Legal Profession Admission Board

October 2024

Criminal Law and Procedure

Examiner's comments

General Comments:

1. Most students managed to cover all relevant criminal liability issues effectively.
2. Use of Case Law: Citations of relevant case law and statutory provisions were common in high-scoring responses with key legal definitions.
3. Clear Language: Those who scored well used clear and concise language to apply legal principles to the facts and making a logical conclusion on each issue identified.

Common Problems:

1. Partial Responses: Some students didn't fully address all parts of the question, leading to lost marks.
2. Over-Reliance on Course Material: Instead of applying the law contextually, some students leaned too heavily on course notes without demonstrating how legal principles apply to the facts.
3. Incomplete Exams: Time management seemed to be an issue, with some students not completing the exam, though they scored well on the parts they did answer.

Recommendations for Improvement:

1. Time Management: Plan responses better to ensure all questions are attempted within the allotted time.
2. Clarity and Focus: Improve clarity in expressing arguments and legal reasoning.
3. Application of Law: It's crucial not just to understand legal principles but to apply them effectively to the facts provided.

Exam self-evaluation - Take-aways for students:

1. Thoroughness: Ensure every point in the question is addressed.
2. Support with Citations: Always back up arguments with relevant case law or statutes.
3. Critical Thinking: Focus on analysis and evaluation rather than merely restating facts.
4. Conclusions: Reach a reasoned conclusion on each legal issue and ensure that each response is neatly wrapped up.

These recommendations should guide students in enhancing their performance in future assessments, with a strong emphasis on analytical skills and exam technique.