

Question no 1:-

Discuss various procedure and problems for criminal courts in Pakistan?

Answer:-

Procedures and Problems of Criminal Courts in Pakistan

Introduction:-

The criminal courts of Pakistan form the backbone of the justice delivery system. They deal with offences against the state and individuals under

Pakistan Penal code (PPC) 1860 and Code of criminal procedure (CrPC)

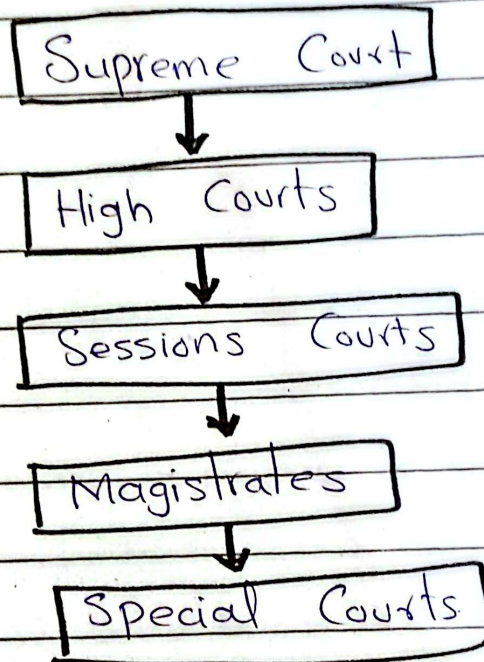
1898. While the system ensures

due process, it faces serious challenges like delays, corruption, weak prosecution and political pressure. Understanding both procedures and problems is crucial for reforms.

Procedural Structure of Criminal Courts in Pakistan

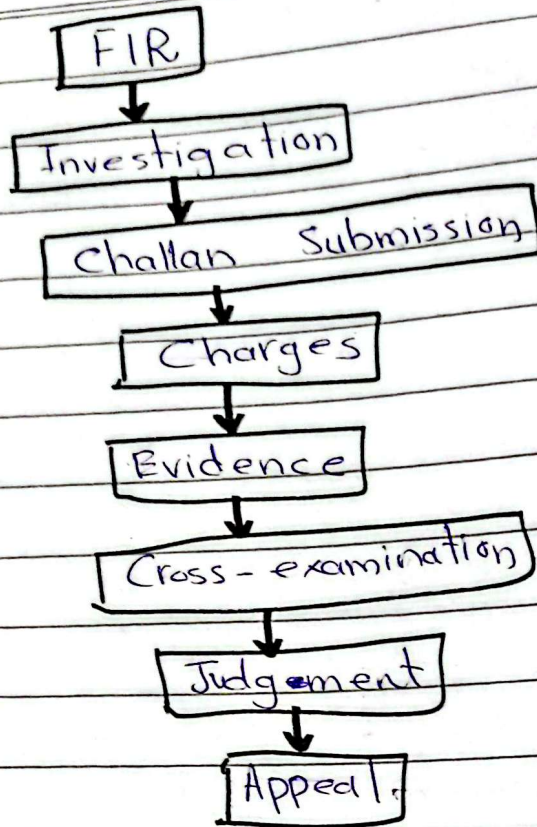
(i) Hierarchy of Criminal Courts:-

The criminal courts are structured from the supreme court down to Magistrates.



(iii) Stages of Criminal Trial

A criminal case follows sequential stages to ensure fair trial. Each criminal case passes through multiple stages defined in CrPC 1898.



Problems of Criminal Courts in Pakistan

(i) Judicial Delays

Pakistan has over 2.2 million pending criminal cases and Punjab alone has approximately 1.2 million cases. As, average trial in Session Courts can take 5-10 years.

"A study by Pakistan Law Commission (2022) showed 80% of cases pending more than 3 years."

(iii) Corruption and Political influence

Influence of Political actors leads to 'compromised FIRs' in high-profile cases. Judges of lower courts face undue pressure from local politicians.

The National Judicial Policy (2021) highlighted the frequent manipulation of evidence in corruption and property disputes.

(iii) Lack of Resources

Pakistan has only 1 judge per 62,000 people, compared to 1 per 20,000 in India. Limited use of e-courts slows trial progress.

(iv) Social and Security Challenges

Judges and witnesses face threats in terrorism, blasphemy and political cases. Rural litigants often rely on jirga or panchayat due to slow courts.

Case study(1)

Model town tragedy
(2014) case remains unresolved
after 11 years due to
political interference and threats

Case study (2)

Salman Taseer Murder
case(2011) delayed trial due
to witness fear.

Critical Analysis:-

Despite a
strong legal framework, Pakistan's
criminal courts struggle with
systemic flaws.

Article 10A ensure fair
trial, but justice delayed
becomes justice denied.

The credibility of system is
undermined unless reforms in
Police, Prosecution and judiciary
are introduced.

Conclusion:-

Criminal courts in Pakistan have
a defined procedure but face
major challenges of delay,

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corruption and inefficiency

Reforms such as case management, e-courts, police accountability and witness protection laws are crucial for restoring faith in the justice system.
