

1- What is law?

Law is a body of rules which have been laid down for determining legal rights and legal obligations which are recognized by courts.

Rules are either sent by god or made by man. On one hand, positive laws are human-made laws that oblige or specify an action as well as they describe the establishment of specific rights for and individual or group. On the other hand, natural laws are rules sent by God. Natural laws are laws which claim a basis in god, nature, or reason. If a rule is not binding on the people, it is not positive. Al-zakaa, for example, is an Islamic order, but the authority will not punish the people who do not pay it. Therefore, it is not a positive law.

Natural law	Positive law
1- based upon principles and truth (inherent to creation)	1- based upon ideological beliefs (constructs of mind)
2- harmonized with, due to knowledge and understanding	2- complied with, due to fear of punishment
3- universal; exists and applies anywhere in the universe regardless of location	3- differ with location based upon the legislators
4- eternal and cannot be changed	4- changes with time based on the legislators

2- General vs special law.

Law is a new term. It appeared in the Arab homeland in the middle of the nineteenth century in two meanings:

1. Special Law: it is the collection of all legal decisions which are binding on every member in the society. The authority will punish any person who disobey these decisions. The transportation law is a special law. The income law is another example.

2. General Law: an example of general law is the Iraqi civil law. Another example is the international law. A general law is a group of rules of general behavior in the society. These rules regulate the social relations among people.

-A code is the law which governs a certain field in our life: the civil code and the commercial code, for example. Commercial code regulates commercial relations.

-Is law necessary to life? Yes, it is. Without law, there is no order in the society. It is necessary for our civilization and for the development of our life.

3- Terminology

Law قانون

Rule قاعدة

Special law القانون الخاص

Income law قانون الدخل

General law القانون العام

Civil law القانون المدني

Positive law قانون وضعي

Code قانون محدد

Commercial law القانون التجاري

Transportation law القانون النقل

International law القانون الدولي