challenges. Rural-to-urban migrants face systemic discrimination, often denied access to formal employment, housing, and healthcare. Many end up in illegal settlements, where they are treated as second-class citizens and blamed for urban decay. Hostility towards migrants fuels xenophobia and violence, as seen in several countries where locals view them as economic burdens rather than contributors to the workforce. The cycle of marginalization ensures that the urban poor remain trapped in deprivation, unable to climb the socio-economic ladder.

Technology and automation threaten to widen the gap between the urban elite and the impoverished. As industries shift towards artificial intelligence and mechanized labor, unskilled workers are pushed further into obsolescence. The rise of the gig economy offers little relief, as temporary and unstable work replaces traditional employment structures, leaving workers without benefits or long-term security. If left unchecked, this technological divide could solidify existing class structures, where only the privileged have access to stable incomes, education, and upward mobility.

Urban poverty is not just an economic issue—it is a humanitarian crisis. The growing divide between the rich and the poor threatens social stability, fueling protests, riots, and political upheaval. Governments face a crucial dilemma: how to balance economic growth with social justice. The challenge is not merely to build more cities, but to ensure that these urban landscapes remain inclusive, providing equal opportunities for all. Addressing urban poverty requires large-scale policy changes, from affordable housing initiatives to universal healthcare and education reforms. Without immediate action, cities risk becoming modern dystopias—glittering skylines hiding the suffering of millions in their shadows.

As the world hurtles towards an increasingly urbanized future, the question remains: will cities become beacons of opportunity, or will they collapse under the weight of inequality and neglect? The fate of urban populations will define the trajectory of human civilization, determining whether progress truly benefits all or remains an illusion crafted for the privileged few.

Q3. Write an essay on the following topic in about 600 words. (40 Marks)

a) Urbanization and Sustainable Development: Can They Coexist?



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