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Stage 1: Unit 1 Regulatory Environment & Enforcement

<u>Examiner's Report</u>

courts and to explain the parts of the judgment that are binding. Advantages and disadvantages could have included predictability, certainty, flexibility, distinguishing of cases, being timely and the challenges involved with keeping up-to-date with case law judgments.

Q3 Only 4 candidates attempted this question with marks ranging from 2-7.

Section B

Q7 This was the most popular Section B question, with 19 candidates choosing to answer it. Over half of the candidates attempting this question achieved a pass mark, with marks ranging from 5 – 23. There were several very low marks for this question, which demonstrated a lack of knowledge in some of the key areas of the syllabus; the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and contract law.

Part (a) required candidates to discuss whether a contract had been formed between Charlotte and Gamerz and whether the terms and conditions had been incorporated. Candidates needed to discuss concepts such as invitation to treat, offer, acceptance, consideration (if relevant) and identify these elements in the contract and decide whether a contract had been formed. Very good answers also considered the case law around instantaneous communication methods. Marks were given for legal reasoning even if the conclusion may have differed to that of the examiner. Relevant case law could have included Olley v Malborough Court Hotel, Parker v South Eastern Railway etc.

Part (b) asked candidates to discuss what the Consumer Rights Act 2015 states about the delivery of goods in a sales contract, as well as the circumstances and action needed to be taken in order to bring a contract to an end. Section 28 of the Act provides this information.

Part (c) was expecting candidates to identify that as the goods include digital content, Section 16 of the Consumer Rights Act 2015 would apply, and the goods were not of a satisfactory quality. Some candidates discussed digital content but as the game was not supplied in its digital form, it would not meet this definition. Candidates would then need to outline the relevant remedies for both the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and the common law, which some candidates forgot to address in their answer

Q8 13 candidates elected to answer this question, with marks ranging from 4 – 27. There was one particularly good answer to this question which demonstrated a very good knowledge by the candidate.

Part (a) required a discussion about what having sufficient evidence to proceed with a criminal case means and this was answered reasonably well by most candidates. Candidates could have discussed factors including success, reliability, admissibility etc.

Part (b) required candidates to list factors from the public interest stage, such as seriousness of the offence, level of culpability of the suspect, circumstances and level of harm caused to the victim, suspect's age and maturity etc. Marks were given for any relevant factors identified.

Part (c) tested candidate's knowledge of the requirement to publish a set of clear service standards. Listing the 6 factors that the Regulator's Code states should be included in the service standards, as well as the additional requirements such as ensuring it is accessible, clearly signposted and on the regulator's website and ensuring Officers comply with the service standards and enforcement policy.

Q9 This was a popular question with 17 candidates choosing to answer it. Over half of the candidates who attempted this question achieved a pass mark for it, with marks ranging from 2 – 32. There was one outstanding answer which was very impressive and demonstrated strong knowledge in the areas explored in this question.

This question was assessing the candidates' knowledge on the law of misrepresentation, the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and any relevant remedies. Candidates should ensure that they answer all parts of the question in order to maximise the n



available to them. The question also asked candidates to write an email and, on the whole, candidates did this well.

Candidates were expected to discuss the advert and verbal representations made to Mr Williams and apply the law of misrepresentation to the scenario. For example, at the time the advert was placed, the statement may have been true but this was not the case during the verbal representation made to Mr Williams over the telephone. The elements of misrepresentation needed to be discussed to determine whether they are met in this scenario, with reference to case law such as With v O'Flanagan. The Misrepresentation Act for English and Welsh candidates or the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Scotland Act 1985 for Scottish candidates could also have been referred to. The relevant remedies also needed outlining as part of the answer.

Section 50 of the Consumer Rights Act 2015 should also have been discussed in relation to the verbal statements made to Mr Williams, as well as Section 49 (reasonable care and skill) in relation to the quality of the work carried out by Emily. The relevant rights and remedies also needed identifying. Candidates should also have considered unfair contract terms, the prohibition under Section 57 and identified that it would not be binding upon the consumer; although the rest of the contract would still be binding on both parties.

Q10 This question was chosen by 12 candidates and was answered reasonably well by the majority of those who answered it. Marks awarded ranged from 7 – 23. The objectives and burdens of proof in civil and criminal law is on the detailed knowledge part of the syllabus for this unit and it was pleasing to see that part (a) of this question was generally answered well.

In part (a), good answers identified the burdens of proof for both civil and criminal law and then provided a discussion about the purposes of civil and criminal law. These could have included protecting people from harm and damage to property, retaining order in society, acting as a deterrent for criminal law and for civil law, factors such as rights and responsibilities for individuals and organisations when dealing with each other, fairness and equity and the differences between being found guilty/not guilty or liable/not liable.

Part (b) required candidates to outline the maximum value of cases that can be heard on the small claims track or in the Sheriff Court via Simple Procedure and the differences to the other tracks or Summary Cause and Ordinary Cause. For English and Welsh candidates, the maximum value is £10,000 or £1000 for personal injury and for Scottish candidates, the maximum value was £5000. Discussions of the differences could have included that the court procedures are simplified and more informal, whether the legal representation costs can be claimed and identifying the other tracks or Summary Cause and Ordinary Cause and how they are different.

Part (c) required candidates to identify the enforcement methods/process available for parties awarded a County Court judgment or who have success in a Simple procedure. Examples for English and Welsh candidates could have included warranty of execution, third party debt orders and charging orders and for Scottish candidates could have included the employment of the Sheriff Officers and service of charge, for example.

