

**GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY
GANDHINAGAR**

**Course: Access to Justice: Theory & Practice
Semester- IV (Batch: 2018-23)**

End Semester Online Examination: February 2021

Date: 12th February, 2021

Duration: 8 hours

Max. Marks: 50

Instructions:

- The respective marks for each question are indicated in-line.
- Indicate correct question numbers in front of the answer.
- No questions or clarification can be sought during the exam period, answer as it is, giving reason, if any.
- Prescribed Word Limit: 10 Marks: 800-1000 words, 5 Marks: 300-500 words

- | | Marks |
|---|------------------------------|
| <p>Q.1 Read the following extract and answer the following questions.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">In addition to the severe implications for public health, COVID-19 has imposed a significant challenge on access to justice. Restricted access to the judicial system has increased vulnerabilities to already vulnerable groups and communities. This has raised serious concern about ensuring speedy access to justice. Some experts have suggested accelerating digitalisation in the administration of justice and have put forward ideas of 'smart courts'. This means e-mediation, e-arbitration and online courts procedures. It might be possible in some jurisdictions but in many jurisdictions, courts and judicial systems are often obstructed by a series of institutional challenges.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a) Define 'access to justice' in the context of its contemporary significance?
b) What are the key implications and significance of digital technology in facilitating access to justice to vulnerable groups and communities?</p> | <p>(5+10
=15)</p> |
| <p>Q.2 Read the following extract and answer the following questions.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Justiciable problems are not randomly distributed across populations. Particular problems are associated with particular social groups or stages of life. It appears that "socioeconomic disadvantage is pivotal" (Coumarelos et al., 2012) to the social patterning of problems. Research studies have repeatedly demonstrated associations between disadvantage and justiciable problem experience.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a) What is the research problem being indicated in the above statement? What are the existing solutions for this issue and how are they currently inadequate to address it? (Consider reference to latest research papers/developments to highlight the problem.)
b) Identify stakeholders/systems/resources, which are required to address the issue/inadequacy of existing solutions?</p> | <p>(10+5
=15)</p> |
| <p>Q.3 Explain, with reasons, the roles of the following actors in ensuring that the right of access to legal aid is effective in practice.</p> | <p>(5x4=
20)</p> |

- a) Social workers/activists
- b) Police officers
- c) Prosecutors and
- d) Judicial officers
