LEGAL WRITING SKILLS

A GUIDE TO WRITING ESSAYS AND ANSWERING PROBLEM QUESTIONS

STEVE FOSTER



FIFTH EDITION

Legal Writing Skills

A Guide to Writing Essays and Answering Problem Questions

Legal Writing Skills

Table of Contents

Front Cover

Half Title Page

Title Page

Copyright Page

Dedication Page

Contents

Acknowledgements

Preface

Introduction: How to use this book

Part 1: Preparing and writing lawassignments

Chapter 1: Writing law assessments on

undergraduate courses

Some common complaints

Some basic points

Note-taking and using notes with other sources

What should I do when I get an assignment?

Researching for assessments

Chapter 2: Presentation of law assessments

Word-processed work

Adopting good practice in grammar, punctuation and



Table of Contents

spelling

Clear and coherent writing style

Avoiding plagiarism

Providing authority

Reading over your answer

Answering the question

Reasons why students fail to answer the question

Writing critically and gaining enhanced grades

Summary of writing and presentational skills

Part 2: Writing good essays and answering problem questions

Chapter 3: Legal reasoning and critical thinking in assessments

Legal reasoning

Critical thinking and writing

Using critical reasoning and analysis

Chapter 4: Good and bad essays

Question 1: Contract law essay

Question 2: Legal system and constitutional law essay

Chapter 5: Answering problem questions

Understanding problem questions

How to tackle problem questions

Question 1: Contract problem

Question 2: Statutory interpretation/judicial review problem

Part 3: Researching and writing legal essays: specific legal skills



Table of Contents

Chapter 6: Researching and using legal materials

Researching for assessments

Locating your sources

Using legal materials

Providing authority

Using cases

Using statutory materials

Using law journals

Using websites

Chapter 7: Legal referencing and citation

Learn how to cite cases

Citing statutory materials

Citing journals

Citing books

Citing websites

Bibliographies

Part 4: Tackling exams and extended essays and projects

Chapter 8: Preparing for and answering exam questions

General exam skills

The revision process

The examination

Examples of exam answers

Question 1: The contract problem

Question 2: The constitutional law essay

Summary of examination skills



Table of Contents

Chapter 9: Researching and writing advancedessays

Extended and advanced essays at undergraduate level

In-depth research

Writing in a professional and academic, critical andanalytical style

Undergraduate projects

Further reading

Index

Back Cover

