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NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR

End term examination August- December, 2025

Semester: UG III Semester

Subject: Family Law I

Time: Three Hours

Marks: 100

Instructions:

1. Attempt any 5 questions.
2. No clarification shall be sought during examination.
3. Follow examination protocols.

Q.1). Ravi and Meera were married under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. A few months after their marriage, Ravi began to experience frequent emotional outbursts and public humiliation from Meera. On several occasions, Meera humiliated Ravi by calling him impotent in front of family members and colleagues. Ravi continued to live with her for a few years, hoping she would change, but the situation worsened. Eventually, Ravi filed a petition for divorce on the ground of cruelty under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. In her defence, Meera argued that Ravi had failed to prove cruelty 'beyond reasonable doubt,' that she had never subjected him to any physical violence and that her conduct was merely a result of normal marital adjustments.

Based on the principles laid down in various case laws and relevant provisions, discuss whether Ravi is entitled to a decree of divorce and what is the standard of proof required in matrimonial cases.

(Marks 20)

Q.2). What are the grounds for dissolution of marriage available under the Divorce Act, 1869?

(Marks 20)

Q.3). Explain the provisions that deal with the conditions relating to the solemnization of special marriages under the Special Marriage Act, 1954.

(Marks 20)

Q.4). Geeta, a Hindu wife, was married to Ramesh. After frequent quarrels with her husband, she started living separately from him. Later, under the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956, she adopted a son without obtaining her husband's consent. The validity of the adoption was subsequently challenged by Ramesh. Geeta contended that since she had been living separately and leading a life similar to that of a divorced woman, she had the authority to adopt a son under the Act. Decide the case in light of the relevant statutory provisions and judicial precedents.

(Marks 20)

Q.5). Ravi appointed his brother Mahesh as the guardian of his 7-year-old daughter, Ria, through a will. After Ravi's death, Ria continued to live with her mother, Anu. A year later, Mahesh claimed that since he was appointed through Ravi's will, he had the right to act as Ria's guardian. However, Anu denied this claim, stating that she is still the natural guardian and therefore no guardianship can be given to Mahesh. Based on the facts given:



2. In this situation, is Mahesh entitled to act as Ria's guardian despite Anu being alive? How are natural guardians different from testamentary guardians under the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956? (Marks 10 + 10)

Q.6). Zia and Farhan were married under Muslim law. Zia alleged that after a few years of marriage, Farhan started associating with women of evil repute. She also alleged that Farhan had committed an offence and had been sentenced to imprisonment for 2 years. Zia wants to end the marriage. Farhan, however, denies all allegations and refuses to give her *talaq*. Zia now approaches the court seeking dissolution of the marriage. Based on the given facts:

1. Explain all the grounds available under the Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act, 1939, to obtain a decree for dissolution of the marriage.
2. Which of these grounds are available to Zia to obtain a decree for dissolution of her marriage? (Marks 10 + 10)