



KISII UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF LAWS SECOND SEMESTER, 2021/2022 (FEBRUARY - JUNE, 2022)

LLBK 126: CRITICAL AND LOGICAL THINKING

STREAM: LLBK 1 S2

TIME: 2 HOURS

DAY: MONDAY, 9:00 – 11:00 A.M.

DATE: 30/05/2022

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Do not write anything on this question paper.***
- 2. Answer Question ONE [Compulsory] and any other TWO Questions.***
- 3. Illustrate your answer with relevant cases and statutory provisions where applicable.***

QUESTION ONE

(a) Analyse the following passage

‘One man may say that laws in Saudi Arabia preventing women from driving are oppressive to them. His antagonist replies that this is nonsense because it reduces deaths from road accidents.’(R.H Thouless& C R Thouless *Straight and Crooked Thinking* (2011) p. 66 Hodder Education

(6 Marks)

(b) Differentiate the two basic components of an argument

(6 Marks)

(c) Discuss four main purposes of an argument

(8 Marks)

(d) In each of the following passages determine whether they contain arguments or not and identify the conclusion where applicable.

D1 - Cutting the interest rate will have no effect on the stock market this time round as people have been expecting a rate cut all along. This factor has already been reflected in the market. **(2 Marks)**

D2 - So it is raining heavily and this building might collapse. But I don't really care. **(2 Marks)**

D3 - Bill will pay the ransom. After all, he loves his wife and children and would do anything to save them. **(2 Marks)**

D4 - The train is late. There must have been a signal failure. **(2 Marks)**

D5 - All Russia's problems of human rights and democracy come back to three things: the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. None of them works as well as it should. Parliament passes laws in hurry, and has neither the ability nor the will to call high officials to account. State officials abuse human rights with impunity. The courts almost completely fail in their role as the ultimate safeguard of freedom and order (*The Economist* 25th Nov 2000). **(2 Marks)**

QUESTION TWO

Socrates, the ancient Athenian philosopher, famously argued that 'the unexamined life is not worth living' (quoted in *Bowell T & Kemp G Critical Thinking: a concise guide* (2010) p. 5 Routledge New York).

Taking into account this assertion, analyse the core tools of critical thinking

(20 Marks)

QUESTION THREE

'Education is not the learning of facts, but training the mind to think' (Albert Einstein).

In view of this assertion, discuss the core skills of critical thinking. **(20 Marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

‘...in a court trial the jury is instructed to convict an alleged offender if the prosecution has proved their guilt beyond reasonable doubt. The jury is being asked to consider the prosecution’s case, and the evidence they offer at each step of making that case. It has to consider whether there is good reason to accept the argument or whether some faults in it mean that there must be some doubt about its truth’. *Bowell T & Kemp G Critical Thinking: a concise guide* (2010) p. 5-6 Routledge New York.

With the help of this reasoning and by giving examples discuss the importance of critical thinking. **(20 Marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

By giving examples discuss any six barriers to critical thinking **(20 Marks)**