



# Lesson One:

## Lesson One: What is the Rule of Law?

### Student Version

### Handout 1.1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson One Vocabulary Words

**Arrest:** to seize and hold under the authority of law (for example, under the control of the police); a person may be held under arrest when he or she has been charged with a crime and is waiting for the trial.

**Due process:** an established course for judicial proceedings or other governmental activities designed to safeguard the legal rights of the individual. Due process means that people cannot be punished or have their property or rights taken away unless they have been given a chance to defend themselves in a hearing where they are guaranteed certain rights and procedures.

Important due process rights and procedures include:

- the right to be helped by a lawyer at the hearing;
- the right to be deemed innocent unless proven guilty of wrongdoing;
- and the right to offer evidence proving one's innocence, and to question evidence of one's guilt.

**Equal treatment:** equal treatment means that someone will not be treated differently or less fairly because of sex, country of origin, language, or religion. Equal treatment means that everyone knows they can expect the same treatment from the legal system.

**Judicial independence:** this term means that judges are able to make decisions that are fair and impartial. An independent judge does not have an interest in the case that is being tried. An independent judge also is free from pressure to make a decision in favor of one party or the other.

**Justice:** the upholding of what is just, especially fair treatment and due reward in accordance with honor, standards, or law.

**Law:** a rule that governs one's conduct or action, and that can be enforced by a governing authority; the whole body of laws that are in force. Sources of the law include Islam, the Constitution, laws made by the government, the will of the people, and national customs.

**Openness and transparency:** these two terms mean basically the same thing: that the law is open and visible to the public. Laws passed by the legislature are made public and reported in the press. Also, most court trials are open to the public and courts make public decisions.

**Rule:** an order or regulation that must be followed; to have authority over something.

**Rule of law:** the term **rule of law** means that the law governs everyone fairly and equally.

**Sentence:** a judgment that describes the punishment of someone who has committed a crime. A sentence is usually made by a judge following a trial.





سيادة القانون  
RULE OF LAW

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

## Handout 1.2

“I just made up the **rule**,” the police officer states, “and you have broken it. I **sentence** you to 30 days in jail.”

[illegible]

- 



## Lesson One:

### Lesson One: What is the Rule of Law?

#### Student Version

#### Handout 1.3

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### What Does the Rule of Law Require?

**Instructions:** What is happening in the scenario below? Determine which of the basic elements of the rule of law (due process, equal treatment, openness and transparency, and judicial independence) each scenario does or does not represent as well as if the scenario is correct or incorrect.

#### Scenario 1

On her way home from work, Aisha gets pulled over by a traffic officer who informs her she was speeding. Aisha claims she has done nothing wrong. The traffic officer points out that she passed two large signs indicating the acceptable speed. Also, the traffic officer notes that the acceptable speeds for driving in a neighborhood are available to all drivers in the Driver's Education booklet they receive with their license.

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct

\_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

1. Which element of the rule of law does the above scenario represent?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Scenario 2

Faisal finally gets his day in court to protest his traffic violation fine. Before his hearing, Faisal learns that a government official told the judge to make an example of him. After the hearing and despite evidence to the contrary, the judge claims Faisal is guilty and sends him to jail for three months.

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct

\_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

2. Which element of the rule of law does the above scenario represent?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Scenario 3

Faisal receives a traffic ticket for parking on the left side of a busy street in the urban district. He knows he has the right to a fair hearing, so he requests a day in court to offer his explanations. At the hearing, Faisal protests the fine explaining that there were no signs posted to indicate parking on the left side of the street was prohibited. The judge acknowledges he is right and proclaims Faisal innocent.

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct

\_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

3. Which element of the rule of law does the above scenario represent?

\_\_\_\_\_





## Lesson One:

### Lesson One: What is the Rule of Law?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Student Version

#### Scenario 4

Jamal, a well-known businessman makes an illegal right turn and is stopped by a traffic officer. The traffic officer explains that Jamal made an illegal turn despite the large traffic sign that is posted to indicate that a right turn is not allowed at that intersection. Jamal exclaims, "Don't you know who I am? I am the chief executive of a well-known Qatari business." The traffic officer then recognizes Jamal, and exclaims "Oh yes, I know who you are! Congratulations on all of your success." The traffic officer then issues Jamal a warning ticket and does not charge a fine.

