UPSC Mains Law Optional Paper-II Syllabus

Law of Crimes:

- 1. General principles of Criminal liability: mens rea and actus reus, mens rea in statutory offences.
- 2. Kinds of punishment and emerging trends as to abolition of capital punishment.
- 3. Preparations and criminal attempts.
- 4 General exceptions.
- 5. Joint and constructive liability.
- 6. Abetment.
- 7. Criminal conspiracy.
- 8. Offences against the State.
- 9. Offences against public tranquillity.
- 10. Offences against human body.
- 11. Offences against property.
- 12. Offences against women.
- 13. Defamation.
- 14. Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
- 15. Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and subsequent legislative developments.
- 16. Plea bargaining.



Law of Torts:

- 1. Nature and definition.
- 2. Liability based upon fault and strict liability: Absolute liability.
- 3. Vicarious liability including State Liability.
- 4. General defences.
- 5. Joint tort lessors.
- 6. Remedies.
- 7. Negligence.
- 8. Defamation
- 9. Nuisance.
- 10. Conspiracy.
- 11. False imprisonment.
- 12. Malicious prosecution.
- 13. Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

Law of Contracts and Mercantile Law:

- 1. Nature and formation of contract/E-contract.
- 2. Factors vitiating free consent.
- 3. Void, voidable, illegal and unenforceable agreements.
- 4. Performance and discharge of contracts.
- 5. Quasi-contracts.

- 6. Consequences of breach of contract.
- 7. Contract of indemnity, guarantee and insurance.
- 8. Contract of agency.
- 9. Sale of goods and hire purchase.
- 10 Formation and dissolution of partnership.
- 11. Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.
- 12. Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.
- 13. Standard form contracts.

Contemporary Legal Developments:

- 1. Public Interest Litigation.
- 2. Intellectual property rights-Concept, types/prospects.
- 3. Information Technology Law including Cyber Laws Concept, purpose/prospects.
- 4. Competition Law-Concept, purpose/prospects.
- 5. Alternate Dispute Resolution-Concept, types/ prospects.
- 6. Major statutes concerning environmental law.
- 7. Right to Information Act.
- 8. Trial by media.

Literature of the following languages:

- NOTE (i). A candidate may be required to answer some or all the Questions in the language concerned.
- NOTE (ii). In regard to the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to Constitution, the scripts will be the same as indicated in Section II (B) of Appendix I relating to the Main Examination.
- NOTE (iii). Candidates should note that the questions not required to be answered in a specific language will have to be answered in the language medium indicated by them for answering papers on Essay, General Studies and Optional Subjects.