



ZCAS University

SLA2202 PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS

MID SEMESTER EXAM

19th October 2023

TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS (plus 5 minutes to read through the paper)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Section A: Question One in Section A is compulsory.
2. Sections B, Answer THREE questions from this section.
3. This examination paper carries a total of 70 marks.
4. Candidates are not permitted to bring any statutes into the examination room.
5. Candidates must not turn this page until the invigilator tells them to do so.

SECTION A: All questions in this section are compulsory and must be answered.

Q1

Mwansa is a junior associate at a prestigious law firm in Lusaka. She discovers that her supervising partner, Chanda, is sharing confidential client information with a close friend who works for a competing firm. Mwansa is torn between her loyalty to her firm and her ethical duty to protect client confidences.

Kambole is a lawyer representing a corporate client in Kitwe. He is approached by an old college friend, Musonda, who wants to sue the same corporation for personal injuries caused by a defective product. Kambole is tempted to take the case, but he knows it presents a potential conflict of interest.

Nsofwa, a criminal defense attorney in Livingstone, has information that could undermine the prosecution's case. However, revealing this information would damage his reputation among other defense attorneys and might endanger his working relationships within the legal community.

Nkandu represents a client who insists on presenting false evidence during a trial. Nkandu knows this is unethical and illegal, but the client pressures her to proceed.

A) Advise everyone above:

- What should Mwansa do, and what ethical rules are implicated in this situation?
- How should Kambole handle this situation while adhering to ethical standards?
- How should Nsofwa balance professional courtesy and his duty to provide zealous representation for his client?
- What should Nkandu do to maintain her ethical obligations to the court and her client?

(4 x 4 = 16 Marks)

B) Apart from what has been stated and identified above what are 3 other features a legal practitioner should exhibit in their profession? **(6 Marks)**

C) Why is it important that lawyers remain objective? **(3 Marks)**

[Total 25 Marks]

Part B: Answer Any three questions from this part.

Q2

What is lifelong learning and why is lifelong learning important for a lawyer's decision-making process? Provide examples of how continuous learning can enhance a lawyer's ability to make informed and ethical decisions in their practice.

[15 Total Marks]

Q3

Personal development is a subset of lifelong learning and its integral to a lawyer's personal development. Discuss how continuous self-improvement can positively impact a lawyer's growth and development, both personally and professionally when it comes to decision making.

[15 Total Marks]

Q4

Explain the following:

- A. What does it mean to be ethical?
- B. Any two of the four pillars of learning
- C. Is there a link between morals and Ethics?

[5x3=15 Total Marks]

Q5

Why is professionalism crucial in today's legal practice, explain three aspects of professionalism and how does effective teamwork contribute to ethical, efficient, and successful outcomes in the modern workplace?

[15 Total Marks]

END OF EXAMINATION