

# Local Government

**Elective  
Past  
Papers**

LL.B. I



# GH AQDA STUDENTI TAL-LIĠI

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2020/2021

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## ABOUT GhSL

Għaqda Studenti Tal-Ligi (The Malta Law Students' Society) is a faculty-based, non-profit organisation at the University of Malta that represents all law students within the Faculty of Laws.

The organisation plays a pivotal role in law students' academic and social life at the University of Malta. The organisation has also been responsible for publishing the prestigious *Id-Dritt*, and the *GhSL Online Law Journal*.

Moreover, GhSL boasts its own Thesis Library, located at the GhSL office in the Faculty of Laws. Additionally, GhSL is the only law organisation responsible for the distribution of authoritative law notes and past papers.

For further queries on this set of notes, as well as any other, please feel free to contact our **Resources Officer** at [resources@ghsl.org](mailto:resources@ghsl.org).



## Advice from an Alumna

By Dr Priscilla Mifsud Parker

The law course is a long journey, but one that, if well-travelled, will lead to beautiful destinations. In an industry which is today attracting many young individuals looking to develop their career in law, it is important to stay ON the beaten track and remain focused. It may go without saying that it is of great importance for all students to attain good academic grades, to be dedicated to their work, as well as to be determined in this highly-competitive industry in order to fulfil their dream of becoming lawyers one day. However what is crucial is that as students and later on as professionals we are innovative by being sensitive to the changes around us. These changes might be political, economic, environmental, socio-cultural or others; what is for sure is that they all have an impact on the profession of a lawyer. We are members of a dynamic profession which is very sensitive to its surroundings. The type and 'genre' of advice which is required from us is all affected by what is being experienced by the receivers of this advice.

Work experience is considered as a vital part of the staple diet of any prospective lawyer in order to put into practice and refine the knowledge gained from the theoretical reality of the lecture halls and lawbooks into the skills required for a successful career in law. An internship will not only show future recruiters that you have a genuine interest in pursuing a career in this sector, but that you have the practical knowledge and skills to succeed in your role.

Here are some personal suggestions that I feel helped me during my journey:

### 1. *Being Ambitious*

A powerful trait in any competitive industry, ambition will help you in your law course, in your career as a lawyer, as well as in your life. Whilst the law course can be quite intimidating and challenging, an ambitious individual who is dedicated to learning new things has the potential to understand and realize long-term goals. Do not view the journey as one whole insurmountable mountain but focus on the next small goal and once achieved move on to the next and goal by goal you will reach your final target point.

In this respect, gaining valuable work experience through an internship is an important step taken by an ambitious young lawyer who wants to attain certain skillsets, and remain a step ahead of his/her peers. By being inquisitive, analytical and humble enough to accept guidance and mentoring one is guaranteed a fruitful experience in a law firm. It is also not only a means to start focusing on the direction of your career and to build upon your chosen path, but will undoubtedly expose you to the international world. This is crucial, as most of the traditional legal sectors have been intertwined with new areas of legislation and all these together now present much more opportunity for intra-jurisdictional work.

### 2. *Networking*

By engaging with counterparty students abroad and in international fora one gains an insight into another reality and is exposed to different cultures, ways of communicating and is able to bridge



the differences between parties to a mundane discussion which will eventually become a transaction or a major project in professional life.

### *3. Organisational Skills*

Organisation is key in any industry. Good organisation skills always stand out to a recruiter when considering potential applicants. Such skills can be obtained by gaining experience either through organising one's own work, study plan, student events or cultural/philanthropic events.

Going hand-in-hand with this, is having a study plan. By planning your studies ahead, one will have a sufficient amount of time to meet all the demands, while also being able to participate in productive outside activities. Reviewing notes or case briefs before class can also help you follow and participate in class discussions better, whilst following case-law allows you to apply them for specific situations. In view of the amount of material involved summarising and carving out the most crucial points is essential to then build your argument in papers.

