

**UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE
FACULTY OF LAW
(East London Campus)**

**LEGAL SKILLS
LEG113E**

**EXAMINATIONS 2025
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER**

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Time: 3 hours
Subject: LEGAL SKILLS
Code: LEG113E
Marks: 80

EXAMINERS:

Internal Examiners:
Mrs. Anel Odendaal
Ms. Alizwa Zisile

Internal Moderator:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Answer ALL questions.
2. Substantiate your answers by reference to case law and/or legislation where applicable.

QUESTION 1

1.1 What elements should be included in your introduction when writing an academic assignment or paper? (5)

1.2 Define plagiarism and mention a few strategies students should employ to avoid plagiarising text. (5)

1.3 Please list any three soft skills you consider essential to be successful and happy in a legal career, and explain what you can do while you are still a student to develop and practice these skills. (6)

[16 marks]

QUESTION 2

Please read the courtroom dialogue below and mention one thing the parties are doing correctly regarding courtroom etiquette and protocol, as well as two inappropriate courtroom behaviours and/or skills in this dialogue.

Judge: The court will now hear arguments regarding the defendant's motion to dismiss. Counsel for the defendant, you may proceed.

Defendant's Counsel: My Lord, I must say that my learned friend is completely out of touch

with reality. Their arguments are nonsense and lack any basis in law.

Plaintiff's Counsel: Objection, My Lord! This is not how we conduct ourselves in this court. I am not here to be insulted.

Judge: Order in the court! Counsel, please refrain from personal attacks and focus on the legal arguments.

Defendant's Counsel: But, My Lord, it's evident that my learned friend is just trying to confuse

the court with irrelevant information!

Judge: That is enough. I expect both counsel to engage in respectful discourse. Let's focus on the relevant laws and precedents.

[6 marks]

QUESTION 3

Explain how law students can use AI responsibly and ethically to support their studies while still developing good research and writing skills.

[7 marks]

QUESTION 4

Match Column A with Column B

A	B
1. Candidate legal practitioners	a) This is how judges are addressed in the High Court.
2. Chambers	b) Oblige a court to follow a previous decision or precedent.
3. <i>Stare decisis</i>	c) A period of internship served by one who intends becoming an attorney
4. Articles of clerkship	d) An application that has been brought by a single party unopposed
5. My Lord / My Lady	e). The power or authority of a court over a particular matter or area
6. My learned friend	f) Must pass an attorney's admission exam and serve a period of article of clerkship.
7. <i>Ex parte</i> application	g) In good faith
8. Bias	h) A judges' office
9. Jurisdiction	i). This is how legal practitioners should address each other in a respectful manner in court
10. <i>Bona fide</i>	j) Opinion or influence that strongly favours one side in an argument.

[10 marks]

QUESTION 5

5.1 Which of the following options would be the correct way to write a heading in line with the *Speculum Juris* style guide?

- a) 1 INTRODUCTION

- b) 1. Introduction
- c) 1. INTRODUCTION
- d) 1 Introduction

5.2 Which of the following options is the correct way to write a sub-heading in line with the *Speculum Juris* style guide?

- a) 1.1 Historic Perspective
- b) 1.1. **Historic Perspective**
- c) 1 1 **Historic Perspective**
- d) 1.1 Historic Perspective

5.3 Is the following statement regarding quotes in your text True/False? **Double quotation marks should be used.**

True/False

5.4 What is the correct way to refer to the Constitution when you mention it for the first time in your text?

- a) The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996.
- b) The Constitution of South Africa.
- c) The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.
- d) The Constitution, Act 108 of 1996.

5.5 Is the following statement regarding citing legislation in line with *Speculum Juris* true/false? **The title and number of the Act must be italicised.**

True/False

5.6 The first time an Act is referred to, the title should be given in full in the text, and a reference to the number and year should appear in the footnote. What is the correct way to write the footnote when referring to an Act?

- a) Act 66 of 1995
- b) 66 of 1995
- c) Act 66, 95
- d) Act 66 of 1995.

5.7 Which of the options below is the correct way to refer to a case in the text?

- a) S v. Makwanyane
- b) *S v. Makwanyane*
- c) *S versus Makwanyane*
- d) *S v Makwanyane*

5.8 Which of the following options is the correct way to reference internet sources in your footnotes?

- a) Garret "Consumer Protection" <http://law.computers.edu/garrett.html> (accessed 24-02-2004).
- b) Garret "Consumer Protection" <http://law.computers.edu/garrett.html> (accessed 24-02-2004)
- c) Garret "Consumer Protection" <http://law.computers.edu/garrett.html> (accessed 24/02/2004).
- d) Garret "Consumer Protection" <http://law.computers.edu/garrett.html> (accessed 24-02-04).

[16 marks]

QUESTION 6

Use the provided case, *Moko v Acting Principal of Malusi Secondary School and Others*, and formulate a sound, logical and substantiated argument regarding whether the right to basic education includes the right to write matric exams. (Your argument must not exceed eight lines / one paragraph)

[10 marks]

QUESTION 7

7.1 Name five primary sources of law and describe where and how you would find these sources. (10)

7.2 Briefly explain the FIRAC method and discuss why it is important for students and legal practitioners. (5)

[15 marks]

[Total for this paper: 80 marks]

-END OF EXAMINATION PAPER-