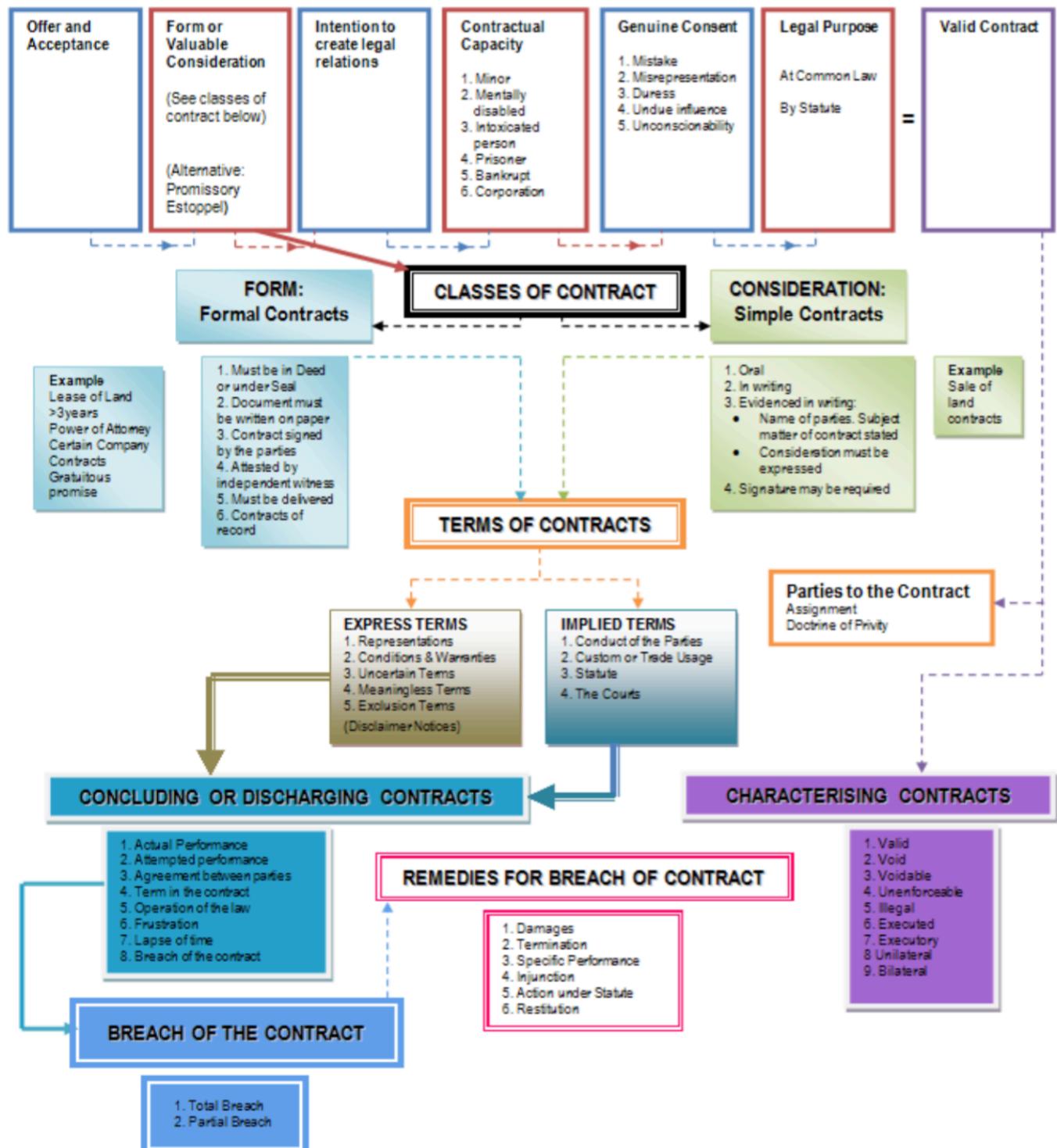


CONTRACTS – COMPLETE EXAM NOTES



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LATIN TERMINOLOGY:

Latin Term	Definition
<i>ab initio</i>	From the beginning
<i>Caveat emptor</i>	The principle that the buyer alone is responsible for checking the quality and suitability of goods before a purchase is made.
<i>consensus ad idem</i>	Meeting of the minds - where all parties have the same understanding of the terms of a contract
<i>contra proferens</i>	Any ambiguity in an exclusion clause will be construed against the benefiting party
<i>cortum est quot cetum reddi potest</i>	If essential terms are left to be agreed upon, there is no contract
<i>de minimis no curae lex</i>	The law does not concern itself with trivialities
<i>ex dolo malo no oritor actio</i>	No court will lend its aid to a man who founds his cause of action on an illegal or immoral act
<i>ex gratia</i>	Something extra to show goodwill
<i>ex turpi causa non oritur actio</i>	A court will not allow a party to base a cause of action upon an illegal act
<i>force majeure</i>	Frustration will not apply where the parties foresaw the event and inserted a term in the contract to cover the event
<i>in pari delicto portior est condition possidentis</i>	Where both parties are at fault, property should remain with the party who has possession of it when the matter is disputed
<i>inter alia</i>	Amongst other things
<i>nemo dat quod non habet</i>	One cannot give what one does not have

