



JDP SCHOOL OF LAW

Semester 1, 2026

FINAL COURSE EXAMINATION PAPER

LAW 102: LEGAL METHODS AND RESEARCH

Important Instructions to Students:

1. Read the questions, instructions carefully and answer the questions.
2. You are allowed an **extra 10 minutes reading time** (during this time, you are not allowed to write with pen) and **180 minutes (3 Hours) to complete this paper**.
3. Silent, non-programmable calculators are allowed, but not supplied.
4. Write all your answers in the answer booklet provided. If you need extra sheets, please ask from the supervisor. Write your name, course code and student identification number in the answer booklet and in the attendance sheet.
5. This Final Course Examination Paper is worth **60 marks**. Students must score at least **30 marks** in this final exam to pass the course
6. This paper contains **SEVEN (7) questions**. You must answer **ANY SIX (6) questions**.
7. Write all your answers legibly. The marker has the right to award zero for answers that are not legible.
8. This is a **Closed Book Examination**.
9. The University views plagiarism, cheating and dishonest practice as serious offences and if found, offenders are penalized.

Examination Paper Content (Format):

<u>Question</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Suggested Time</u>
1-7	Long Answer Questions. You must answer any SIX (6) questions	10	40 minutes
	TOTAL	60	240 Minutes

You must answer ANY SIX (6) questions. Each question is worth 10 marks.

Question 1

- a) Explain the term 'law and legal reasoning' that governs the society and interpret the principles of law. (2 marks)
- b) In order to understand the term law, it is essential to define and classify laws. It makes relationship in the different branches of law. It also helps in arranging them in a concise and systematic manner. It also helps a lawyer to understand the law. The Roman jurists attempted a classification of law. But it does not have any permanence. It may apply to a particular community but may not apply to all the community. The most fundamentals of a legal system depend on both the public law and private law that governs the relationship among all stakeholders of the state. In the above views, discuss very precisely some important types of law as applied in Fiji. (8 marks)

[10 marks]

Question 2

- a) Define statutes and ordinance. (2 marks)
- b) Discuss briefly the different rules for interpreting the statutes. (6 marks)
- c) Explain the difference between codification of statutes and interpretation of statutes. (2 marks)

[10 marks]

Question 3

Many laws, especially early or common laws are derived from long-standing customs that are later recognized by judicial authorities. Does it indicate the notion of a valid custom? Explain your answer with reference to the significance of such laws in our daily lives.

[10 marks]

Question 4

- a) What are Tribunals? (2 marks)
- b) Explain how the powers and functions of a tribunal differs from the courts in Fiji. (8 marks)

[10 marks]

Question 5

a) What is research and research proposal? Suppose you have given a research topic to do a research work. In order to carry out this work, you have to develop certain criteria to be fulfilled for writing a research proposal. Explain the criteria and steps involved in writing the research proposal. (4 marks)

b) In order to be a good researcher, it is essential to have the knowledge and skills of different types of research and research methods. Explain the different types of research methods. (6 marks)

[10 marks]

Question 6

Explain how judicial precedents are formed in Fiji. In your answer, discuss the role of the courts and the importance of reported cases in the development of Fiji law.

[10 marks]

Question 7

You must answer all parts in this question. Each part is worth 2 marks.

Write short notes on the following:

- (a) Question of fact and question of law
- (b) Rule of law
- (c) Legislation
- (d) Obiter dicta
- (e) Ratio Decidendi

10 marks]

The End