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MATRIC NO: 17/ENG01/003

DEPARTMENT: CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

COURSE CODE: ENG 384

QUESTION 2:

**legal system** can be defined as the principles or procedures for the classification of laws, matters or procedure relating to them. Nigeria is common law country, common law  is the body of law derived from judicial decisions of courts and similar [tribunals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tribunals).

The defining characteristic of “common law” is that it arises as [precedent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precedent). In cases where the parties disagree on what the law is, a common law court looks to past precedential decisions of relevant courts, and synthesizes the principles of those past cases as applicable to the current facts. If a similar dispute has been resolved in the past, the court is usually bound to follow the reasoning used in the prior decision (a principle known as [*stare decisis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stare_decisis)). If, however, the court finds that the current dispute is fundamentally distinct from all previous cases (called a "[matter of first impression](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Case_of_first_impression)"), and [legislative statutes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statute) are either silent or ambiguous on the question, judges have the authority and duty to resolve the issue (one party or the other has to win, and on disagreements of law, judges make that decision). The court states an [opinion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legal_opinion) that gives reasons for the decision, and those reasons agglomerate with past decisions as [precedent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precedent) to bind future judges and litigants.

Common law, as the body of law made by judges, stands in contrast to and on equal footing with [statutes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statute_law) which are adopted through the legislative process, and [regulations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regulation_(law)) which are promulgated by the [executive branch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_(government)) (the interactions among these different sources of law are explained [later](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_law#Interaction_with_statute) in this article). [*Stare decisis*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stare_decisis), the principle that cases should be decided according to consistent principled rules so that similar facts will yield similar results, lies at the heart of all common law systems.

The engineering industries are usually involved with the Nigerian legal system by contracts, in Nigeria construction contracts are written because terms and condition of the contracts should be clearly spelt out so if any part of the contract is violated the issue would be taken to court of law for settlement as stated above while defining common law.