BRITISH COLUMBIA LAW STUDIES 12 (MLST-12) · UNIT A · 25 QUESTIONS

Foundations of Law and the Canadian Legal System — Practice Test

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Reading I - A New Town Bylaw

Use this reading for questions 1 to 3.

The council of the fictional town of Cedar Falls passed a bylaw that closed the town park at ten in the evening. Anyone found in the park after that hour could be fined. The council said the rule would keep the park safe and quiet for neighbours.

A resident named Maya argued that the council had no right to make the rule. The council replied that the province had given towns the power to pass bylaws for local safety, and that the bylaw applied to everyone in the town, including council members.

1 **What is the central claim of Reading I, A New Town Bylaw?**

- **A** it is approved by every resident
- **B** it is made by an authority with power to make it and it can be enforced
- **C** it has existed for a hundred years
- **D** it is written in a newspaper

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2 **According to Reading I, the Cedar Falls bylaw was made by**

A a single police officer

B a judge sitting alone

C the federal Parliament

D the town council

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3 **According to Reading I, a purpose of the park bylaw was to**

A keep the park safe and quiet for neighbours

B ban all parks in the province

C punish one named resident

D raise money for the province

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4 **The rule of law means that**



A the government may ignore court decisions

B only judges must follow the law

C everyone, including officials, is bound by the law

D laws apply only when police agree

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5 **A statute is best defined as**



A a decision of a single judge

B a law passed by a legislature or Parliament

C a rule made by a private company

D an unwritten community custom

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6 **Common law in Canada mainly develops from**



A orders of police chiefs

B votes in municipal councils only

C newspaper editorials

D decisions of courts in earlier cases

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7 **Stare decisis is the principle that courts should**

- **A** follow earlier decisions in similar cases
- **B** let the jury write the law
- **C** decide every case by public vote
- **D** ignore all earlier decisions

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8 **The Constitution of Canada is best described as**

- **A** a law that applies only in Ottawa
- **B** an ordinary statute that any law can override
- **C** the supreme law that other laws must comply with
- **D** a set of suggestions for judges

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9 **Under the division of powers, the federal government is responsible for**

A municipal garbage collection

B criminal law and national defence

C property law inside a province

D education in each province

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10 **Under the division of powers, a province is mainly responsible for**

A the armed forces

B foreign treaties

C national defence

D education and health care inside the province

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11 **A municipal bylaw gets its legal power from**



A power delegated by the province

B a decision of the Supreme Court alone

C an international treaty

D the mayor acting alone

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12 **In British Columbia, the superior trial court is the**

- A British Columbia Small Claims Court
- B Provincial Court of British Columbia
- C Supreme Court of British Columbia
- D Federal Court of Canada

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13 **What role does the Supreme Court of Canada play in the court system?**

- A a trial court for traffic tickets
- B the final court of appeal for Canada
- C a court that hears only Quebec cases
- D an advisory body with no decisions

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14 **What kinds of cases does a court of appeal mainly hear?**

A applications for passports

B cases that have never been filed

C first trials of criminal charges

D appeals from decisions of lower courts

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15 **In a jury trial, the usual division of work is that the judge decides questions of law and the jury decides questions of**



A fact

B foreign policy

C tax rates

D court budgets

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16 **Crown counsel in a criminal case acts for**

A a private insurance company

B the accused person only

C the state in prosecuting the case

D the jury as its lawyer

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17 **Defence counsel in a criminal case acts for**

A the court clerk

B the accused person

C the police service

D the Crown

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18 **Legal aid in Canada is a program that**

A replaces judges with volunteers

B fines people who hire lawyers

C pays every lawyer in full for any case

D helps people who qualify and cannot afford a lawyer

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19 **A paralegal is best described as**



A a trained legal worker with a limited scope who is not a lawyer

B a police officer who writes laws

C a court reporter only

D a judge in training

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20 **The schematic map of Canada highlights one province. The superior trial court in the highlighted province is the**

- **A** Provincial Court of British Columbia
- **B** Court of Appeal for British Columbia
- **C** Supreme Court of British Columbia
- **D** Federal Court of Appeal

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21 **What do both public law and private law do?**

- **A** never involve lawyers
- **B** use courts to resolve disputes under rules
- **C** punish only criminal offences
- **D** apply only to governments

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22 **The graph shows an illustrative example of new statutes in a province. The number in 2024 compared with 2015 was**

- A zero in both years
- B lower
- C the same
- D higher

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23 **The graph shows an illustrative example of new statutes. The year with the lowest number shown is**

- A 2015
- B 2018
- C 2021
- D 2024

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24 **The common law tradition in most of Canada came mainly from**

A the United States

B France

C England

D Spain

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25 **The civil law tradition in Quebec is based mainly on**

A English common law only

B a civil code with roots in France

C federal criminal law only

D municipal bylaws

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ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. D
3. A
4. C
5. B
6. D
7. A
8. C
9. B
10. D
11. A
12. C
13. B
14. D
15. A
16. C
17. B
18. D
19. A
20. C
21. B
22. D
23. A
24. C
25. B

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