### *4. Taking your own class notes*

It is always important to take down your own notes as laws are always evolving and passed-down notes would provide the context but are not ideally used for the detail. Researching the particular topic and comparing Malta's law with that of other jurisdiction gives one a completely different outlook and commenting on these variances in an exam paper, dissertation or assignment would distinguish one student from another. Not to be overlooked are also the consultation papers, commentaries and other official public documents that are issued by local authorities from time to time on different areas of law and industry. Being abreast of what is happening in industry will help putting the particular law or regulation in context.

### *5. Participation*

Participation is a main element of the learning process. Being actively involved during seminars and lectures and participating in legal debate sessions, mock trial competitions and moot courts are essential in order to improve your persuasive and presentation skills. If you find this very difficult (all of us have different characters and traits), then try to focus on participation in other events which will expose you to public speaking starting off in smaller groups in a more familiar environment and trying out new experiences and larger audiences as you go along.

### *6. Practice is the key to success*

This leads us to our next point – practice. Attaining good grades is undoubtedly an important part of the law course, however, in themselves, they are not enough to show that you have substantial material to succeed. Working within a law firm introduces you to the world of work, and allows you to gain specific industry-related skills which one will only ever be able to learn in a workplace setting.

Work experience can provide you with valuable insight which will help you decide what your career aspirations are and in which areas you would like to further delve into.

University of Malta  
Faculty of Laws  
Department of Public Law

LL.B. 1<sup>st</sup> Year

June Session 2012

PBL 1009 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

MONDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2012, 11.45 a.m. – 12.45 p.m.

All questions carry equal marks

Answer any **one** question from the following questions:

1. Carefully examine the relationship between central government and local councils constituting local government. Examine also the powers and functions of local government.
2. To what extent can local councils be held responsible in damages occurring in areas falling within their responsibility? Carefully examine this responsibility in the light of local case-law.

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

FACULTY OF LAWS

LL.B. (Honours) 1<sup>st</sup> Year

PBL 1009 – Local Government Law

Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2013, 9.15 a.m. – 10.15 a.m.

All Questions carry equal marks

Answer any ONE question from the following:

1. Discuss the relationship between central government and local government. Give examples of this relationship.
2. What are the powers and functions of local councils?
3. As a legal person a local council is liable at law. Discuss and provide examples from case law.

**UNIVERSITY OF MALTA**

**FACULTY OF LAWS**

**LL.B. HONS I YEAR**

**PBL1009 – Local Government Law**

**MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY, 2014**

**9.15A.M. – 10.15A.M.**

*Answer any one (1) question from the following (all questions carry equal marks):*

1. Comment on the following statement: 'For local government to succeed in Malta, a team effort is called for'.
2. 'Local Councils are a waste of the taxpayer's money. Malta is so small, we simply do not need them'. Do you agree?
3. Describe the relationship between central and local government in Malta.



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
FACULTY OF LAWS  
LL.B. HONS. I YEAR  
PBL 1009 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2015

9.15am – 10.15am

*Answer any one (1) question from the following (all three questions carry equal marks):*

1. Discuss the notion of 'devolution' of functions and duties from central to local government.
2. Discuss the following statement: 'Central government should show more trust in local government, by loosening its grip'.
3. Describe the role of the Local Governance Board on the local government scene.

**UNIVERSITY OF MALTA**  
**FACULTY OF LAWS**  
**LL.B. HONS. 1<sup>st</sup> YEAR**  
**JANUARY 2017 EXAMINATIONS**

**PBL1009 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW**

DATE: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017

READING AND NOTING TIME: 10.00AM TO 10.05AM

DURATION OF EXAMINATION: 10.05AM TO 11.05AM

Writing is permitted during the Reading and Noting time.

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS:**

*Answer any one (1) question from the following (all three questions carry equal marks):*

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1. Local government in Malta: a waste of public funds? Discuss.
  
2. Discuss the relationship between central and local government in Malta.
  
3. Describe the role of the Local Governance Board on the local government scene.