



“Investing in Africa’s future”

SCHOOL OF LAW

NMIP101: INTRODUCTION TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

END OF SECOND SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATIONS

APRIL 2026

LECTURER: D. MUDZIWEPAZI

DURATION: 3 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

QUESTION 1 from **Part A** is **COMPULSORY** for all candidates.

Answer any **THREE** questions from **Section B**.

Marks allocated to each question are indicated in brackets at the end of the question.

DO NOT repeat material.

Write legibly.

Part A (Compulsory to all candidates).

Question 1

a) Distinguish between the following forms of intellectual property:

- i. Copyright and Patents,
- ii. Trademarks and Trade Secrets,
- iii. Geographical Indications and industrial designs. [15 Marks]

b) Identify any three intellectual property organisations involved in intellectual property protection and briefly explain their roles. [10 Marks]

Part B (Answer any 3 questions from this section).

Question 2

Tech Nova, a new smartphone manufacturer, launched its flagship phone, the "Nova X," with a logo featuring a stylised "N" within a circular design. Tech Vibe, an established tech giant, has a logo that is a stylised "V" within a very similar circular design. While the "N" and "V" are distinct, the overall visual impression is quite similar. Tech Nova's marketing materials highlight the circular design prominently. Customer surveys reveal significant confusion between the two brands, with some customers mistakenly believing the Nova X is a Tech Vibe product.

You are required to answer the following questions:

- a). What is customer confusion in the context of Tech Nova and Tech Vibe case above. [5 Marks]
- b). Explain the steps that Tech Nova can take to protect its logo? [5 Marks]
- c). Discuss the factors that are considered in determining trademark similarity? [5 Marks]
- d). What advice would you give to Tech Nova in respect of this possible infringement? [5 Marks]

e). How does this affect customer trust and brand loyalty for both Tech Nova and Tech Vibe?

[5 Marks]

Question 3

a) Explain what is excluded from the patentability scope and why it is excluded? [5 Marks]

b) List and discuss the three conditions for patentability. [5 Marks]

c) Discuss and Explain the main difference between patents and second-tier protection rights.

[10 Marks]

d) In the African context what are the ways of protecting an invention? [5 Marks]

Question 4

a) “The mere taking of an idea would not be an infringement” Discuss the correctness of the above statement. [10 Marks]

b) Outline the exceptions to copyright protection. [5 Marks]

c) Give a summary of works that are protected by copyright law. [10 Marks]

Question 5

a) Identify and explain five characteristics of information that qualifies as trade secrets.

[5 Marks]

b) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of protecting innovations through trade secrets instead of patents. [10 Marks]

c) A company develops a unique manufacturing process and keeps it confidential. A former employee of the company joins a competitor and reveals the process. Discuss whether this constitutes trade secrets misappropriation and the legal remedies available. [5 Marks]

Question 6

a) Explain the main purposes of protecting Geographical indications. [5 Marks]

b) Identify five examples of products that are protected by Geographical Indication.

[5 Marks]

c) Explain how Geographical Indications contribute to the protection of traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.

[15 Marks]

Question 7

Explain how Intellectual Property protection benefits inventors, businesses, and society in Zimbabwe.

[5 Marks]

End of Paper