

Savitribai Phule Pune University

(Formerly University of Pune)

Syllabus for Ph.D. (PET) Entrance Exam: Law

Research Methodology

Unit 1: Foundations of Legal Research

Meaning of Research, motivation for research, objectives of research

Characteristics of scientific method, empiricism, value neutrality, Repeatability, verifiability

Legal Research: Scope and Nature, Doctrinal and Non- doctrinal Legal Research, Models of Legal Research.

Approaches to Legal research: qualitative and quantitative, inductive and deductive and mix-method approach, socio- metrics and Jurimetrics.

Unit 2: Basic terms and types of research

Concept, Speculation, Fact, Theory

Independent and dependent variables

Methodology, method, tool and technique

Types of research- Exploratory, descriptive, analytical/explanatory, experimental, evaluation and impact assessment, interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, trans-disciplinary,

Unit 3: Research Design

Research design- concept and definition, need, advantages of planning a research, characteristics of good research design, Steps in research design; Identification, Selection and Formulation of problem, Literature Review, Primary and secondary data, sources of data- authenticity, credibility, reliability of sources and data

Unit 4: Hypothesis

Definition, characteristic of good hypothesis and sources of hypothesis

Types of hypothesis, Null hypothesis and Alternative Hypothesis

Hypothesis Testing–Logic & Importance of hypothesis testing

Unit 5: Sample and sampling designs

Concepts of population, sample, sampling frame, sampling unit

Need and advantages of sample study, Characteristics of representative sample, sampling error,

Concepts of probability and non-probability sampling

Types of probability sampling- simple random sampling, systematic random sampling, proportionate and disproportionate stratifies random sampling

Types of non-probability sampling- purposive snowball, etc.

Unit 6: Methods of research

Sample Survey, Case-study, life-history, historical, Content Analysis, technique of judgement analysis (case comment)

Unit 7: Tools of data collection

Questionnaire, Interview, Observation and types of observation, Focused Group Discussion, Scales and scaling techniques, Interview Guide & Schedule, Field Diary

Unit 8: Research Ethics

Research Ethics, History of research ethics.

Introduction to ethical principles - Anonymity, Confidentiality, Informed consent, Rights of participants, Harm to respondents and Researchers, Principles of biomedical and social science ethics, Ethical Guideline in Social Research

Unit 9: Plagiarism & Referencing and Citations

Plagiarism, its meaning and how to avoid it, Self-plagiarism

Anti-plagiarism measures – guidelines and software

Research referencing: Why – due credit to researchers, track back original research, its data, and sources etc., to avoid plagiarism

Referencing and Citations: What is Citation? Citation styles used in legal research, its basic components (Authors or editors, Book, journals etc., year and month of publication, page numbers, volume and issue etc.)

Differences in Citations of: Journal Articles, Authored books, Edited books, conference proceedings, posters, other media such as newspapers and magazines, electronic media such as websites and blogs, social media, photographs, videos and audio recordings, Legal proceedings, Reports of various agencies etc.

Subject Concerned Syllabus

Law

Section A : Constitutional Law of India

- Essential Features of Indian Constitution.
- Distribution of Legislative Powers between Union and States.
- Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of State Policy.
- Judiciary.
- Parliament and State Legislatures.
- Amending Process of the Constitution.
- Role of Election Commission in Democratic Process.

Section B : Legal Theory

- Nature and Sources of Law.
- Positivism, Natural Law Theory, Sociological Jurisprudence.
- Theories of Punishment.
- Legal Concepts—Right, Duty, Ownership, Possession and Person.
- Judicial Process—Application of Doctrine of Precedent of India.
- Judicial Contribution in bringing Social Changes.
- Law and Morality.

Section C :International Law & Human Rights

- Nature of International Law and its relationship with Municipal Law.
- Sources of International Law.
- Settlement of International Disputes.
- Global Trade Regime under International Law.
- Concept and Development of Human Rights.
- Contribution of United Nations in the Development and Implementation of Human Rights.
- Implementation of Human Rights in India—Role of National Human Rights Commission.
- Protection of Marginalised Groups—Women, Children, Minorities and Refugees.

Section D: Law of Contracts-General Principles

- Essentials of a valid contract.
- Offer, acceptance and consideration.
- Capacity to Contract-Minor's contract.
- Elements vitiating contract—mistake, fraud, misrepresentation, public policy, coercion, undue influence, frustration of contract.
- Remedies for breach of contract—Damages

Section E: Law of Crimes—General Principles

- General Principles of Criminal Law—meaning, nature, essentials and stages of offence.
- General Exceptions.
- Criminal Attempt, Conspiracy and Abetment.
- Offences against Women
- Offences against Human Body.
- Offences against Property.
- Defamation