



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

BACHELOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND HEALTH

EPH 1203

Main Examination Paper

April 2025

This examination paper consists of 3 typed pages

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Total Marks: 100

Special Requirements: None

Examiner's Name: Mr N Mudonhi

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Answer Question **One** in **Section A** and **ANY** other **THREE** questions in **Section B**.
2. Question one carries 40 marks whilst each question in Section B carries 20 marks.
3. Where the question is subdivided, part marks are indicated in brackets at the end of the sub question.

MARK ALLOCATION

QUESTION	MARKS
1.	40
2.	20
3.	20
4.	20
5.	20
6.	20
TOTAL	100

SECTION A (40 Marks)

Question One

Traditional medicine utilisation could contribute positively or negatively towards the attainment of SDG 3. You have been confronted by the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC) of Zimbabwe in conjunction with ZINATA to come up with sustainable mechanisms of utilising IKS in maternal Health. Read the following extract and answer questions that follow:

Mposhi, A., Manyeruke, C. and Hamauswa, S., 2013. The importance of patenting traditional medicines in Africa: the case of Zimbabwe. *Int J Humanit Soc Sci*, 3(2), pp.236-246.

Abstract

Traditional medicines are important to Zimbabwe's primary health care system, with an estimated 80% of the country's population relying on traditional herbal therapies. However, there are various challenges that are associated with integrating traditional medicines with the conventional health care system and these include the absence of clinical tests to ascertain the safety and efficacy of some of the drugs. The paper takes a scope at the current Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) system with particular emphasis on the Patent law. Due to the absence of sound policies that protect the Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in developing countries, issues of bio-piracy and bio-prospecting have been on the rise. As such there is need for developing countries to formulate their own IKS policies and patenting system that extends exclusive rights to indigenous communities for their traditional knowledge on medicinal plants so that they can benefit. The sui generis options for IKS protection that suit developing countries are discussed in this paper. A brief discussion on the important role biotechnology can play in the patenting of traditional medicines is made to understand how modern science can improve and protect the existing TK. Key Words: Indigenous Knowledge System, Traditional medicine, bio-piracy, Patent Law, sui generis system.

- (a) In relation to the abstract, explain how stated challenges of utilising Traditional Medicine can be mitigated in Zimbabwe [15].
- (b) Justify why Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is important in Traditional Medicine [10].
- (c) State different types of alternative medicine and how they are used in treatment of venom, eye and ear pains [15].

SECTION B (60 Marks)

Question Two

Maternal mortality and morbidity is predominant in Southern African Countries, with reference to Zimbabwean context, state herbs and explain how they are used in antenatal, natal and postnatal care. [20].

Question Three

The Kalanga and Lemba people of Zimbabwe are well known of their deep rooted cultural values and beliefs, based on one tribe: link their Indigenous Knowledge System and public Health [20].

Question Four

Flora and Fauna were preserved by our fore fathers in different ways, based on your knowledge, how can our great grand fathers including the current generation determine sustainability of indigenous Flora and Fauna, explain in relation to four sustainable development variables that influence IKS and health [20].

Question Five

Evaluate Traditional Healers Act Chapter 27:14, take into account the strengths and weaknesses of the act [20].

Question Six

State and explain the chemical properties of Alovera and Black Jack that makes them wonderful herb in the treatment of different health ailments. [20]