Examination Period 3: 2016/17

LAW301717N

Module Title: Sentencing and Prisons
Level: Six
Time Allowed: Two hours

Instructions to students:

- Enter your student number **not** your name on all answer books.
- Answer **all** questions
- All questions are equally weighted.

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Answer all questions.

1. “...the system is still struggling to find solutions to the legacy of the IPP sentence. Although the sentence has been abolished, a significant number of men and women are still in prison well beyond the point originally intended by the courts and politicians who legislated for the sentence.”
   Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons, ‘Unintended consequences: Finding a way forward for prisoners serving sentences of imprisonment for public protection’ (2016)

Outline the law in relation to sentences of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP), and critically discuss the issues faced by those serving this sentence, suggesting reform where appropriate.

2. “With prison sentences getting longer, people are growing old behind bars. People aged 60 and over are the fastest-growing age-group in the prison estate... 15% of the prison population are aged 50 or over...”
   Prison Reform Trust, Bromley Briefings Prison Factfile (2016) pp 22

Outline the specific needs of elderly prisoners, and evaluate whether the prison estate is currently meeting those needs.

3. “Centres that deliver containment without purpose all too often lead to young criminals becoming persistent offenders whose only graduation is into adult prison – young anger that turns into an adult’s hardened attitude to others and leaves a trail of devastated victims in its wake.”
   Liz Truss, ‘Government will use education to offer hope to young offenders’ The Guardian (17 February 2017)

With reference to the above comment, critically discuss the current treatment of children in custody, suggesting reform where appropriate.

End of Paper