

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL STUDIES
LLM IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION
FIRST YEAR – FINAL EXAMINATION 2022/23
LLPA312 – RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
DURATION: 03 HOURS



Date: October 15, 2023

Time: 9.30 a.m. -12.30 p.m.

Answer any FOUR (4) questions only.

Candidates are penalized for illegible handwriting.

1. Analyze the unique characteristics of legal research considering its scope, objectives, different types, and contemporary developments toward investigating interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary problems.

(25 marks)

2. Even though the term 'socio-legal' may be imprecise or hard to define, a vast variety of research comes under its scope. Socio-legal research is not necessarily another term to indicate 'empirical' research; however, a synonym for comprehensive research that connects with diverse aspects such as society, arts and humanities, and law. Hence, socio-legal research forms an important part of contemporary legal research.

Do you agree with the above statement? Critically discuss the value of socio-legal research in the context of criminal justice administration. Provide examples to substantiate your arguments as and when it is necessary.

(25 marks)

3. "The comparative legal research (CLR) consists in comparative evaluation of human experience occurring in legal systems of different jurisdictions. It is valuable as it brings out the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches, procedures, and institutions.

Appropriate choice of comparative components and choice of the criterion of comparison becomes crucial for the success of comparative legal research. Nevertheless, the CLR methodology is not without its critics such as inadequate understanding of the social background of other jurisdictions, language barrier, and so on. "

In light of the above statement, critically analyze the importance of comparative legal research and analysis in the context of criminal justice administration research.

(25 marks)

4. Write an argumentative essay on doctrinal legal research method with the following aspects in focus:

- meaning and attributes;
- the connection between legal positivism and doctrinal legal research method;
- method of conducting doctrinal legal research;
- critiques against doctrinal legal research method; and
- the importance of doctrinal legal research methods in criminal justice administration research.

(25 marks)

5. Discuss the significance of the following components in a research proposal with appropriate examples:

- (i) Research title and background;
- (ii) Statement of problem/research problem;
- (iii) Research objectives and research questions.
- (iv) Research methodology; and
- (v) Significance of the research.

(5 X 5 = 25 marks)

6. (a) Briefly discuss the meaning of critical literature review.

(3 marks)

- (b) Demonstrate the steps to be followed in conducting a literature review.

(08 marks)

- (c) Outline the main components of a critical legal literature review.

(08 marks)

(d) Comment on the main aspects that a researcher should emphasize at the end of a critical review of the literature.

(06 marks)

(3+8+8+6 = 25 marks)

7. Write notes on the following:

(a) The importance of quantitative legal research in addressing the demographic, economic, cultural, and political implications of the operation of law by drawing examples from criminal justice administration-based research.

(12 marks)

(b) Skills required in drafting a legal research paper.

(13 marks)

(12+13= 25 marks)

-copyright reserved-

