

BOWEN UNIVERSITY
(OF THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION)
IWO, OSUN STATE
COLLEGE OF LAW
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION, 2024/2025 ACADEMIC SESSION
COURSE CODE: PUL 102 COURSE TITLE: LEGAL METHODS II

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer any two questions from each Section. Each question carries 17^{1/2} Marks

Time Allowed: 2½ Hours

SECTION A

1. (a.) Professor Hardlife, a fast-talking law professor, stands in front of the lecture hall, surveying his 100 level students sternly. “Today, we are covering the topic: Sources of Law in Nigeria”, he begins speaking rapidly. “You’ll need to take detailed notes, as I won’t be providing notes or summaries. It is your responsibility to keep up and capture everything I say as much as possible”. As he launched into a ‘rapid-fire’ delivery of complex legal concepts, students struggled to keep up with his pace, scribbling furiously in their notebooks. Upon concluding his lecture, Professor Hardlife stated: “Now, I expect you all to review your notes and come prepared to discuss the legal status and relevance of the various sources of law in Nigeria”. Snowball, who could not cope with the fast pace of Professor Hardlife, wants you to explain the note taking strategies you employed during the class on the sources of law in Nigeria. **(6 marks)**
(b.) The relevance of note taking cannot be over emphasised. Explain the significance of note taking to law students and legal practitioners. **(6 marks)**
(c.) Why is it important to provide citation for reference materials in legal research? **(5½ Marks)**

2. Professor Hardlife has just instructed his 100-Level Legal Method class to write a term paper on the topic: “Artificial Intelligence: An Impediment to Effective Legal Education in Nigeria”.
(a.) What type(s) of essay is this topic likely to produce, and why? **(6 marks)**
(b.) Create a possible structural outline for the term paper topic above. **(6 marks)**
(c.) Examine the relevance of undertaking legal research within a social context. **(5½ marks)**

- 3.(a.) Mekanaki has been appointed by Dr. Gbogbojaja, the College Staff Adviser, to formulate a legal research topic of his choice and write a paper for presentation as a keynote address in the upcoming Law Students Association of Nigeria Conference. Mekanaki needs direction on how to undertake this task. Advise Mekanaki accordingly. **(10½ marks)**

(b.) Makanaki is a bit confused about how to cite reference materials. Provide general guidance to Makanaki on how to cite various reference materials. **(7 Marks)**

SECTION B

4. Professor Lawman of Sharp-Brain University, Osogbo, Osun State is known for mesmerizing his students with captivating legal statements. During one of his lectures, he stated as follows: "Studying sources of law affords the means by which authoritative written materials are derived. This constitutes the literary source such as are represented by the statute books and the various compilations of the annual laws and the statutes in force including textbooks and monographs, with which a lawyer should be thoroughly familiar". Appraise Professor Lawman's statements.
5. (a) Femi and Bidemi are 100-Level Law Students of Bowen University, Iwo. They got into discussion after a legal methods class on "Indexing and Identification of Library Materials" and eventually ended up in a very heated argument. Femi is of the view that the United States Library of Congress Classification System differs from the Dewey Decimal Classification System, while Bidemi completely disagrees with Femi. They all decided to approach Lawrence, their course leader, for clarification. As a legal methods student, discuss how the United States Library of Congress Classification System differs from the Dewey Decimal Classification System. **(7½ marks)**
- (b) Books constitute the stock of a law library and can be regarded as the most important single entity available for the conduct of legal research and thereby serve as authoritative elements in legal works. Discuss briefly the importance of books as authoritative elements in legal works. **(5 marks)**
- (c) Kehinde is a bit confused on the assertion that "A judicial opinion is the judge's explanation of her ruling and the reasoning behind the decision". Provide a concise but detailed explanation to Kehinde. **(5 marks)**
6. (a) What is legal research and why do lawyers and law students need to conduct research? **(7½ marks)**
- (b) Who is a librarian and what role does a librarian perform in legal research? **(5 marks)**
- (c) In what places may legal research be carried out? **(5 Marks)**