



Law Q1

What injury should one person be permitted to inflict on another in the defence of private property?

Key Issues and Questions to Address

1. Proportionality

What level of force is proportionate to different property threats?

Does the value of property impact permissible defensive force?

Can lethal force ever be justified solely for property defense?

2. Moral Status of Property

What is the moral foundation of property rights?

How do property rights relate to other natural rights?

Is Locke's labor theory adequate for modern property issues?

3. Necessity



John Locke Global Essay Prize 2025 Prompts Breakdown

Law Category - Key Issues and Questions to Address



When is force necessary for property defense?

What alternatives must be exhausted before force is justified?

How does the availability of legal remedies affect permissible defensive action?

4. Culpability and Threat

Does the intent of the property violator matter?

How does the nature of the threat affect permissible responses?

Should defense against culpable aggressors differ from defense against innocent threats?

5. Legal vs. Moral Rights

How do legal doctrines like Castle Doctrine relate to moral rights?

Where do moral and legal frameworks diverge?

How should law codify natural rights to property defense?

6. Contextual Factors



Do circumstances of scarcity or abundance affect permissible defense?

How do social and economic contexts impact property rights?

Should defense rights vary based on the defender's or aggressor's circumstances?

7. Types of Property

Should defense rights differ for different property types (e.g., land, personal possessions, intellectual property)?

How does the function of property (survival needs vs. luxury) affect permissible defense?

Does the replaceability of property matter?

8. Historical Evolution

How have conceptions of property defense evolved since Locke?

How do modern property relations differ from those in Locke's time?

Are Lockean principles adaptable to contemporary property issues?