



**JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**  
**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE PUBLIC**  
**HEALTH / COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> SEMESTERS 2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR**  
**MAIN/KISUMU CAMPUS**

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**COURSE CODE: HCB 1212**

**COURSE TITLE: CRITICAL THINKING AND SCIENTIFIC WRITING**

**EXAM VENUE:** **STREAM: (BSc. P. Hlth / Comm Hlth & Dev)**

**DATE:** **EXAM SESSION:**

**TIME: 2.00 HOURS**

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**Instructions:**

- 1. Answer all the questions in Section A and ANY other 2 questions in Section B.**
- 2. Candidates are advised not to write on the question paper.**
- 3. Candidates must hand in their answer booklets to the invigilator while in the examination room.**

**Section A: Answer ALL questions (30 marks)**

1. Explain how critical thinking skills and logical reasoning may improve professional interactions and conflict resolution (3 marks)
2. Define the following concepts giving appropriate examples in each case. (3 marks)

Statement	Description / definition	Example
Facts		
Opinions		

3. List THREE characteristics of a claim in argumentative writing/essays (3 marks)
4. What is plagiarism? Explain TWO steps you can take to avoid it. (3 marks)
5. What is one expected to do at the pre-writing stage of academic writing (3 marks)
6. Explain how thinking outside the box can help to create knowledge (3 marks)
7. Outline how a book in print is cited using the APA citation format (3 marks)
8. A topic sentence is integral to ideal paragraphs in academic writing.
  - a. Explain the purpose of the topic sentence. (2 marks)
  - b. Describe any FOUR key characteristics of an ideal topic sentence (4 marks)
9. For each of the activity statements below, identify the relevant critical thinking skills they each correspond to.
  - a) "I deduced from the information that..." (1 mark)
  - b) "I judged it according to..." (1 mark)
  - c) "I knew I needed to study..." (1 mark)

**Section B: Answer any TWO questions (40 marks)**

1. As public health professional, you have been newly posted to a new health facility in need of improvement and strong leadership. Describe a conflict or priority problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, a communication issue, an ethical dilemma—anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale.
  - a. Explain why this issue is a priority in your improvement plans for the health facility. (4 marks)
  - b. Describe briefly what steps you or other persons could take to identify a solution/s. (8 marks)
  - c. Explain the critical thinking skills that would help you to understand and analyze the situation and guide you in providing effective solutions to the challenges identified. (8 marks)

2. During literature review in a writing assignment, a systematic and rigorous search of literature is necessary.
  - a) Describe any FOUR methods used in in conducting literature search.

(12 marks)
  - b) Describe how critical thinking can help you conduct a thorough literature review

(8 marks)
3. Explain characteristics of a critical thinker in a context of public or community health

(20 marks)
4. Briefly explain FIVE key items you need to consider before writing an academic essay.

(20 marks)