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**Matric number: - 19/law01/253**

**Department: - Law**

**Course: - LEGAL METHOD II (LAW 102)**

**Secondary sources of law**

1. Encyclopaedias:

Legal encyclopaedias contain information across most areas of law. It is a comprehensive set of brief articles on legal topics. They summarize the law and will often point you towards legislation, leading cases and other relevant sources. Encyclopaedias can be a great place to start your legal research on any given legal subject. They are written by editorial writers and not by independent legal scholars. They give the general state of the law, that is, the settled doctrine. They do not analyse nor criticize the law. They provide more in-depth information than a legal dictionary.

Okay so he gave the question five his lawyer friend a bit late so she was only able to do some... like 4 out of the whole thing

2. Text Books and Treatises:

Where a point of law has not been previously decided in the court or where the position of the law on the point is not clear, courts may turn to text books by notable authors for assistance and guidance. But their books are merely persuasive. Text books summarize single specific legal topics, while Treatises include textbooks and cover broader subject areas. Both provide authoritative and thorough treatment of the subject area. The Evidence Act specifically provides as regards customary laws that any book or manuscript recognised by natives as a legal authority is relevant, especially books written by seasoned legal icons.

3. Casebooks:

Unlike textbooks, casebooks do not summarize or provide unique commentary on the law; instead they contain excerpts from cases, journal articles and treatises for discussion. They can be referred to as persuasive authority by the courts.

4.

Legal Dictionaries:

A legal dictionary contains the definitions of legal terms taken from a variety of sources. They are the first place you should look when you do not understand what a legal term means. Legal dictionaries may also provide reference to applicable primary law and other secondary sources containing more in-depth discussions of the term. The most commonly used legal dictionary in Nigeria is Black’s Law Dictionary.