INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF EAST AFRICA
'Learning to Succeed'

FACULTY OF LAW

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS - AUGUST 2025

PROGRAMME: LLB
YEAR/SEM: YEAR 1/SEMESTER 2
COURSE CODE: LLB 1205
NAME: LEGAL METHODS

DATE:
TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

SECTION A

This Question is COMPULSORY.

Question 1:

James is an advocate practicing with Alpha & Co. Advocates. He was previously instructed by Mr. Kato in a land dispute involving the subdivision and sale of family land. During the course of the representation, James received confidential information regarding Mr. Kato's financial dealings and intentions about the land. The case was concluded, and Mr. Kato ceased to be his client.

A few months later, a new client, Mr. Mugisha, approached James seeking legal representation in a suit against Mr. Kato over the same piece of land. Believing he could act impartially, James accepted the brief without disclosing his prior involvement.

Mr. Kato later learns about James's involvement and files a complaint with the Law Council, alleging professional misconduct.

Sarah is a young advocate practicing in Kampala. In an effort to grow her client base, she creates a TikTok account and begins posting videos offering legal tips and advice. In some of the videos, she mentions that she is "the best lawyer for land matters" and offers to give free first consultations to anyone who contacts her via WhatsApp. She also pays for sponsored advertisements on Facebook claiming her firm has "never lost a case."

The Uganda Law Society receives an anonymous report and begins investigations into her conduct.

Assuming that you are an expert on Legal methods, identify the legal issues raised by the facts and advise the parties accordingly.

Question 2:

Peter Mbabazi is a practicing advocate in Uganda, working with the law firm Mbabazi & Co. Advocates. Recently, he was retained by a client, Mr. John Kasaija, in a land dispute case before the High Court. During the course of representation, Peter failed to regularly update Mr. Kasaija on the progress of the case, missed crucial filing deadlines without informing his client, and ignored multiple requests for information.

Meanwhile, Peter was also handling another matter where he represented Ms. Lydia Nabirye, who was facing criminal charges. Peter publicly criticized the presiding magistrate on social media, accusing him of bias and corruption, and disclosed details of the case, including privileged communications with his client.

Furthermore, Peter entered into a contingency fee agreement with a corporate client (Upland Logistics Ltd) without clearly outlining the terms in writing. He later demanded an unreasonably high portion of the judgment amount as fees, far beyond industry norms.

Peter has also been accused of directly soliciting clients at court premises and promising guaranteed success in legal matters.

A complaint has been filed against Peter with the Law Council's Disciplinary Committee for

professional misconduct.

Assuming that you are an expert on Legal methods, identify the legal issues raised by the facts and advise the parties accordingly.

SECTION B

Choose ONE from TWO.

Question 1:

Briefly explain the following terms as applied in Legal Methods.

(a) Precedents

(b) Res judicata

(c) Ratio decidendi

(d) Stare decisis

(e) Obiter dictum

Question 2:

Citing relevant applicable laws write short notes on the following methods of learning the Law.

(a) Case method.

(b) Research based learning.

(c) Socratic method.

(d) Clinical approach.

Question 3:

Citing relevant applicable laws write short notes on the following forms of justice.

(a) Distributive Justice.

(b) Corrective (or Commutative) Justice.

(c) Procedural, legal (or Formal) Justice.

(d) Retributive or vindicative Justice.

(e) Restorative Justice.

Question 4:

Citing relevant applicable laws write short notes on the following theories of justice.

(a) Utilitarian Theory of Justice. [Utilitarianism].

(b) Libertarian Theory of Justice. [Libertarianism]

(c) Communitarian Theory of Justice. [Communitarianism]

(d) Marxist theory of justice [Marxism]

(e) Egalitarian Theory of Justice. [Egalitarianism]

SECTION C

Choose TWO from FOUR.

Question 1:

Citing relevant applicable laws discuss the circumstances that justify a departure from precedents in Uganda.

Question 2:

Discuss the main rules of statutory interpretation used by courts in interpreting legislation. In your answer, clearly explain the rules with relevant case law. Evaluate the effectiveness of these rules in ensuring justice and clarity in the application of the law.

Question 3:

As a student of legal methods, discuss the challenges encountered in carrying out legal research.

Question 4:

Citing relevant applicable laws, discuss the duties of an advocate.

Question 5:

Citing relevant applicable laws discuss the hierarchy of the Courts and the Court system in Uganda.