

National Law University, Jodhpur

Mid Term Examination- Winter Semester, 2026

Subject: Jurisprudence

UG Semester II (B.A./B.B.A.LLB)

Time: 90 minutes

Total Marks: 40

Instructions:

- All questions are mandatory; no choices are provided.
- For a 15-mark question, the word limit is 500–700 words
- For a 10-mark question, the word limit is 300–450 words
- Word limits are indicative and not binding; candidates should prioritize clarity, relevance, and brevity.

Q1 In a recent decision by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment, it is held that the constitutional right to life under Article 21 also includes the "right to die with dignity." The Court in *Harish Rana v. Union of India & Ors.* (SLP Civil no. 18225 of 2024) observed as follows:

"The 'right to live with dignity' under Article 21 extends beyond the preservation of life to encompass the 'right to die with dignity'." (Para 52)

The Apex Court described passive euthanasia as the withdrawal or withholding of medical treatment that artificially prolongs life, thus allowing death to follow from the underlying condition.

Using *Thomas Aquinas' account of law*, in particular his definition of and his doctrine that human laws must be founded on reason: critically examine whether the Court's recognition of passive euthanasia can be regarded as consistent with Aquinas' theory of law.

(15 marks)

Q2 On 7 October 2023, militants from Tamaas carried out coordinated attacks in Yisrael, killing civilians and taking hostages. The attack exposed long planning by the terror group and revealed serious security failures on the part of the State of Yisrael, leading to large-scale military and emergency responses. Keeping above incident in context:

(a) Briefly explain the main features of social contract theory. (5 marks)

(b) Using the events surrounding the October 7 attack as context, analyse how Hobbes and Locke would differently evaluate:

- the responsibility of the state to protect citizens, and
- the legitimacy of expanding state powers (such as emergency security measures) after such an attack. (10 marks)

Q3 Briefly explain the concept of Dharma as interpreted by Sri Aurobindo. Using this interpretation, discuss whether a legal system based on individual rights can also incorporate ideas of duties and social responsibilities. Illustrate your answer with brief reasoning and examples.

(10 marks)

