



SCHOOL OF LAW

NLLB209: LEGAL RESEARCH METHODS

END OF SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

APRIL 2025

LECTURER: DR S PHIRI

DURATION: 3HRS

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- 1. Do NOT write your name on the answer sheet.**
2. Write legibly.
3. You are advised to read all questions carefully before attempting to answer any.
- 4. Cite RELEVANT authorities to support your answers.**
5. You may start with any question.

ANSWER ANY 4 QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1

(a) Discuss any two (2) reasons for conducting legal research. **[10 marks]**

(b) State and briefly explain any three (3) types of legal research. **[15 marks]**

QUESTION 2

The Belmont Report (1979) was released following several serious incidents of unethical research practices. The Nazis used unwilling prisoners as subjects for medical experiments. In the 1940s, the Tuskegee syphilis study used black men to study the impact of untreated syphilis. To allow the continued study, the subjects were not provided with an effective treatment that had been developed. In response to these incidents, the Belmont Report specified basic ethical research principles.

(a) With the above paragraph in mind, state and explain ethical considerations when conducting legal research. **[15 marks]**

(b) Should artificial intelligence tools be used when conducting legal research by law students? Support your answer. **[10 marks]**

QUESTION 3

(a) Discuss any two (2) primary sources of data in legal research. **[10 marks]**

(b) State and explain the three (3) types of interviews that can be used in data collection. **[15 marks]**

QUESTION 4

Sipho is conducting research for the Master of Laws degree on male victims of rape in Malala village. He started collecting data a year before his admission in order not to delay the completion of his degree. He also promised the participants that he would give them

USD\$600 each for participating and that those who refused to participate were going to face the consequences through his father who is a tough chief in that village. Participants were picked by Siphos father who knew the victims from his capacity as the chief and not much information was given to the participant on the research and no consent forms were signed. After collecting data, Siphos was heard mocking one of the participants based on the information disclosed to him during the interview and he posted short videos on his TikTok account of the interviews he conducted with the participants, clearly showing the faces of the participants.

(a) Discuss the appropriateness of how Siphos conducted his data collection. **[20 marks]**

(b) State the tense used when drafting a research proposal and outline the reasons for such. **[5 marks]**

Question 5

(a) Discuss any five (5) methods of research that can be used in conducting legal research. **[20 marks]**

(b) State the tense used in the recommendation section of the research and give reasons for such. **[5 marks]**

End of the examination paper