

GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY
SILVASSA CAMPUS
 Course: **Research Methods & Legal Writing**
Semester- I (Batch: 2025-26)

End Semester Examination: October – November 2025 (LL M)

Date: 27th October, 2025

Duration: 3 hours

Max. Marks: 50

Instructions:

- Read the questions properly and write the answers in the given answer book.
- Do not write anything on the question paper.
- The respective marks for each question are indicated in-line.
- Indicate correct question numbers in front of the answer.
- No questions or clarification can be sought during the exam period, answer as it is, giving reason, if any.

Attempt any five questions

Marks

- Q.1 The government of State ‘A’ is facing a significant challenge in enforcing a newly enacted environmental law, The Clean Water (Industrial Discharge) Act, 2024, designed to curb industrial water pollution. The Act mandates that all factories install Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) by a certain deadline. Critics, however, argue that the law is being poorly implemented due to: (10)
- a) A lack of public and industrial awareness regarding the *penalties* and *long-term benefits*.
 - b) Inadequate government subsidies and technical support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to install ETPs.
 - c) Reports of selective enforcement by regulatory bodies (only large factories are targeted).
- A legal research project is commissioned to assess the ground reality of the implementation. The project proposes to collect quantitative data and qualitative data.
- As the principal investigator, explain the indispensable relevance of empirical research in analysing the effectiveness of this environmental law. Also elaborate the different methods of quantitative data and qualitative data collection with the help of relevant questions to gather the data from the sample target. Furthermore, outline how the Inductive and Deductive methodologies would be sequentially or simultaneously employed in a comprehensive study design to move from specific observations about compliance to general policy recommendations.
- Q.2 What is the difference between probability and non-probability sampling? Elaborate all the types of sampling with examples of each. (10)
- Q.3 A group of postgraduate law students undertaking their dissertation in the field of criminal justice decide to examine the long-term effectiveness of Restorative Justice (RJ) as an alternative to traditional punitive sentencing for first-time juvenile property offenders in the capital city. The focus of their research is on crimes such as petty theft, vandalism, and minor burglary, which often lead to probationary orders or short-term detention under existing juvenile laws. (10)

To conduct the study, you as a researcher need to collaborate with the local juvenile justice board and to design a comparative, three-year longitudinal research project. Divide their research population into two groups. The first, referred to as Group A, comprises 50 juvenile offenders who, instead of being subjected to conventional sentencing, are diverted to a court-mandated Restorative Justice conferencing program. This program facilitates structured meetings between offenders and their victims, aiming to promote accountability, remorse, and reconciliation. The second, Group B, consists of 50 similarly situated juvenile offenders who are processed through the traditional punitive model, receiving outcomes such as probation, short-term detention, or community service.

Over the course of three years, the researcher will systematically collect and analyze data on the recidivism rates—defined as reoffending within the study period—of both groups. Additionally, conduct in-depth, semi-structured interviews with 20 participants from each group to explore their subjective experiences, focusing on feelings of remorse, acceptance of responsibility, and perceived success in reintegrating them into the society.

Based on the above-mentioned scenario, answer the following: Identify and justify the most appropriate primary type of research for this study. Formulate one clear and concise overarching research question the researchers might pursue. Finally, draft an appropriate alternative hypothesis (H1) that could be tested using the collected data. Give proper reasoning behind every aspect framed by you.

- Q.4 Former Chief Justice of India UU Lalit recently delivered a lecture organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association.(30-09-2025) Speaking at the lecture, Justice Lalit discussed the gender neutrality of laws on sexual assault. Flagging concerns, Justice Lalit said that the new law has missed an “ideal opportunity” to extend protection to adult male victims of sexual assault after the repeal of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. He further recalled that after the 2012 Nirbhaya case, the Justice JS Verma Committee had recommended changes to Section 375 Indian Penal Code, 1860, leading to an ordinance in February 2013 that made the provision gender neutral so that male victims could also be covered. Noting how the Section 377 Indian Penal Code, 1860, which criminalised unnatural sexual intercourse, including bestiality, has been dropped entirely from Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Justice Lalit added, "Now, what if the one adult is actually sort of subjected to it forcibly and without his consent? So therefore, you have not only lost that opportunity of making it gender neutral, which the ordinance had thought of, but you have also dropped section 377 of Indian Penal Code, 1860, which means that if a man without his consent is subjected to that kind of offence, then today where is the window to ventilate the grievance? There is none. And that to my mind is completely an incorrect idea." Based on the above-mentioned content, Frame a Title and provide a research problem justifying the title. Further to giving a background for the research, provide an empirical method structure describing the sampling method that can be used for solving the problem that is identified. (10)
- Q.5 Explain the various types of research design with suitable illustrations. (10)
- Q.6 Write short note on: (any two) (10)
- Ethics in research
 - Purpose of a literature review
 - Primary instruments of data collection.