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct

\_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

4. Which element of the rule of law does the above scenario represent?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Scenario 5

Jamal, a well-known businessman makes an illegal right turn and is stopped by a traffic officer. The traffic officer immediately recognizes Jamal and asks how business is going. The traffic officer goes on to explain that he follows Jamal's business success very carefully. When Jamal asks why the traffic officer stopped him, the officer explains that he make an illegal right turn. The traffic officer then adds, "But it's not a problem. Since you are a wealthy, successful man, I will not issue you a ticket."

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct

\_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

5. Which element of the rule of law does the above scenario represent?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Scenario 6

Faisal finally gets his day in court to protest his traffic violation fine. Before the hearing, Ali, a government official, asks the judge to make an example of Faisal during his traffic hearing and subject him to severe penalties. The judge exclaims, "I will do no such thing." The judge tells Ali that he must review Faisal's case fairly and according to the law.

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct

\_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

6. Which element of the rule of law does the above scenario represent?

\_\_\_\_\_







## Lesson One:

### Lesson One: What is the Rule of Law? Student Version

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Scenario 7

On her way home from work, Aisha gets pulled over by a traffic officer who informs her she was speeding. Aisha claims she has done nothing wrong. She maintains she is following the correct speed of 10 kilometres per hour. The traffic officer informs Aisha that a new law mandating a speed of 5 kilometres in neighborhoods was passed just that morning. Aisha protests that not only have the signs not been changed, but also that the new law has not been published and the public has not been informed. The traffic officer writes her a ticket anyway.

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct

\_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

7. Which element of the rule of law does the above scenario represent?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Scenario 8

Faisal receives a traffic ticket for parking on the left side of a busy street in the urban district. He approaches the traffic officer to protest his fine, and he explains there were no signs posted to indicate that parking on the left side of the street is prohibited. He is told that no one is interested in his excuses, and his fine will double if not paid immediately. If Faisal refuses to pay, the traffic officer threatens to put him in jail.

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct

\_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

8. Which element of the rule of law does the above scenario represent?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Scenario 9

On her way home from work on a Wednesday, Aisha gets pulled over by a traffic officer who informs her she was speeding. Aisha claims she has done nothing wrong. The traffic officer says that on Wednesdays your speed cannot exceed 5 kilometres per hour. Aisha protests and explains that this rule is not noted in the Driver's Education booklet and that signs indicating the speed limit have not been posted on this particular road. The traffic officer still proceeds to write a ticket and impose a severe fine.

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct

\_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

9. Which element of the rule of law does the above scenario represent?

\_\_\_\_\_





## Lesson One:

### Lesson One: What is the Rule of Law? Student Version

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Scenario 10

Jamal, a well-known businessman makes an illegal right turn and is stopped by a traffic officer. The traffic officer explains that Jamal made an illegal turn despite the large traffic sign that is posted to indicate that a right turn is not allowed at that intersection. Jamal exclaims, "Don't you know who I am? I am the chief executive of a well-known Qatari business." The traffic officer expresses amazement, but still issues Jamal a traffic ticket.

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct

\_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

10. Which element of the rule of law does the above scenario represent?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Scenario 11

Faisal receives a traffic ticket for parking on the left side of a busy street in the urban district. He requests a day in court to offer his explanations. Faisal is told that no one is interested in listening to his excuses, and his request for a hearing is not granted. He is told that he must pay his fine by the deadline listed on the traffic ticket.

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct

\_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

11. Which element of the rule of law does the above scenario represent?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Scenario 12

Faisal finally gets his day in court to protest his traffic violation fine. Before the hearing, several individuals – a government official, the traffic officer who issued the ticket, and Faisal's mother – all confront the judge to plea their side of the case. The judge is easily persuaded by Faisal's mom. The judge does not pay attention during the trial, and in the end, he rules that Faisal is innocent.

\_\_\_\_\_ Correct

\_\_\_\_\_ Incorrect

12. Which element of the rule of law does the above scenario represent?

\_\_\_\_\_





## Lesson One:

### Lesson One: What is the Rule of Law?

#### Student Version

#### Handout 1.4

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Excerpts from the Qatar Constitution

#### Article 35

All persons are equal before the law and there shall be no discrimination whatsoever on grounds of sex, race, language, or religion.

#### Article 36

Personal freedom shall be guaranteed and no person may be arrested, detained, searched, neither may his freedom of residence and mobility be restricted save under the provisions of the law; and no person may be subjected to torture, or any degrading treatment; and torture shall be considered a crime punishable by law.

#### Article 39

An accused person is presumed innocent until his conviction is proved before a court of law wherein the necessary guarantees of the right of self-defense are secured.

