



ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY • ABERDEEN

BSM583 Intellectual Property Law

Academic Writing Skills

Short essay task

Topic

"The legal protection for copyright works does not require any formal justifications, as its merits are clear."

Critically analyse this statement from the viewpoint of your individual home jurisdiction.

Word count (without footnotes/bibliography)

Minimum – 1,400

Maximum – 1,600

Submission deadline (coursework, incl. TURNITIN report)

Monday, 7th November 2011, 1 pm (via the PG box on ABS level 4)

All candidates please note:

You may submit your work at any point up until the deadline (i.e. there is no need to leave it to the last minute). This is advisable, as it may take some time to put your work through the TURNITIN system.



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General guidance & requirements

1. These formatting and style rules must be adhered to:

Font:	Verdana or Times New Roman
Style:	Normal
Font size:	main text & bibliography: 11 indented quotes and footnotes: 10
Line spacing:	main text: 1.5 lines Indented quotes and footnotes: single
Alignment:	Justified
2. This exercise is formative, i.e. it will not be part of your final grade for the module. All students are, however, expected to participate in this pilot project. Non-participation will be noted.
3. You are expected to research the topic for relevant authoritative sources, and need to acquire a good working knowledge of the law as well as journal articles written on the subject. There may be other useful sources, such as discussion on specialist blogs or law firm websites, regulatory bodies etc. Note, however, that blogs cannot form the sole basis for serious legal argument.
4. Remember that your legal writing AND research skills are assessed as part of this exercise. This means that you should show proficiency by searching for authoritative source material, but also compose and express your argument in an informed and professional manner. Remember that your work is read by an academic/professional audience, and that your work must be critical in the sense that is balanced and non-biased.
5. You must clearly define your approach to the topic set in *your* introduction (the singular best place to set the scene and generate interest in your audience to read your essay), work out a coherent structure of *your* argumentation for the essay, and finish with a logical conclusion that is based on *your* arguments. By definition, introduction and conclusion will be fairly succinct, while your body of argumentation will be extensive.
6. You are required to follow the Law Department's *Referencing Guide* (published on CampusMoodle). Use footnotes for references ONLY; do not use footnotes for substantive points/arguments and text. You are re
7. You must provide a bibliography of your sources used. A bibliography does not include legislation and court decisions. Check the Law Department's *Referencing Guide* to make sure all your references and bibliographical entries are conforming to the required standard.
8. Check your final version on adequacy of expression, style, coherence of structure and argument, typographical and grammatical errors.
9. You must run your work through the TURNITIN anti-plagiarism software and provide a copy of the TURNITIN report as well as your work. You can submit a draft to the system first if you like, before you submit your final version. If you have not already done so, you must register on submit.ac.uk. Once you have access, the Class ID for the module is 296635, and the password is BSM583.