



Lesson Three:

Lesson Three: How are Laws Made?
Student Version
Handout 3.1



Name _____

Lesson Three Vocabulary Words

Amend: to change or modify for the better; to alter formally by modification, deletion, or addition.

Enforce: to carry out effectively; to compel observance of or obedience to.

Fine: a sum of money required to be paid as a penalty for an offense; a penalty to be paid to the offended party in a civil action.

Policy: a plan or course of action, as of a government, political party, or business, intended to influence and determine decisions, actions, and other matters.

Privilege: a special advantage, permission, right, or benefit granted to or enjoyed by an individual, class, or caste; an advantage or right held as a prerogative of status or rank, and exercised to the exclusion or detriment of others.

Rule: an order or regulation that must be followed; to have authority over something.





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The School Without Rules

Instructions: Read the text below.

Imagine a school without **rules**. Students enter and leave classrooms as they wish, speak up in class whenever they want to, and take calls on their cell phones in the middle of class. Some students run in the hallways, making it difficult for others to get to class safely. Students do not have a place to keep their belongings. Sometimes, students even copy each other's work when completing assignments. The school has no rules that can be **enforced** to improve the students' behavior.

1. Working with your assigned small group, discuss the text. Use the following questions to guide your discussions and be prepared to share your answers with the class.

- What do you think it would be like to attend the school without rules? Would it be a peaceful, quiet environment suitable to study? Would it be organized and orderly?

- Do you think you or your belongings would be safe at school?

- How much do you think you would learn at the school? Do you think all students would have an opportunity to participate?

- How could order be restored in the school?





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2. Create a set of rules (5 – 6) for the school that address the problems your group identified in Question 1. For each rule, provide an explanation for why you think the rule is needed.

Rule 1: _____

Rule 2: _____

Rule 3: _____

Rule 4: _____

Rule 5: _____

Rule 6: _____





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Elements of an Effective Law

Instructions: Read the below text. Working with your assigned small group, discuss the text. Use the questions below to guide your discussions and be prepared to share your answers with the class.

Roads without rules can be dangerous. The government of Qatar realized that a lack of rules on the roads was creating a problem of safety for residents. Recognition of a problem is often the first step in making a law.

Laws can also promote a **policy**. A policy is a plan to achieve goals. In the case of the traffic laws, for example, a primary goal of the government was better safety for Qatari citizens and residents. Laws can, of course, both address a problem and promote a government policy.

Once a problem or policy goal has been identified, law makers must take several steps to create a law that effectively solves the problem:

- Everyone whom the law affects must be treated equally.
- The law must address concrete actions or behaviors. This means that violations of the law can be proved. It would be difficult, for example, to have an effective law against daydreaming while driving.
- A majority of citizens must agree that the law is a good idea.
- The law must provide for penalties against people who break the law. These penalties should be reasonable, but also strong enough to convince people that they should follow the law.
- There must be adequate resources for the law to be **enforced**. This means that people must be convinced that if they break the law, there is a good chance that they will be caught.

Once law makers decide to use the law to solve a problem or promote a policy, they continue to monitor the law to judge its effectiveness. They may have to **amend** (change or adjustment) the law. For example, if many people still do not follow the law, the government may need to provide for stiffer penalties. The government should also publicize the law to promote public awareness and support. It might also need to provide for additional resources (more traffic police, for example) to assure enforcement of the law.





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1. Why is it important that a law apply to everyone equally?

2. Why would it be difficult to enforce a law against daydreaming while driving?

3. Why is it important that a majority of citizens agree with the need for a law?

4. Why is it important for a law to provide for reasonable penalties for violations of the law?

5. In the case of a traffic law, what do you think would convince people that there is a good chance they will be caught if they break the law?





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Looking at Qatar Traffic Law

Instructions: Read the text below for a brief introduction to traffic law in Qatar.

Traffic Law No. 19 of 2007 established a system of demerit points for a range of traffic violations. Once a driver has received a certain number of demerit points, the driver’s license to drive will be suspended. A license to drive can be suspended because this license is a **privilege**, not a right. A privilege must be earned—for example, by successfully passing a driving test—and can be suspended or withdrawn if the privilege is abused.

Many of the offenses defined by the traffic law can also be punished with imprisonment and/or a fine. Violations that can be punished with imprisonment must be reviewed by a court before a sentence is imposed. Violations that are settled by paying a fine only do not require court review.

For questions 1 – 9, refer to Handout 3.5.

1. Which types of offenses have higher demerit point values?

2. Which have lower values?

3. Why do you think different point values have been given to different offenses? Why do you think government officials chose the point values for offenses as they did?

4. Why is it important to have traffic laws? How is the law being used here to keep us safe?





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5. As the number of times that a driver has violated the law increases, what happens to the number of negative points required for suspension of a license? What happens to the length of the suspension?

6. If your driving license is suspended, that might complicate your life, preventing you from going places like school, work, or worship. How is the government able to restrict you from doing something like driving and have it be legal and fair?

7. An effective law should impose reasonable penalties for violations, but should also be strong enough to convince people to follow the law. How do the provisions of the law defining the terms for suspension of licenses meet this requirement?

8. How do these traffic demerit points reflect the rule of law that we learned about in **Lesson One**?

9. Where would traffic laws fall on the Sources of Law chart that we looked at in **Lesson Two**?





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For questions 10 – 12, refer to Handout 3.6.

10. What is different about the violations that must be reviewed by a court and the violations that can be settled by paying a fine?

