



UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE AND DEMOCRATIC  
STUDIES / UNIVERSITY OF BENIN POST GRADUATE PROGRAMMES**

**SEMESTER EXAMINATION**

Programmes: LLM

Session: 2022/2023

Semester: 1<sup>st</sup>

Course Code: MLL 803

Course Title: **Legislative Style and Syntax**

**Instructions:**

- i. Answer any **Four Questions**, each Question carries **17.5marks**.
- ii. Time allowed: **3hours**
- iii. Write your **Name and Registration Number Only**
- iv. Orderly arrangement and good presentation of materials will be considered.
- v. Cross out any unused sheet(s) in your answer booklet before you submit it.

**Question One**

**"Drafters express the subject in a wide variety of ways. In this regard, the form of words that is most appropriate depends upon the scope of the rule."**  
With Illustration for each, how are the subjects in the following rules expressed?

- a. A universal rule.
- b. A rule directed to a class of persons.
- c. A rule directed to a particular office holder
- d. A rule applying to limited categories.
- e. A rule applying with exceptions.
- f. A rule containing the legal person in the context clause.

**Question Two**

- (a) What are the considerations to be adverted to in drafting the principal predicate?
- (b) Discuss each of these considerations

**Question Three**

With illustrations, discuss briefly the appropriate auxiliary to choose for the following rules:

- i. Command
- ii. Prohibitions
- iii. Power

- iv. Permission
- v. Denial of authority
- vi. Competence
- vii. Privilege

#### **Question Four**

- (a) What are the major errors that can go wrong in legislature expression and therefore result in ambiguity?
- (b) What can go wrong with verbs in a legislative sentence?
- (c) With illustrations, discuss the problem of ambiguous modifying verbs.

**Or**

- (a) What are the major errors that can go wrong in legislative expression and therefore result in ambiguity?
- (b) What are the kinds of errors that can go wrong with subjects?
- (c) With illustrations, discuss the problem associated with the imprecise linking of several subjects.
- (d) Itemise the pitfalls to watch out for when modifiers are added to some or all of the subject to give greater precision to the class covered in a legislative sentence?

#### **Question Five**

- (a) Itemise the seven (7) C's of legislative drafting and discuss them.
- (b) Which of the seven (7) C's is more fundamental and overrides others and why?

#### **Question Six** **"Gender neutrality in drafting is a mere fanciful construct without any significance"**

Discuss your view on the above propositions and provide mechanisms, with illustrations for achieving gender neutrality in drafting.

**Or**

- (a) With illustrations, what is the gender-neutral style in legislative drafting?
- (b) "There appears to be a movement towards plain language style in legislative drafting."
  - (i) With illustrations, define plain language style in legislative drafting and contrast it with the traditional legalese style of drafting
  - (ii) With reasons and illustrations what will be your preference for adopting in Nigeria among the following:
    - Plain language style
    - The traditional legalese style or
    - A combination of both styles.