Define justice.

Justice is the quality of fairly distributing punishment or contested resources to individuals.

Identify 3 laws that indicate fairness.

- Law #29 : If his son is still young, and can not take possession, a third of the field and garden shall be given to his mother, and she shall bring him up.
- Law #46: If he do not receive a fixed rental for his field, but lets it on half or third shares of the harvest, the grain on the field shall be divided proportionately between the tiller and the owner
- Law #104: If a merchant give an agent corn, wool, oil, or any other goods to transport, the agent shall give a receipt for the amount, and compensate the merchant therefor. Then he shall obtain a receipt form the merchant for the money that he gives the merchant

These laws are all concerned with the division of some resources amongst individuals, and illustrate a sense of each individuals' claim over the resource.

Identify 3 laws that indicate equality.

- Law #196: If a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out.
- Law #197: If he break another man's bone, his bone shall be broken.
- Law #200: If a man knock out the teeth of his equal, his teeth shall be knocked out.

Identify 3 laws that indicate injustice toward women.

- Law #110: If a "sister of a god" open a tavern, or enter a tavern to drink, then shall this woman be burned to death
- Law #181: If a father devote a temple-maid or temple-virgin to God and give her no present: if then the father die, she shall receive the third of a child's portion from the inheritance of her father's house, and enjoy its usufruct so long as she lives. Her estate belongs to her brothers.
- Law #132: If the "finger is pointed" at a man's wife about another man, but she is not caught sleeping with the other man, she shall jump into the river for her husband.

Many of these laws consider women to be property. Thus, the law is extremely punitive to women where it is not to men. More so, many laws about behaviour such as that of entering taverns or recieving inheritence are directed only at women, often restrictively.

Identify 3 laws that indicate injustice toward children.

- Law #117: If any one fail to meet a claim for debt, and sell himself, his wife, his son, and daughter for money or give them away to forced labor: they shall work for three years in the house of the man who bought them, or the proprietor, and in the fourth year they shall be set free
- Law #28: If a chieftain or a man be caught in the misfortune of a king, if his son is able to enter into possession, then the field and garden shall be given to him, he shall take over the fee of his father
- Law #119: If any one fail to meet a claim for debt, and he sell the maid servant who has borne him children, for money, the money which the merchant has paid shall be repaid to him by the owner of the slave and she shall be freed

Identify 3 laws that indicate injustice toward slaves.

- Law #116: If the prisoner die in prison from blows or maltreatment, the master of the prisoner shall convict the merchant before the judge. If he was a free-born man, the son of the merchant shall be put to death; if it was a slave, he shall pay one-third of a mina of gold, and all that the master of the prisoner gave he shall forfeit.
- Law #205: If the slave of a freed man strike the body of a freed man, his ear shall be cut off.
- Law #282: If a slave say to his master: "You are not my master," if they convict him his master shall cut off his ear.

Find 1 law that allows intention to mitigate punishment.

- If a . . . or a . . . enter himself as withdrawn from the "Way of the King," and send a mercenary as substitute, but withdraw him, then the . . . or . . . shall be put to death.

This law allows individuals to escape punishment for avoiding war by hiring mercenaries to go in their stead.

Find an example that demonstrates that fair and equal are not interchangeable.

- Law #197 If he break another man's bone, his bone shall be broken

While all this law assigns equal punishment to all individuals, the extent of retribution may not be proportional to that justified by context. Thus this law, while equal, may not be fair.

Make a list of the types of activities and concerns regulated by the code.

- Marriage
- Division of Estate
- Business
- Crime
- Punishment

What is the worst law in this code? Why?

- Law #108: If a tavern-keeper (feminine) does not accept corn according to gross weight in payment of drink, but takes money, and the price of the drink is less than that of the corn, she shall be convicted and thrown into the water.

This is the worst law in the code, because the punishment which it assigns is disproportional to the crime. Worse, it applies only to part of the population - women - and has no similar law for others. It is both ethically and economically unsound.

What is the best law in this code? Why?

- Law #263: If he kill the cattle or sheep that were given to him, he shall compensate the owner with cattle for cattle and sheep for sheep.

This law is clearly equal, as it assigns the exact extent of punishment as the original crime caused, however unlike some of the other laws, this one does not cause lasting damage, and is fair in its extent.

Bonus: List similarities and differences between Hammurabi's code of law and the laws of the Torah

- The laws of the Torah and Hammurabi code both extensively discuss marriage, divorce, crime, and punishment. However, the Hammurabi code tries to be a unifying code for various groups of people, and thus does not discuss any law related to religion. In contrast, the Torah is intended only as a set of God's commandments to the Jewish diaspora, and thus includes several religious statements.