<i>non est factum</i>	This is not my deed
<i>non haec in foedera veni</i>	It was not this I promised to do
<i>prima facie</i>	On its face
<i>quantum meruit</i>	The amount deserved; action for the reasonable value of services performed
<i>quid pro quo</i>	Something for something
<i>res extincta</i>	The subject matter has ceased to exist
<i>res sua</i>	The purchaser already owns the subject matter
<i>restitutio in integrum</i>	Restoration to initial condition
<i>solus</i>	Trade regulation clause
<i>sui juris</i>	An adult of sound mind
<i>uberrimai fidea</i>	With utmost good faith/in full confidence
<i>ultra vires</i>	A company is only able to contract if about a matter specified in its constitution (no longer valid)
<i>verba ita suni intelligenda ut res insgis ral eat quam pereat</i>	Words are to be construed so that the thing may avail rather than perish

Term	Definition
Valid	The essential elements are present
Void	No legal validity
Voidable	Validly formed but inherent defect (a right to void a contract)
Unenforceable	Validly formed but with a technical defect
Illegal	The court will not lend its aid to a man who finds his cause of action in an immoral or illegal act
Executed	Where a party has performed their promise
Executory	Where all the parties have done is exchange promises

Express	By written or spoken word
Implied	By conduct
Formal	Some must be in writing
simple	Six essential elements (can be written or oral or both)

TOPIC 1: CONTRACT FORMATION

Elements needed to form a simple contract

1. Agreement (offer and acceptance)
2. Consideration
3. Alternatives to Enforcement of Promises
4. Intention to create legal relations
5. Certainty / Completeness
6. Formalities / Contracts requiring written evidence

1A. OFFER

OFFER

- ❖ ‘It is of the essence of contact, regarded as a class of obligations, that there is a voluntary assumption of legally enforceable duty’ (*Australian Woollen Mills Pty Ltd v Commonwealth* [1954] 92 CLR 424)

Offer: The expression of willingness to be contractually bound upon acceptance of terms set out with sufficient certainty, without further negotiation. – *LexisNexis Dictionary*, 443.

Offer and Acceptance: According to traditional formulations of contract law, the acts of the parties that demonstrate ‘consensus ad idem’ or agreement, and which consequently determine the moment and place of contract formation at common law. – *LexisNexis Dictionary*, 443.

Essentially:

- The indication by one person to another of willingness to enter into a contract with the other on certain terms.
- In strict terms it is a clear statement of the terms upon which the offeror is prepared to be contractually bound.

Australian Woollen Mills Pty Ltd v Commonwealth

- An offer can only lead to a binding agreement if the offer identifies the terms of the proposed agreement with sufficient certainty.
- This case demonstrates the inextricable connection between the requirement of offer and acceptance, intention, consideration and certainty.

I. ***Offer must be definite***

Is it complete so that merely saying "I accept" is sufficient to constitute a contract?

Objective Test - Would it appear to a reasonable person in the position of the offeree that an offer was intended and that a binding agreement would be made upon acceptance

II. ***Do not read in isolation***

An offer is only effective if it identifies a valid consideration and manifests an intention to create a legal obligation. It must also have an element of certainty.

III. ***Need for clarity***

There needs to be a clear expression of a willingness to be legally bound by the stated terms. If accepted, is capable of binding both parties.

Lefkowitz v Great Minneapolis Surplus Store 1957

IV. ***Who can be an offeree?***

Offers are often made to one person but can be made to more than one or even to the world at large. In *Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball Co* the offer made to the world at large formed the basis of a unilateral contract.

- V. *The Requirement of Communication (Fitch v Snedaker (1868))*
- VI. *Motive of acceptor immaterial (Williams v Carwardine (1833))*
- VII. *Knowledge is essential (R v Clarke (1927))*

RULES AS TO OFFER

- I. May be made to a single person or a class of persons
- II. Must be communicated. Cannot be accepted without knowledge of existence
- III. All terms of the offer must be brought to the notice of the offeree
- IV. Must be distinguished from an invitation to treat. An invitation to treat is an invitation or an enticement to others to make an offer
- V. May be revoked any time prior to acceptance (nb options)
- VI. May have conditions of acceptance
- VII. May lapse through non acceptance

UNILATERAL CONTRACT

The offeree does not undertake to perform but accepts the offer by performing their side of the bargain.

- An offer made to an offeree that does not create mutually binding relations until the offeree does what is requested by the offeror. Performance by the offeree is acceptance.

In reward cases the finder accepts the offer by returning the dog.

In a unilateral contract the obligation of the offeree is executed.

United Dominions Trust (Commercial) Ltd v Eagle Aircraft services Ltd

Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball Co - unilateral contract despite being a general offer to the world at large. The plaintiff accepted the offer by using the smoke ball.

BILATERAL CONTRACT

Where there is an exchange of promises.

At the beginning of the formation of the bilateral contract the obligations of both parties remain to be performed. That is they are *executory*.