11. Where do the “fined offenses” fall on the demerit chart that we looked at earlier? How about “court appearance offenses?” Do some offenses earn more demerit points than others?

12. Why is it important that a court review violations that can be punished with imprisonment?





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Traffic Violations and Demerit Point Values

No.	Type of Violation	Points
1	Running an automatic or manually activated red light	7
2	Driving in the wrong (opposite) direction	6
3	Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs or any other mental stimulant	6
4	Exceeding the maximum speed limit	4
5	Driving recklessly or dangerously or in a way that harms life and public property	4
6	Driving a vehicle without break or with faulty brakes or one faulty brake or with an unusable break	4
7	Driving with inappropriate license	3
8	Driving with suspended or invalid license	3
9	Violating customs and norms of public morality inside the vehicle or allowing somebody to do so	3
10	Driving a nonregistered vehicle	3
11	Driving a vehicle without number plates	3
12	Driving a vehicle with a number plate issued by the authority but changes have been made in numbers or with a number plate which is not issued from authority on which the original or fake numbers have been printed	3
13	Using a vehicle against its purpose	3
14	Driving a vehicle which emits noisy sounds	3
15	Providing wrong information intentionally to pass the technical inspection or to earn a license or a temporary license, or getting a replacement for a lost license	3
16	Blocking or deactivating the flow of traffic in the public roads intentionally	3
17	Driving a vehicle emitting dense fume or causing bad smoke	3
18	Driving a vehicle which drops loads that can endanger the public safety	3
19	Driving on the pavement	3
20	Making a turn or round or U-turn against the traffic movement flow	3
21	Giving the vehicle to someone who does not have a license, or another categorized license or any other permit issued by the authority	2
22	Driving a vehicle that leaks flammable materials or harms the public health or environment or damages the road	3
23	Change a vital part of the vehicle without a written permission from the authority	3
24	Driving a vehicle with one number plate, or changing plate's place or color or shape issued from the authority	1
25	Driving a vehicle with unclear or unreadable number plates	2
26	Refraining from giving driving license or registration card or any related document issued by the traffic department to traffic police	1
27	Trucks violating the load regulations	1
28	Trucks violating the vehicle's weight and dimensions' standards in width, height and weight	1
29	Driving a technically unsafe vehicle (as a result of an accident)	1
30	Using lights, horns, loud speakers or any other unauthorized machines; or driving a vehicle which is not equipped with horn	
31	Disobeying traffic signs or ground lines	1

No.	Times of Violation	No. Negative Points	Driving License Suspension Period
1	First Time	14 Points	3 Months
2	Second Time	12 Points	6 Months
3	Third Time	10 Points	9 Months
4	Fourth Time	8 Points	1 Year
5	Fifth Time	6 Points	Ultimately, pending reauthorization





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State of Qatar
Ministry of Interior

Point System in the Traffic Violations

Offenses Paid By Fines

Offenses Requiring Court Appearances

Type of Violation	Fine Amount
Not displaying the sticker indicating the valid date of the vehicle license at a clear place on the vehicle or refusing to show it when requested.	QR.300
Driving a vehicle on the road without renewal of its license.	QR.1500
Driving a vehicle without number plates.	QR.3000
Making unauthorized changes of color or shape of the number plates or altering the details on it or loaning it or exchanging it.	QR.1500
Not returning the number plates to the licensing authority when the vehicle is not in use or in case of non renewal of the vehicle license within the stipulated date or the vehicle being unfit for use or when applying for cancellation of its registration or for its export out of the country ultimately.	QR.500
Not informing the licensing authority immediately about the loss or damage of any one or both of the number plates.	QR.500
Using the commercial number plates in unauthorized situations.	QR.500
Using of temporary number plates ("For test" number plates) for unauthorized purposes.	QR.500
Driving a vehicle with commercial number plates or number plates which are allowed for test vehicles without fixing it properly on the vehicle as requested by the law or allowing an unauthorized person to drive that vehicle.	QR.500
To write or to paint or to put any details against the law on any part of the vehicle or in the body of the vehicle or to use the vehicle for publicity purposes without written permission from licensing authority.	QR.500

Type of Violation	Punishment
Conducting races for men, cars or bicycles on roads without written permission from licensing authority or not complying with rules and regulations assigned by the licensing authority.	Imprisonment of minimum one month and maximum 3 years and /or fine of minimum 10000 Riyals and maximum 50000 Riyals according to article no (94).
Doing construction or maintenance or destruction or making holes on roads that may obstruct traffic or risk the road users without permission from licensing authority. Or not putting the warning signs, necessary caution boards and not following rules and regulations of licensing authority.	Imprisonment of minimum one month and maximum 3 years and /or fine of minimum 10000 Riyals and maximum 50000 Riyals according to article no (94).
Destroying traffic signs or any part of it or shifting it or changing its content or its information or its direction or damaging it or damaging the road.	Imprisonment of minimum one month and maximum 3 years and /or fine of minimum 10000 Riyals and maximum 50000 Riyals according to article no (94).
Driving a vehicle on the road recklessly or carelessly or in a way that endangers life of people and properties.	Imprisonment of minimum one month and maximum 3 years and /or fine of minimum 10000 Riyals and maximum 50000 Riyals according to article no (94).
Driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohols or drugs or any other mental stimulants.	Imprisonment of minimum one month and maximum 3 years and /or fine of minimum 10000 Riyals and maximum 50000 Riyals according to article no (94).



