



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL STUDIES
LL.M IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION DEGREE PROGRAMME
FINAL EXAMINATION (FIRST YEAR) - 2023/2024
LLPA312- RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
DURATION: 03 HOURS

Date: 07.12. 2024

Time: 09.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Total Number of Questions: 07

Answer any FOUR (04) questions.

Each question carries 25 marks.

Candidates will be penalized for illegible handwriting.

1. (a) Identify five (05) key components of a research proposal and discuss the importance of each element,
 (15 Marks)

- (b) Identify the heading under which you would discuss the way you are planning to do the research and explain what factors must be taken into consideration when drafting this part of the research proposal.
 (10 marks)

(15+10=25 marks)

2. (a) Explain the rationale underlying the conduct of a literature review in legal research.
 (05 marks)

- (b) Research methodology course teacher of the Master of Law degree programme requested the students to select a journal article of their choice and write a review and

submit for evaluation. After the evaluation, the teacher found ninety percent (90 %) of the students secured below thirty percent (30%) marks as the reviews lack critical appraisal. Assume that you are a student who received an A grade for the submission. You are requested by your teacher to deliver a presentation to the class regarding critical appraisal in a literature review in the context of legal research.

Prepare the outline of your presentation focusing on the basic components of a critical review of legal materials.

(20 marks)

(05+20=25 marks)

3. Assume that you are required to conduct research on Effectives of Anti- corruption Laws in Sri Lanka. Your research supervisor suggests that you visit institutions dealing with the subject of corruption on a field visit and submit a report of your findings.

In light of the above scenario answer the following questions:

- (a) Explain the importance of conducting a field visit in legal research;

(05 marks)

And

- (b) Draft a report considering you have completed the field visit on the given topic. You are required to use the acceptable format of a field visit report.

(20 marks)

(05+20=25 marks)

4. (a) Explain the meaning of the term 'Research findings.'

(05 marks)

- (c) Briefly discuss the fundamental components of reporting research findings.

(05 marks)

- (d) Illustrate the importance of research findings with appropriate examples.

(15 marks)

(05+05+15=25 marks)

5. 'If we accept that the doctrinal method is a two-part process of locating 'the law' or doctrine and then analysing the texts, it might be argued that doctrinal research has aspects of both quantitative and qualitative methodologies within it. However, can the law (legislation and case law) be categorised as data?'

T Hutchinson and N Duncan, 'Defining and Describing What We Do: Doctrinal Legal Research' 2012 (17) 1 Deakin Law Review 83.

Does the above quotation accurately reflect the scope, application, and critique of the doctrinal legal research method?

Appraise the above statement with relevant examples in the context of research pertaining to criminal justice administration.

(25 marks)

6. Before employing the comparative research methodology in the context of legal research, the following three questions need to be answered.

- i. What is comparative legal research?
- ii. Why are you adopting comparative legal research methodology?
- iii. What are the justifications offered for selecting the jurisdictions or case studies?

Prepare a comprehensive note discussing the above three questions. Provide relevant examples as and where necessary.

(25 marks)

7. Critically evaluate the fundamentals and utility value of adopting socio-legal research methodology in research relating to criminal justice administration.

(25 marks)

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