

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE AND DEMOCRATIC
STUDIES**

MLD PROGRAM MASTERS IN LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION (2018/2019 SESSION)

MLL 803 LEGISLATIVE STYLE AND SYNTAX

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ANY FOUR QUESTIONS
TIME: 3 HOURS

1. (a) What is the Gender Neutral style of drafting? Of what significance is it to drafting and the construction of laws?

(b) Redraft the following text using a gender neutral style and avoiding pronouns entirely:

When the captain of an aircraft approaches the Airport or is at a distance that enables him to communicate with the control tower, he shall inform it of his altitude and fuel situation as well as the number of his colleagues and passengers that he is carrying on the airplane before attempting to bring her in for landing.

2. Chief (Mrs) Lydia is a prominent leader of the market women in *Jejelaiye* Senatorial District of the **Federal Republic of Nice**. In recent times consumers have complained about the antics of some traders who engage in sharp practices such as selling adulterated food and inaccurate measuring tools. Chief Lydia has approached you to draft a bill to prohibit such unsavory practices and prescribe measures to curb the menace. What drafting objectives are of particular concern in your task? Draft the Long title of the Bill and a purpose clause with a minimum of 4 sub-clauses

(20 marks)

3. (a) Explain with illustrations the main components of a legislative sentence.

(b) **Identify the main components of the text below and attempt re-draft the text using the active voice.**

"Where in any civil proceedings by or against the Crown or in any proceedings in any court in connection with any arbitration to which the Crown is party, any order

(including an order for costs) is made by any court in favour of any person against the Crown, the proper officer of the court must issue at the request of the person, a certificate containing particulars of the order"

4. (a) What is meant by nominalization? Illustrate with examples

(b) Attempt a redraft of the following using paragraphs and avoiding any nominalization which you have identified -

"If a person at a public gathering so conducts his behavior as to subject the public peace to noise or disorderliness or engages in the utilization or distribution of a document containing threatening, abusive or insulting words with intent to provoke a breach of the peace or by which a breach of the peace is likely to be occasioned he commits an offence and shall be liable to imprisonment for 12 months."

5. (a) What are punctuations? Using examples demonstrate the importance of the colon and semi colon in drafting legislation

(b) Review the following texts. Insert punctuations in the appropriate places and modify wrong use of syntax in order to avoid any ambiguity. Do not use paragraphs.

(i) *"If a marriage shall have been solemnised by a person who is not a marriage Registrar the registrar or if either of the parties to the marriage marries or married under a false name or if the marriage shall have been solemnized without the authority of a certificate of marriage the certificate the marriage is void."*

(ii) *"Where a court orders money to be paid by a convicted person as a fine or penalty or compensation costs or expenses or otherwise the money may be levied on his movable and immovable property as provided by this section but if that person shows sufficient movable property to satisfy the order his immovable property shall not be sold."*

6. (a). "Intellectually, the draftsman's skills are the highest in the practice of law...the documents of [legislative drafting] survive, and to draw them up well requires an extraordinary understanding of everything they are supposed to accomplish." Discuss the above in relation to the objectives of legislative drafting.

(b).Using punctuations, illustrate the different meanings that can be ascribed to the following sentences –

- (i) A woman without her man is nothing
- (ii) The instructor says the trainee is arrogant
- (iii) Caution men at work