



UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

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

SEMESTER EXAMINATION

Programmes: LMM
Semester: 1st

Session: 2020/2021
Course Code: LMM 803

Course Title: **Legislative Style, Syntax and Expression**

Instructions:

- i. Answer any Questions One and any other three questions.
- ii. Question one carries 25 marks, other questions carry 15 marks each
- iii. Time allowed: **3hours**
- iv. Write your **Name and Registration Number Only**
- v. Orderly arrangement and good presentation of materials will be considered.

Question One

(a) What are the modern variations to Coodes analysis of a legislative sentence?

(b) Critique the following text and identify examples of unnecessary terms or synonyms. Attempt a re-draft ensuring you arrange the components of the text for easier understanding -

It shall be the responsibility of any person on whom such warrant is served to cooperate fully with the person authorised to conduct a search by allowing easy access to the premises to be searched and to the items or document required for the investigation, and to answer all questions or queries put to him in the course of the search while also putting in accessible position and facilitating the removal of all items that may be required to assist the investigation.

Question Two

Using the active voice, rewrite the following short-form clauses. Not more than one sentence is required for each.

- a) "Hospital grounds; no honking" - While on the Hospital Premises, a person (driver of a vehicle) shall not honk save where otherwise permitted.
- b) "No littering in the Park."
- c) "Women shall not be excluded from an authorized apprenticeship programme on the ground of their being gender."
- d) "No entry after 7 pm."

Question Three

Re-draft the following with the use of paragraphs and avoiding unnecessary or inelegant words -

"Notwithstanding anything contained in any other enactment or law, any person who by any false pretence and with intent to defraud shall obtain from any other person, in Nigeria or in any other country, for himself or any other person; or who shall induce any other person, in Nigeria or in any other country, to deliver to any person, or who shall have obtained any property, whether or not the property is obtained or its delivery is induced through the medium of a contract induced by the false pretence, shall be guilty of an offence under this Act."

Question Four

(a) What is meant by nominalization? Illustrate with appropriate 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."

Question Five

Identify the components of the legislative text below and attempt a re-draft that avoids the ambiguity inherent in the text:

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.

Question Six

Below you would find two topics or broad policy objectives which form the basis of legislation that you have been asked to draft. Assume that no prior law exists; you are writing on a clean slate in the sense that the legislature (of which you are a member) has never before tried to accomplish what you want to do in your statute. Outline a legislative plan or arrangement of material provisions of the proposed bill. Do not draft text please only the section headings.

(a) Decriminalizing the use of Indian Hemp

(b) Legalizing polygamy as a recognized form of statutory marriage