



AN OVERVIEW OF  
LAW

# ***I Answer the following questions:***

- 1. What is the definition of law ?
- 2. Which branches of law are you familiar with?

***II Complete the following table. Decide whether the branches of law you mentioned belong to private law or public law.***

Private law	Public law

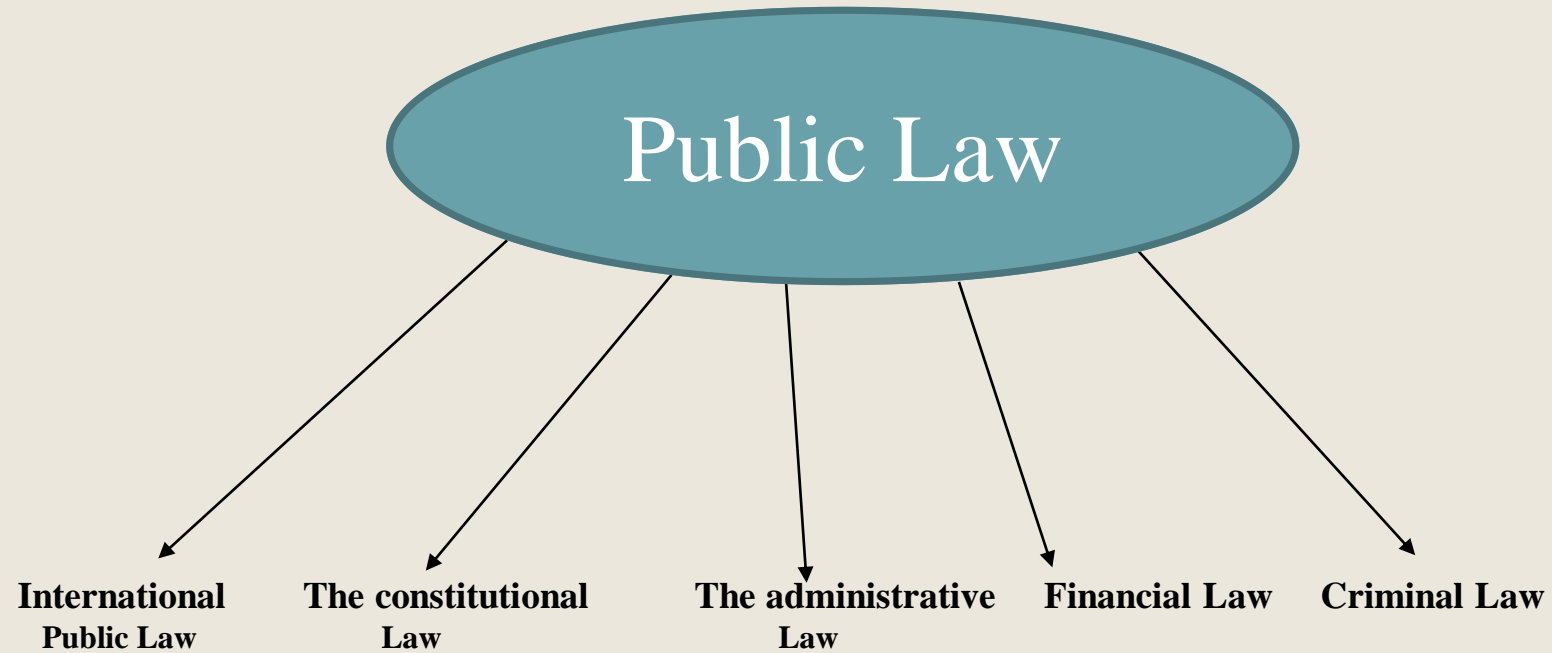
# The definition of law

- **Blackstone** said that law in its most general sense is : « that **rule** of action which is **prescribed** by some **superior** and which **the inferior** is **bound to obey** »
- **Law** is the **system of control** « a set of rules » through which **society** operates .i.e. **citizens** must **obey** those rules.
- **Law** is a **formal method** of controlling **people** and **society** through **rules set down** and than **enforced** through **the legal system**.

