Polity & Governance · GS - II

The credibility of the criminal justice system depends on reliable evidence, fair investigation and effective appellate review. Examine the importance of evidentiary standards and judicial scrutiny in ensuring justice.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 11/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Rule of law, presumption of innocence, burden of proof, beyond reasonable doubt, quality of investigation, forensic evidence, appellate jurisdiction, judicial accountability, victim rights.

Model Answer

Introduction

A fair criminal justice system must protect society while safeguarding the rights of accused persons and victims. Reliable evidence and judicial scrutiny are essential to prevent wrongful convictions and ensure accountability.

Importance of Evidentiary Standards

- **Presumption of innocence:** An accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty.
- **Burden of proof:** The prosecution must establish guilt beyond reasonable doubt in criminal trials.
- **Evidence quality:** Credible witnesses, forensic examination and properly documented investigations strengthen cases.
- **Procedural fairness:** Lawful investigation and adherence to due process protect individual liberties.

Role of Appellate Courts

- **Error correction:** Higher courts examine legal and evidentiary errors in lower-court decisions.

- **Constitutional safeguards:** Article 136 provides the Supreme Court with discretionary special-leave jurisdiction.
- **Judicial consistency:** Appellate review promotes consistency in the interpretation and application of criminal law.

Way Forward

Strengthening forensic infrastructure, witness protection, police training and timely trials can improve justice delivery.

Conclusion

Justice requires both effective prosecution and protection against wrongful punishment. Evidence-based adjudication and meaningful appellate review strengthen public confidence in the rule of law.

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