**NAME: UKPAI CHINENYE SHALOM**

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**1) What Is a Patent?**

A patent is a right granted to an inventor by the federal government that permits the inventor to exclude others from making, selling or using the invention for a period of time. The patent system is designed to encourage inventions that are unique and useful to society. Congress was given the power to grant patents in the Constitution, and federal statutes and rules govern patents.

There are three different kinds of patents: utility patents, design patents and plant patents.

Utility Patents: The most common type of patent, these are granted to new machines, chemicals, and processes.

Design Patents: Granted to protect the unique appearance or design of manufactured objects, such as the surface ornamentation or overall design of the object.

Plant Patents: Granted for the invention and asexual reproduction of new and distinct plant varieties, including hybrids (asexual reproduction means the plant is reproduced by means other than from seeds, such as by grafting or rooting of cuttings).

Examples of Patentable Items include are;

Computer software and hardware, Chemical formulas and processes, genetically engineered bacteria, plants, and animals, Drugs, Medical devices, Furniture design, Jewellery etc.

**2) What Is Copyright?**

Copyright refers to the legal right of the owner of intellectual property. In simpler terms, copyright is the right to copy. This means that the original creators of products and anyone they give authorization to are the only ones with the exclusive right to reproduce the work.

Copyright law gives creators of original material the exclusive right to further use and duplicate that material for a given amount of time, at which point the copyrighted item becomes public domain. The primary goal of copyright law is to protect the time, effort, and creativity of the work's creator. As such, the Copyright Act gives the copyright owner certain exclusive rights, including the right to:

Reproduce the work

Prepare "derivative works" (other works based on the original work)

Distribute copies of the work by sale, lease, or other transfer of ownership

Perform the work publicly

Display the work publicly

Examples of Copyrights include; Poems, Novels, Presentations, Computer Programs, Newspaper, Databases, Films etc.

**3) What Is a Trademark?**

Trademark protection is available for certain names, symbols, devices, or words that will be used in connection with a good or service. Technically, if a certain mark is associated with a service, it is called a "service mark," but trademark is commonly used to refer to both marks associated with services and goods. The purpose behind trademarks is to allow companies and individuals to indicate the source of their goods or services and to distinguish them from others in the industry.

Examples of Trademark include; A Company’s name, Symbol, Catchphrase, Figure or Mascot, Lyrics etc.

**4) What Is a Trade Secret?**

A trade secret is any practice or process of a company that is generally not known outside of the company. Information considered a trade secret gives the company an economic advantage over its competitors and is often a product of internal research and development.

Trade secrets are defined differently based on jurisdiction, but all have the following characteristics in common:

They are not public information.

Their secrecy provides an economic benefit to their holder.

Their secrecy is actively protected.

Examples of trade secrets include; R&D information, Software algorithms, Inventions, Designs, Formulas, Ingredients, Devices, Methods etc.

**REFERENCES**

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