

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF LAW

DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS- 2023/24

SEMESTER II END EXAMINATION

(Research Methodology – TLLM1241)

(Two Hours)

Total number of questions: 03

Answer any TWO **(02)** questions only.

(Candidates will be penalized for illegible handwriting.)

1. 'Research involves answering questions, and the approach utilised is based on paradigms, philosophical assumptions, and distinct methods. Hence, the legal research process consists of four elements, namely epistemology, theoretical perspective, methodology and methods. Researchers need to be able to recognize how these paradigms relate to the researcher's chosen methodology and methods and connect to the findings which are presented in the thesis.'

Do you agree with the above statement? Analyse the interrelationship between epistemology, methodology and methods in qualitative legal research. Support your answer with relevant examples.

(30 Marks)

2. 'The literature review involves a paradox. On the one hand, the researcher cannot effectively undertake a literature search without some idea of the problem the researcher wishes to investigate. On the other, the literature review can play an extremely important role in shaping the research problem because the process of reviewing the literature helps the researcher to understand the subject area better and thus helps him/her to conceptualise the research problem clearly and precisely.'

In light of the above statement, discuss the different types of literature review and the process of conducting the literature review to conceptualise the research problem.

(30 Marks)

3. Write notes on any TWO of the following:
- Research questions and objectives
 - Quantitative research designs
 - Black letter legal research and comparative legal research
 - Inter- disciplinary legal research
 - Ethics in legal research

(30 Marks)
