



**JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

**COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

**2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER 2024/2025 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**KISUMU CAMPUS**

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**COURSE CODE:** HCB 1212

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

**EXAM VENUE:** STREAM: BSc Public/ Comm. Hlth & Dev

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

**TIME: 2.00 HOURS**

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**Instructions:**

- 1. Answer all the questions in Section A and 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.**



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**Answer all questions in section A – 30 marks.**

1. Describe briefly the key issues you would consider when reading a published article *[3marks]*
2. Compare and contrast between the terms provided below.
  - a. Claim versus arguments. *[3 marks]*
  - b. Inferences versus judgements. *[3 marks]*
  - c. Opinions versus facts. *[3 marks]*
  - d. Bibliography and List of references *[3 marks]*
4. Describe the parts of good abstract. *[3 marks]*
5. Explain the value of learning critical thinking in a public health course. *[3 marks]*
6. Explain the significance of using Bloom’s taxonomy in public health settings. *3marks*
7. a). Define the term "logical fallacy. *[2 marks]*  
b). Explain the difference between **formal** and **informal** fallacies, providing examples of each type. *[4 marks]*

**SECTION B – 40 MARKS**

Answer any two questions – 20 marks each

1. Concerning logical fallacies
  - a. Evaluate the impact of logical fallacies on public discourse. *[6 marks]*
  - b. Discuss how fallacies can affect public opinion, policy-making, and individual decision-making. *[8marks]*
  - c. Describe the strategies for identifying and avoiding fallacies in arguments. *[6marks]*
2. Critical thinking plays a vital role in effectively addressing conflicts and finding constructive solutions
  - a. Define critical thinking and explain its relevance to conflict resolution. *[4marks]*
  - b. Discuss THREE critical thinking skills that are particularly important in managing conflicts. *[6marks]*
  - c. Evaluate the potential challenges that might arise when applying critical thinking to conflict resolution. *[5marks]*
  - d. Discuss strategies to overcome these challenges and ensure that the resolution process remains constructive and effective. *[5marks]*
3. In the study of logic and critical thinking, understanding claims and arguments is essential for effective reasoning and persuasive communication.
  - i. Define the terms "claim" and "argument", giving examples to illustrate the difference. *[4marks]*
  - b. Explain the components of an argument, including premises and conclusions. *[4marks]*



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- c. Discuss the importance of distinguishing between strong and weak arguments in everyday discourse, considering the implications of effective argumentation for decision-making, public opinion, and social issues. *[6marks]*
- d. Highlight strategies for recognizing and constructing valid arguments. *[6marks]*
- 4. During literature review in a writing assignment, a systematic and rigorous search of literature is necessary.
  - a. Describe clearly the steps of conducting a literature search. *[10 marks]*
  - b. Describe some of the steps necessary to minimize publication bias. *[6marks]*
  - c. Highlight the factors that impact the validity and applicability of the findings in published literature *[4marks]*.