



CILEX Level 6 Single Subject Certificate/CILEX Level 6 Professional Higher Diploma in Law and Practice/CILEX Level 6 Graduate Fast-Track Diploma

Unit 7 – Family Law

Question paper

June 2026

Time allowed: 3 hours and 15 minutes (includes 15 minutes reading time)

Instructions and information

- It is recommended that you take **fifteen** minutes to read through this question paper before you start answering the questions. However, if you wish to, you may start answering the questions immediately.
- There are **two** sections in this question paper — Section A and Section B. Each section has four questions.
- You must answer **four** of the eight questions — at least **one** question must be from **Section A** and at least **one** question must be from **Section B**.
- This question paper is out of 100 marks.
- The marks for each question are shown — use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.
- Write in full sentences — a yes or no answer will earn no marks.
- Full reasoning must be shown in your answers.
- Statutory authorities, decided cases and examples should be used where appropriate.
- You are allowed to make notes on your scrap paper during the examination.
- A basic calculator is provided should you require the use of one.
- You can use your own unmarked copy of the following designated statute book – **Blackstone’s Statutes on Family Law, 31st edition, Rob George, Oxford University Press, 2023**.
- You must comply with the CILEX Exam Regulations – Online Exams at Accredited Centres/CILEX Exam Regulations – Online Exams with Remote Invigilation.

SECTION A

Answer at least one question from this section.

1. 'The law fails to support cohabitants on relationship breakdown in comparison to couples who have been married or in a civil partnership.'

Critically assess this statement with reference to:

- a) division of assets when the relationship breaks down;

(13 marks)

- b) financial support of children.

(12 marks)

(Total: 25 marks)

2. 'The law on formalities for marriage and civil partnership is complex and still does not adequately provide for those for whom a religious ceremony is central.'

Critically evaluate this statement.

(25 marks)

3. 'The protections offered by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 will eventually replace the need for protective orders under the Family Law Act 1996.'

Critically assess this statement.

(25 marks)

4. 'It is sometimes said that the law on surrogacy in England and Wales is overly restrictive and requires reform.'

Critically assess the truth of this statement and whether the Law Commission has provided a clear way forward in this area of law.

(25 marks)

SECTION B

Answer at least one question from this section.

Question 1

Lola is 40 years old. She is married to Victor, who is 52 years old.

Lola and Victor met 10 years ago. They immediately fell in love and it was not long before they began to discuss the possibility of marrying. Lola's friends and family were not enthusiastic about her marrying Victor and tried to persuade her to wait and take things more slowly. Victor very much wanted to get married and, in an effort to persuade her, offered Lola a prenuptial agreement that would be in Lola's favour should their marriage end.

As the first anniversary of their meeting each other approached, Victor invited a large number of his friends to a celebratory dinner. The dinner took place in a restaurant in London that Victor regularly frequented. The dinner was lavish and there was a great deal of alcohol on offer, as well as delicious food. Towards the end of the evening, one of Victor's friends suggested that Lola and Victor get married there and then. Another friend, who acts as a celebrant of humanist weddings, offered to lead the ceremony and assured Lola and Victor that 'everything was taken care of.' Victor reminded Lola about the prenuptial agreement and said he would love her forever. Lola was quite drunk but was having such fun that she agreed and the ceremony took place. Shortly after this event, Lola discovered that she had contracted a sexually transmitted disease from Victor.

Lola and Victor's relationship has now ended. Lola has said that she wants to divorce Victor.

Advise Lola as to her options.

(25 marks)

Question 2

Amy and Ivan have been in a relationship for approximately five years. Amy and Ivan have two children, Jamie aged three and Zoe aged two. Ivan is named on Jamie's birth certificate but not on Zoe's.

Amy and Ivan have had a turbulent relationship and Ivan has moved out of the family home several times. Each time, he has eventually returned and he and Amy have tried to renew their relationship. Six months ago Ivan assaulted Amy, which resulted in her attending a hospital emergency department. Amy received stitches to her face and had substantial bruising. Amy declined the offer to give a statement to the police and no criminal charges were brought. Ivan apologised to Amy and promised that the assault was an isolated event, brought on by his having just lost his job. Ivan moved back into the family home but the relationship with Amy deteriorated. Amy felt that she could not trust Ivan anymore and feared for her and the children's safety.