#### Article 68

The Emir shall conclude treaties and agreements by a decree and refer them to Al-Shoura Council accompanied with appropriate explanatory notes. The treaty or agreement shall have the power of law after ratification and publication in the official Gazette; however, reconciliation treaties and treaties pertaining to the territory of the State or those relating to the right of sovereignty or public or private rights of the citizens, or those that involve an amendment of the laws of the State shall come into force when the same are issued as a law. Under no case may a treaty include secret conditions contradicting its publicized conditions.

#### Article 75

The Emir shall seek public opinion on important issues pertaining to the interests of the State in a referendum. The subject of such referendum shall be deemed acceptable if acknowledged by the majority of voters; and the results of the referendum shall be binding and effective from the date of its announcement. The results shall be published in the official Gazette.

#### Article 129

The supremacy of law is the base of rule in the State. The honour of the judiciary, its integrity, and impartiality of judges are a safeguard of rights and liberties.

#### Article 130

The judicial authority shall be independent and it shall be vested in courts of different types and grades. The courts shall make their judgments according to the law.

#### Article 131

Judges are independent and they shall not be subject to any power in the exercise of their judicial functions as provided by the law and no interference whatsoever shall be permitted with court proceedings and the course of justice.

#### Article 133

Court sessions shall be public save when a court decides, for the interest of public order or morality, to hold them in camera. In all cases, the pronouncement of judgments shall be made in an open session.

#### Article 142

The laws shall be published in the official Gazette after ratification and promulgation within two weeks of their issue, and unless otherwise stated in the laws themselves, such laws shall come into force a month as of the date of their publication.



# Lesson One:

## Lesson One: What is the Rule of Law?

### Student Version

### Handout 1.5



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Qatar Constitution and the Rule of Law

**Instructions:** Review the scenarios below as well as the excerpts from the Qatar Constitution.

Find at least one article from the Qatar Constitution that protects each of the elements of the rule of law represented in the scenarios below. Explain your choice, and be prepared to share your explanations with the class.

### Scenario 1

On her way home from work, Aisha gets pulled over by a traffic officer who informs her she was speeding. Aisha claims she has done nothing wrong. The traffic officer points out that she passed two large signs indicating the acceptable speed. Also, the traffic officer notes that the acceptable speeds for driving in a neighborhood are available to all drivers in the Driver's Education booklet they receive with their license.

Rule of law element: \_\_\_\_\_

Article(s): \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

### Scenario 2

Faisal receives a traffic ticket for parking on the left side of a busy street in the urban district. He knows he has the right to a fair hearing, so he requests a day in court to offer his explanations. At the hearing, Faisal protests the fine explaining that there were no signs posted to indicate parking on the left side of the street was prohibited. The judge acknowledges he is right and proclaims Faisal innocent.

Rule of law element: \_\_\_\_\_

Article(s): \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---







## Lesson One:



### Lesson One: What is the Rule of Law?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### Student Version

#### Scenario 3

Faisal finally gets his day in court to protest his traffic violation fine. Before the hearing, Ali, a government official, asks the judge to make an example of Faisal during his traffic hearing and subject him to severe penalties. The judge exclaims, "I will do no such thing." The judge tells Ali that he must review Faisal's case fairly and according to the law.

Rule of law element: \_\_\_\_\_

Article(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Scenario 4

Jamal, a well-known businessman makes an illegal right turn and is stopped by a traffic officer. The traffic officer explains that Jamal made an illegal turn despite the large traffic sign that is posted to indicate that a right turn is not allowed at that intersection. Jamal exclaims, "Don't you know who I am? I am the chief executive of a well-known Qatari business." The traffic officer expresses amazement, but still issues Jamal a traffic ticket.

Rule of law element: \_\_\_\_\_

Article(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





## Student Version

## Handout 1.6

## You Decide!

**Instructions:** Review the scenario from the “What is Wrong with this Scene” handout. Think about how the events in the scene violate the four elements of the rule of law (due process, equal treatment, openness and transparency, and judicial independence). Provide a written analysis of how you think the four elements of the rule of law were violated.

Use the questions below to form your answer:

- Was the police officer guilty of any violations when he refused to give Ahmad a hearing or chance to defend himself against the charges? If so, discuss the violations and explain your choice.
- Is it okay for the police officer to arbitrarily single out boys? Why or why not?
- Why should Ahmad complain to the police officer about his lack of openness and transparency? What could the police officer have said or done differently to ensure openness and transparency?
- Can the police officer make an arrest and also pass judgment on Ahmad? Why or why not? How is judicial independence ensured in cases such as these?

[illegible]