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First of all, John can be protected by copyright. The reason for my answer is as follows. Copyright protects the expression of ideas and not the idea itself. This is supported by **Article 9(2) of the TRIPS Agreement** which states basically that copyright is only vested in a work after it has been expressed in a certain manner or way. There is also a requirement of fixation which states that such a work should be put in such a way or through a device that people can access. Fixation is covered by **section 1(2)(b) of the Copyright Act,** herein referred to as the Actwhere it states that a copyright owner has to satisfy the requirements of “works” according to **section 51 of the Act.**

In order for a person’s work to be protected under copyright laws, one has to satisfy the requirements of fixation, originality and qualifications of an author. With regards to originality, it was stated in **Offrey v Chief Ola** that for a work to be considered original, the plaintiff must provide evidence showing that a substantial amount of mental and physical energy was put into the work. In order for the requirements of qualifications of an author to be satisfied, a person has to be linked in one way or the other to Nigeria. Either by copyright by virtue of nationality/domiciled, by country of origin, by works of government, state authorities and international bodies or reference to international agreements. For the purpose of the question given, focus will be placed on copyright by virtue of reference to international agreements.

To answer the question given, as stated above, copyright protects the expression of ideas and not the idea itself. John’s mode of expressing his work is adequate and with regards to the fixation, John put his work in a sound recording which according to **Article 9(2) of the TRIPS Agreement** is way or means in which people can access his work. John is a Ghanaian student of ABUAD, as a citizen of Ghana, he is qualified to be protected under the copyright laws of Nigeria as under qualifications of an author, he is qualified by virtue of reference to international treaties. Nigeria and Ghana belong to the **Berne Convention** and by this John is qualified to be protected by Nigeria’s copyright law. Also, considering the requirement of domiciled in a country, John by virtue of being a student of ABUAD which is in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State in Nigeria, he is domiciled in Nigeria and by virtue of **section 2 of the Act,** this qualifies John to have copyright.

In my opinion, I would advise John that he can be protected under the copyright laws of Nigeria. Relying on the above given.