

1ST SEMESTER

COURSE-1 GENERAL ENGLISH

Objectives: Today globalization has expanded the horizons of law and the legal profession. Success in the legal profession depends on the proficiency of a legal professional. Legal professionals need to cater not only to their individual clients but also to the society. Thus, he/she needs to be well equipped with English language both in speech and on paper. Keeping this in mind, the course material focuses to enhance the advocacy skills of students, setting a path for legal reasoning, critical thinking and analysis.

The introduction of prose texts has two purposes. Firstly, it introduces a student of law to the intricacies of the legal profession. Secondly, it helps to understand that the relevance of building a strong social structure is the responsibility of a lawyer. The course interalia aims to understand the features of English language, importance of vocabulary, contextual meaning of words and their usage. Comprehension of unseen passages helps to analyze important ideas and issues, in addition to this, gives vent to logical thought, legal reasoning and facilitates in understanding common problems.

PROSE

1. My search for truth- Excerpt from the autobiography of Prof. S Radhakrishnan.
2. Law and Lawyers M. K Gandhi.

GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION

1. Tenses, Articles and Prepositions/their usage
2. Types of sentences and transformation of sentences (simple, complex, compound, interrogative, negative etc.)
3. Active/Passive voice
4. Reported speech
5. Idiomatic expressions
6. Formal correspondence: Letters of invitation, request, enquiry, complaint job application, letters to the editor.
7. Comprehension of unseen passage
8. Legal words and their usage

TEXT AND REFERENCE BOOKS

- a) The law and lawyers by M.K. Gandhi, compiled and edited by S.B Kher, Navajivan Publishing House, Ahmedabad.

- b) Radhakrishnan Reader An Anthology.
- c) Contemporary English Grammar, David Green, Macmillan Ltd.
- d) Developing communication skills by Mohan and Banerji
- e) Legal language, legal writing and general English by Dr S. C Tripathi. Central Law Publications.

DETAILED SYLLABUS

1. Prose (refer to the contents in the precise syllabus.)

2. List of idiomatic expressions to be covered:

All and sundry, Alpha and Omega, Apple of discord, Apple of one's eye, As a matter of fact, At sixes and sevens, At one's finger tip, Bone of contention, Be a party to, Bear a grudge against, Beat about the bush, Blow hot and cold, Blow one's own trumpet, Bring to book, Bring to the ground, Bring to a standstill, Burn one's fingers, Burn the midnight oil, Build castles in the air, By leaps and bounds, Cast a spell, Caught red handed, Every now and then, Fair and square, Far and near, Far and wide, Fight tooth and nail, Get off scot-free, Get rid of, Give one's word, Go astray, Hand in hand, Hand in glove, Hang in the balance, Heart and soul, In a nut shell, In black and white, In full swing, In the midst of, In the twinkling of an eye, Keep aloof from, Keep in the dark, Keep one's promise, Leave no stone unturned, Make a mountain out of a mole-hill, Make both ends meet, Move heaven and earth, Nip in the bud, Now and then, Null and void, Nook and corner, Of one's own accord, On the verge of, Over and over again, Part and parcel, Put on paper, Rain cats and dogs, Stand in one's way, Swim with the tide, Take a bird's eye view, Take up arms, To the best of one's ability, To the letter, To the point, To turn a deaf ear, Turn a new leaf, Under the pretext of, Under lock and key, Yeoman's service,

3. List of legal words:

Accused, Accomplice, Arrest, Amendment, Adjournment, Award, Arbitration, Agreement, Approver, bail, bench, bond, breach of contract, consent, contract, contempt, counterclaim, court, counsel, compromise, coercion, claim, damages, decree, defamation, defendant, defense, document, distress, divorce, evidence, estoppel, equity, execution, fraud, hearsay, homicide, injunction, insolvency, instrument, issue, judgment, jurisdiction, jurisprudence, juri, justice, juvenile, kidnap, lawyer, liability, litigation, maintenance, minor, murder, mortgage, negligence, notification, notice, oath, objection, partnership, partition, perjury, petition, petitioner, plaintiff, plaint, pleadings, privity, pre-emption, proviso, prosecutor, prosecution, procedure, presumption punishment, right, remedy, remand, redemption, respondent, regulation, rule, sentence, settlement, statute, summon, summons, surety, title, transfer, tort, trespass, trial, vicarious, verdict, void, voidable, warrant, witness, will.

WORDS OFTEN CONFUSED: Refer pages 281 to 287, Contemporary English Grammar, by David Green, MacMillan Ltd.