# The importance of law

- It acts as a **guideline** as to what is accepted in society . Without it, there would be **conflicts** between **social groups** and **communities** .
- Law keeps everyone **safe** , it also provides **security** , **peace** and **protection**.
- Without law, people were **free** to do anything they wish . But , a law has **imposed** certain **limitations** and **restrictions** that have to **be followed** by each and every **citizen**.
- We need law to **ensure equality** , and security in communities.
- Thomas Jefferson states “ **the study** of the law **qualifies** a man to be **useful** to himself, his **neighbours**, and to **the public**.

# *Areas and Branches of law*



# Private Law

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graph TD; A([Private Law]) --> B[Contract Law]; A --> C[Succession Law]; A --> D[Family Law]; A --> E[Labour Law]; A --> F[Tort Law];
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**Contract Law**

**Succession Law**

**Family Law**

**Labour Law**

**Tort Law**

# Public and private law

- Within national law there is usually a clear distinction between public and private law.
- **Public law** involves the state or government in some way, while **private law** is concerned with **disputes** between private individuals or businesses.
- Both public and private law can be subdivided into different categories.



# Public law

- Internattional Private law
- Constitutional
- Administrative
- Criminal

# Public international law

- Public international law governs the relationships between states and other entities operating on the international plane.

# Constitutional law

- the rules which regulate the structure of the main branches of government: the **executive**, the **legislature**, and the **judiciary**, and their relationship to each other, and determine their main functions.
- Moreover, constitutional law defines the rights of the citizens.

# Administrative law

- It governs the exercise of powers and duties by public authorities, or it governs the administration and regulation of government agencies .

# Criminal law

- sets out the types of behaviour which are forbidden and are subject to **punishment**.
- A person who **commits a crime** is said to have **offended** against the state, and so the state has the right to **prosecute** them.
- At the end of the case, if the **defendant** is **found guilty**, the court will **punish** them for the **offence**, because they have **broken the criminal law**.

# Private law

- Private law has many different branches.
- The main ones are:
  - law of contract,
  - law of tort,
  - family law,
  - law of succession,
  - labour law.

# Law of contract

- **Law of contract** is the branch of the law which determines whether a promise is **legally enforceable** and what are its legal consequences.

# Law of torts

- Law of torts deals with **torts**, which can be defined as **civil wrongs**.

Examples of torts are:

- nuisance,
- negligence,
- defamation, and trespass.



# Family law

- Family law covers such matters as: **validity of marriage**, rules for **divorce** and the **custody of the children**.

# Law of succession

- **Law of succession** regulates who **inherits property** when a person dies without a will, and establishes the rules for making a **valid will**.

# Labour law

- *Laws that define the rights of employees and protect them from employer retaliation for exercising those legal rights or reporting violations to the proper authorities.*
- In other words, it is a law relating to the rights and responsibilities of workers.

# Other areas of private law

- In addition to these areas of private law, there are also laws relating to **copyright and patents**, and many other topics, so it can be seen that civil law covers a wide variety of situations.

# Translate the following branches of law into Arabic

BRANCH OF LAW	Translation
Law of contract	
Law of tort	
Civil law	
Family law	
Law of succession	
Company law	
Employment law	
Constitutional law	
Judicial Law	

■ **Fill in the blanks with the right answer:**

➤ ..... is the law and regulations of the insurance , ..... Banking, derivatives , capital markets and investment management sectors.

**a) Administrative law**

**b) Financial law**

**c) Commercial**

➤ .....is a body of law that regulates the conduct of persons, merchants , and businesses who are engaged in trade , sales , and commerce. Also known as .....

**a) Air law**

**b) Commercial law**

**c) Business law**

➤ .....is a system of law concerned with private relations between members of a community rather than criminal , military , or religious affairs.

**a) Public law**

**b) Private law**

**c) Civil law**

- Pronunciation practice:

Read the following words aloud : Law – International law - Superior – Private law - nuisance-  
Defamation- Judiciary law – Executive - Commercial law . Financial

- What are the things that you've learned from the lesson?

Mention at least four new words and two important ideas .