



GITARI (LAW) (1).zip

CHUKA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

**FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF
LAW**

BLAW 112: LEGAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS

STREAMS:

TIME: 2 HOURS

DAY/DATE: WEDNESDAY 21/07/2021

2.30 P.M – 4.30 P.M

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer any four questions

Question one is compulsory

QUESTION ONE

(a) When an advocate communicates in writing by drafting contracts, a single wasted word in the wrong place can change the emphasis of a clause and possibly the outcome of his/her client. An advocate is expected to have a thorough, accurate and meticulous approach to his/her work and a good grasp of the language of communication. Committing any glaring, grammatical mistakes in his/her work is one sure way to lose ones clients or the confidence of professional colleagues.

Discuss the key skills which great legal communicators must master for effective communication: [20 marks]

(b) Describe the skills needed for effective listening skills. [10 marks]

QUESTION TWO

(a) Briefly discuss the barriers to effective communication and how they can be overcome.

[10 marks]

(b) Describe the various negotiation tips which may give an advocate the edge in his/her negotiations?

[10 marks]

QUESTION THREE

(a) Identify and explain the fundamental skills of drafting in legal practice. [5 marks]

(b) The Law Society of Kenya is currently caught in the throes of leadership wrangles that are threatening to ruin its image and completely shatter its credibility among its members and the public generally. As a concerned member of the public, write a letter to the chairman of the Law Society of Kenya highlighting how the wrangles can be addressed to redeem the image of the Law Society of Kenya. [15 marks]

QUESTION FOUR

(a) One of the major problems with lawyers is the inability or refusal to write in plain English. They use arcane phrases to express common place ideas. Word wasting idioms are a good example of this. What are word wasting idioms and how do they affect the quality of legal communication? [2 marks]

(b) Edit the following sentences to omit word wasting idioms. [6 marks]

(i) Pursuant to the terms of the license, the licensee could operate a 24 hour entertainment facility.

(ii) At such a time as the shop closes, the alarm system is activated

(iii) This is a situation with respect to which mandatory injunctive relief is appropriate.

(c) What is legalese and what are the main disadvantages of writing in legalese.

[3 marks]

(d) To make legal writing easy to understand, most declaratory sentences should follow the normal English order. Revise the following sentences putting the subject, verb and object together and near the front. Omit as many surplus words as you can. [9 marks]

- (i) A building contractor, after complying with a property owners request to make significant deviation from the plans and specifications previously agreed upon, may impose reasonable additional charge for the deviation.
 - (ii) The second remedial step, which should be taken if an only if there is a failure of the first step, describe above, is for the lawyer always seeking to cause minimum amount of harm to the client and the client's legitimate objective to consider withdrawing from representation, if withdrawal will undo the effects of false testimony.
 - (iii) Agnes, in the course of her struggle to provide for her children as a widow, accrued huge debts to her family and friends.
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