**NAME:** Idowu John

**MATRIC NUMBER:** 17/ENG07/013

**DEPARTMENT**: Petroleum Engineering

**COURSE CODE**: ENG 384

Briefly discuss the following intellectual property protection methods.

1. **Patent:** A patent is a form of right granted by government to an inventor or their successor-in-title, giving the owner the right to exclude others from making, using, selling, offering to sell, and importing an invention for a limited period of time, in exchange for the public disclosure of the invention. An invention is a solution to a specific technological problem, which may be a product or a process and generally has to fulfill three main requirements: it has to be new, not obvious and there needs to be an industry applicability. To enrich the body of knowledge and stimulate innovation, it is an obligation for patent owners to disclose valuable information about their inventions to public.

2. **Copyright:** A copyright gives the creator of an original work exclusive rights to it, usually for a limited time. Copyright may apply to a wide range of creative, Intellectual, or artistic forms, or “works”. Copyright does not cover ideas and information themselves, only the form or manner in which they are expressed.

3. **Trademark**: A trademark is a recognizable sign, design or expression which distinguishes product or services of a particular trader from similar products or services of other traders.

4. **Trade secret:** A trade secret is a formula, practice, process, design, instrument, pattern, or compilation of information which is not generally know or reasonably ascertainable, by which a business can obtain an economic advantage over competitors and customers. There is no formal government protection granted; each business must take measures to guard its own trade secrets (e.g., Formula of its soft drinks is a trade secret for Coca-Cola