

Riddle At Lion's Gate

Introduction: “Riddle at Lion’s Gate” is the law and criminology module of Beaconhouse Notion of Academia, designed to immerse delegates in legal reasoning, investigative analysis and courtroom strategy. Through structured scenarios, mystery investigations and constitutional simulations, participants sharpen critical thinking, ethical judgment, advocacy and collaboration while navigating complex legal and socio-political challenges. Building on past editions, this module bridges historical insight with contemporary legal challenges.

Round 1: Scrolls to Statutes

Delegate Cap(3 delegates)

Overview & Nature of the Challenge

In *Scrolls to Statutes*, delegates are introduced to the intellectual foundation of the Olympiad through a complex socio-legal scenario at the intersection of law, history, ethics and public morality. Participants examine the same situation through two contrasting lenses: modern legal reasoning grounded in constitutional principles, rights and due process and historical legal traditions reflecting how earlier civilisations understood justice, order and responsibility. All analysis is written, offline and based strictly on materials provided by the secretariat. The focus is not on performance but on disciplined reasoning, clarity of thought and the ability to justify conclusions logically. Delegates are expected to produce multiple written outputs demonstrating legal analysis, policy-level thinking and reflection on justice, morality and institutional responsibility. Success depends on structure, prioritisation and clarity rather than volume or rhetoric.

What This Round Tests

This round evaluates how well delegates can break down sensitive legal problems without emotional bias, apply legal principles rather than personal opinion, balance ethical concerns with legal structure, think historically while reasoning responsibly in a modern context and communicate complex ideas clearly under time constraints. Delegates must demonstrate maturity, restraint and intellectual honesty, particularly when engaging with culturally charged themes.

Guidelines & Importance

All required materials will be provided and no electronic devices or outside references are permitted. Submissions are assessed holistically by the secretariat, with precision and reasoning valued more than length. *Scrolls to Statutes* sets the tone for the entire Olympiad, reinforcing the central idea that law evolves but justice remains rooted in human dignity, balance and fairness. Approximately 50% of delegates will be eliminated after this round

based on overall performance and analytical depth. Delegates should come prepared to think critically, reason carefully and write with clarity. Those expecting fixed answers may be unsettled but those ready to engage intellectually will be rewarded.

Study Resource Hub

Category	Possible Resources
Topics to Study	Evolution of legal systems from ancient to modern; comparative law; basic principles of constitutional rights and due process; historical legal codes such as Hammurabi, Roman, Greek, Egyptian, Islamic and Common Law. Delegates should be ready for any system or concept.
Skills to Master	Analytical reasoning; comparative legal thinking; structured written communication; ethical judgment; ability to summarise complex ideas clearly; critical evaluation of law, policy and historical context.
Essential Reading	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Evolution of Legal Systems: A Historical Overview (u7y.com) 2. Code of Hammurabi (en.wikipedia.org) 3. Corpus Juris Civilis (Roman Law) (en.wikipedia.org) 4. Sources of Muslim Law (Intro to Sharia Foundations) (testbook.com) 5. Comparative Law Overview (britannica.com)
Inspiration Gallery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of Law, Power & Justice; https://youtu.be/OxOZ7KUC1yk?si=vo0WDq_HTuBhdKgw • Origin of Law in Ancient World; https://youtu.be/id4ISvfGZks?si=OHI31wJFecMFoX2q

Round 2: The Secrets of the Walled City

Delegate Cap(3 delegates)

Overview & Nature of the Challenge

In *The Secrets of the Walled City*, delegates are placed at the centre of an unfolding investigative crisis rooted in the disappearance of a key individual amid quiet but unresolved institutional tensions. Set within the shadowed streets and historic quarters of Lahore, the round immerses participants in a situation where certainty is rare and appearances are unreliable. Information is revealed gradually through fragmented accounts, cryptic material and evolving developments that may be incomplete or misleading. Delegates must construct understanding as the case unfolds, relying on disciplined reasoning rather than instinct. The focus is not on speed or spectacle but on careful analysis, evidentiary restraint and the ability to justify conclusions logically under uncertainty.

What This Round Tests

This round evaluates how well delegates can interpret complex situations as they develop, identify legally relevant details without explicit direction and adapt when new information challenges earlier assumptions. Participants are tested on their ability to connect subtle clues, shifting narratives and hidden patterns into defensible investigative positions while resisting premature conclusions. Delegates must demonstrate patience, intellectual honesty and sound judgment, maintaining neutrality and consistency even as pressure increases and clarity remains limited.