After this incident, Amy decided that she had to separate from Ivan for her sake and that of Jamie and Zoe. Ivan reluctantly agreed to leave the family home and is staying with his brother two miles away. All attempts to discuss living and contact arrangements amicably have failed. Consequently, Amy started an application for the children to live with her and to have no contact with Ivan. Ivan started his own application for the children to stay with him at weekends and to have contact on their birthdays and other key events through the year. Both applications have been filed at the family court.

Advise Amy as to whether her application is likely to succeed and how the court will consider her application along with Ivan's.

(25 marks)

Question 3

Bronwyn and Megan are civil partners and have lived together for 10 years. Bronwyn is 42 years old, and Megan is 48 years old. They live in a house registered in Megan's sole name, which Megan bought before she met Bronwyn. Bronwyn and Megan have a son named Gareth, who is six years old. Gareth was conceived through assisted reproduction, with Bronwyn carrying the pregnancy. Bronwyn took time off work when Gareth was born and has been his primary caregiver, while Megan has continued to work full time.

Megan works as a sports instructor and personal trainer at an upmarket gym, and earns enough money to support Bronwyn and Gareth. Bronwyn trained as a primary school teacher. Now that Gareth has started school, Bronwyn has decided to start working again part time. She is excited about getting back into work, being with other people and earning her own income.

Bronwyn recently confided in her parents that Megan has become increasingly controlling towards her. Bronwyn thinks this is related to her wish to start working again outside of the home. Megan and Bronwyn have separate bank accounts but as Bronwyn is not working, she relies on Megan to give her money. Megan strictly controls how much money Bronwyn has to spend and insists that Bronwyn provide receipts for all her purchases. She gets angry if she thinks Bronwyn has spent money without good cause, which has caused many arguments between them. Bronwyn is aware that Megan monitors her movements with a tracking app that they both have on their phones.

Two weeks ago, an argument broke out between Bronwyn and Megan over the issue of money and the friends Bronwyn was associating with. Megan became extremely angry, lost her temper and pushed Bronwyn down a flight of stairs in their home. Gareth witnessed this argument and has refused to speak since. Bronwyn left the home with Gareth and is temporarily staying in a hotel. She is soon going to run out of money and has no one else to rely on in the area.

Advise Bronwyn what she can do to protect herself and Gareth, and how a court will consider any application she makes.

(25 marks)

Question 4

Yusuf, aged 50, and Samira, aged 48, have been married for 25 years. Yusuf has spent the years since getting married building up a furniture business and has been extremely successful, with branches located throughout the UK. The business is currently valued at £2 million. Samira has not worked for the last 15 years and has supported Yusuf in the business while maintaining their home. She also cared for Yusuf's elderly parents through ill health. Both of Yusuf's parents recently died. Prior to leaving work, Samira was employed as a personal assistant and her income supported the couple in the early years of their marriage while the business was growing.

The couple have lived in a large house for the last 20 years. The house has no mortgage and is currently valued at £1.8 million. They have an additional property, a two-bedroomed flat, which they rent out. Yusuf's business brings them an income of £200,000 per annum. Yusuf has paid into a private pension regularly since they married and it is now worth £300,000. Samira has no private pension. Yusuf inherited £500,000 from his parents, which is currently invested in Yusuf's name, and which he set aside to support his and Samira's retirement. Samira's parents died many years ago and did not leave anything to their children.

In the last year, Samira has become increasingly unhappy in her marriage, feeling undervalued by Yusuf. He works long hours, travels frequently on business and leaves her alone most evenings while he dines with other business owners and clients. She feels his traditional views on marriage contribute to his lack of interest in her mental wellbeing. Since Yusuf's parents died, Samira feels ready and eager to go back to work. Yusuf is unsupportive and has told Samira that she has been out of work too long and is too old to be taken seriously in job applications. Samira has come to the conclusion that she can no longer live with Yusuf and wants their marriage to come to an end. Yusuf is adamantly opposed to divorce.

- a) Advise Samira on the legal options relating to her marriage.

(6 marks)

- b) Advise Samira on financial orders she can apply for if she proceeds with a divorce and how the court will approach her application.

(19 marks)

(Total: 25 marks)

End of the examination