Summer Examinations 2016

LAW301716N

Module Title        Sentencing & Prisons
Level                  Six
Time Allowed      Two hours

Instructions to students:

• Enter your student number **not** your name on all answer books.

• Answer **three** questions: at least **one** from **Section A** and **one** from **Section B**.

• All questions are equally weighted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Pages</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Questions</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section A

Answer at least one question from Section A.

1. ‘In cases that are particularly serious or where the offender has been “caught red handed” there should be no discount given for pleading guilty.’

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

2. Research conducted by Victim Support suggests that only 16 per cent of victims feel that their views on how a crime affected them were taken into account by the court¹.

To what extent does this finding reflect current sentencing practice and procedure in England and Wales?

¹ Victim Support, What Victims and Witnesses Really Want from Sentencing (2010)
Section B

Answer at least one question from Section B.

3. 1st April 2015 marked the 25 year anniversary of the start of the Strangeways Riots. In a recent report The Prison Reform Trust has stated “...that many of the factors which contributed to the unrest have resurfaced today. Although the Prison Service is better able today to ensure control and security, this has threatened to set back decades of painstaking progress it has made to improve treatment and conditions.”

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

4. “The number of women offenders is comparatively small but the impact (of prison) is not and it is obvious that within the Criminal Justice System we cannot simply replicate what we provide for men and hope that it will work for women”.

Critically discuss the above statement in relation to female prisoners in England.

5. “It is inconsistent for the Ministry of Justice to recognise both the growth in the older prison population and the severity of their needs and not to articulate a strategy to properly account for this”.

With reference to the above statement critically assess the current treatment of elderly prisoners.
6. “Our own experience, particularly when we spoke to young adults during our visits to establishments, and the range of evidence to which we have had access, makes it abundantly clear to us that young adults experience in prison is by and large not purposeful, frequently not meaningful and above all impoverishing to the spirit.”

Critically assess the issues currently faced by Young Adults in custody, suggesting reform where appropriate.

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