Guidelines & Importance

All required materials will be released by the secretariat during the round, and no electronic devices or outside references are permitted. Submissions are assessed holistically, with clarity of reasoning, structure and evidentiary discipline valued more than length or dramatic flair. The Secrets of the Walled City forms the analytical core of the Olympiad, reinforcing the principle that truth emerges through methodical inquiry, not assumption. Approximately 70–75% of delegates will be eliminated after this round based on cumulative performance and depth of reasoning. Delegates should come prepared to question appearances, revise conclusions responsibly and navigate uncertainty with caution because in a city shaped by history, not everything reveals itself at once.

Study Resource Hub

Category	Possible Resources
Topics to Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundations of criminal responsibility and accountability; • Principles governing the treatment of uncertainty and incomplete information in legal processes; • Evaluation of reliability, credibility and inference; • Reasoning under evolving factual circumstances; • Proportionality and restraint in legal decision-making; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structured legal writing and justification of conclusions. Delegates should be prepared to adapt their reasoning as situations develop.
Skills to Master	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pattern recognition across fragmented information; • Inferential reasoning and the ability to connect dispersed details; • Judgment under uncertainty; discernment between reliable and misleading material; • Restraint in drawing conclusions; • Structured and precise written communication; • Intellectual adaptability without loss of coherence.
Essential Reading	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How Investigations Work: Evidence, Inference, and Uncertainty: https://www.britannica.com/topic/criminal-investigation 2. Circumstantial vs Direct Evidence: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circumstantial_evidence 3. Structured Decision-Making in Digital Evidence Investigations: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666281720300512? 4. The Making of an Expert Detective: The Making of an Expert Detective 081116.pdf
Inspiration Gallery	Cracking Codes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. https://youtu.be/Kf9KjCKmDcU?si=AmLYXyeWM_6jG6vz 2. https://youtu.be/-yFZGF8FHSg?si=GtoU8vOwvd29W2QG
Sample Template	 Missing Person Report Template .pdf

Round 3: The Midnight Knock

Delegate Cap(1 delegate)

Overview & Nature of the Challenge

In *The Midnight Knock*, delegates enter a high-pressure constitutional setting where individual liberty and state authority collide. Participants engage with a realistic legal dispute involving the arrest and detention of a journalist, requiring them to examine whether state action was a lawful security measure or an unlawful suppression of dissent. Delegates work in teams to analyse facts, construct legal positions and respond to competing narratives within a simulated courtroom environment. The round blends legal reasoning, procedural awareness and advocacy, demanding clarity of argument and disciplined thinking rather than political rhetoric or emotional appeal. Success depends on how well delegates connect facts to legal principles while maintaining professional composure under pressure.

What This Round Tests

This round evaluates a delegate's ability to argue within a structured legal framework, balance competing interests such as security and liberty and adapt to live courtroom dynamics. Delegates are tested on their reasoning under time constraints, strategic use of evidence, handling of opposing arguments and overall advocacy skills. The emphasis is on clarity, proportionality and sound judgment rather than aggression or theatrics. Strong performances reflect an understanding of how law operates in contested and sensitive contexts.

Guidelines & Importance

All materials required for the round will be provided by the secretariat. Delegates are expected to follow courtroom etiquette, respect procedural boundaries and work cohesively within their teams. Submissions and performances are assessed holistically, with reasoning, structure and professionalism valued over volume or dramatic delivery. The Midnight Knock serves as the culminating round of the Olympiad, where finalists demonstrate their highest level of constitutional reasoning and advocacy. Performance in this round determines final standings, with delegates who remain composed, precise and principled distinguishing themselves as the strongest advocates of the cohort.

Study Resource Hub

Category	Possible Resources
Topics to Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutionalism and the rule of law; • Fundamental rights versus state authority; • Due process and lawful detention; • Freedom of expression and its limits; • Proportionality and necessity in legal

	decision-making;
Skills to Master	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal reasoning and issue identification; • Structured oral argument and rebuttal; • Courtroom etiquette and professional advocacy; • Strategic use of facts and evidence; • Team coordination under time pressure;
Essential Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Constitutional Law – British Institute of International and Comparative Law; https://www.biicl.org/constitutional-law • Due Process – Cornell Law School (Legal Information Institute); https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/due_process • Freedom of Expression – Amnesty International; https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/freedom-of-expression/
Inspiration Gallery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Moot Courts Work (Beginner Friendly); https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywN0h-9kSyA • Sample Moot Court Final Round (Harvard); https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bhuit83ph6c