



**STRATHMORE INSTITUTE  
DIPLOMA IN JOURNALISM NEW MEDIA  
END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION  
DJNM 1203: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

**DATE: 14<sup>th</sup> December**

**Time: 2 Hours**

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**Instructions**

1. This examination consists of **FIVE** questions.
2. Answer **Question ONE (COMPULSORY)** and any other **TWO** questions.

**QUESTION ONE – COMPULSORY QUESTION**

**The Danger of a Single Story** by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie:

I'm a storyteller. And I would like to tell you a few personal stories about what I like to call "the danger of the single story." I grew up on a university campus in eastern Nigeria. My mother says that I started reading at the age of two, although I think four is probably close to the truth. So I was an early reader, and what I read were British and American children's books. I was also an early writer, and when I began to write, at about the age of seven, stories in pencil with crayon illustrations that my poor mother<sup>1</sup> was obligated to read, I wrote exactly the kinds of stories I was reading: All my characters were white and blue-eyed, they played in the snow, they ate apples, and they talked a lot about the weather, how lovely it was that the sun had come out. Now, this despite the fact that I lived in Nigeria. I had never been outside Nigeria. We didn't have snow, we ate mangoes, and we never talked about the weather, because there was no need to.

My characters also drank a lot of ginger beer because the characters in the British books I read drank ginger beer. Never mind that I had no idea what ginger beer was. And for many years afterwards, I would have a desperate desire to taste ginger beer. But that is another story. What this demonstrates, I think, is how impressionable and vulnerable we are in the face of a story, particularly as children. Because all I had read were books in which characters were foreign, I had become convinced that books by their very nature had to have foreigners in them and had to be about things with which I could not personally identify. Now, things changed when I discovered African books. There weren't many of them available, and they weren't quite as easy to find as the foreign books. But because of writers like Chinua Achebe and Camara Laye, I went through a mental shift in my perception of literature. I realized that people like me, girls with skin the colour of chocolate, whose kinky hair could not form ponytails, could also exist in literature. I started to write about things I recognized. Now, I loved those American and British books I read. They stirred my imagination. They opened up new worlds for me. But the unintended consequence was that I did not know that people like me could exist in literature. So what the discovery of African writers did for me was this: It saved me from having a single story of what books are.

“The single story creates stereotypes and the problem with stereotypes is not that they aren’t true, but they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story.” These are Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie words in her TED talk about the danger of single story.

As a young journalist you have been hired by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to write a detailed story about Politics of Africa devoid of the danger of a single story. Write the story. **(30 Marks)**

## **QUESTION TWO**

Read the following case and answer the question that follows: -

**COUNTIES WIN CASE ON DEVOLUTION OF ROADS**, STAR, Dec. 29, 2015, By Jillo Kidida,

The government’s chief legal adviser has been given 90 days to gazette the transfer of the roads function to county governments, in a ruling seen to give devolution a lifeline. High Court judge Mumbi Ngugi said yesterday the country faces the risk of delaying devolution on grounds that the counties lack the capacity to take over devolved functions. She said if this is allowed, the transfer of functions to the counties will keep on being postponed, which will weaken and undermine devolution. “As a country, we have experimented with decentralisation before, but our experience with devolution or decentralisation of power has not been a happy one,” Ngugi said. “At independence, we had a devolved system of government, akin to what we have now. The central government then in place delayed the transfer of power to the regions, and ultimately, we gave up on decentralisation.”

She said there is capacity gap in the counties but for the Attorney General to use this as an excuse and fail to gazette devolution of the roads function amounts to violation of the objectives of the decentralised system. “Let me emphasize that the court is not insensitive to or unaware of the weaknesses endemic in the counties, which even the Senate recognised in its report. I am fully cognisant of the capacity gap in many counties, and of the need to build the capacity of the counties,” Ngugi said.

She said this, however, cannot be achieved by keeping the devolved functions under the control of the national government. But the ruling will only apply to 29 counties which challenged the decision to take away some functions from them. Ngugi granted an order stopping the Kenya National Highways Authority from proceeding with procurement or inviting tenders, awarding contracts or concessions for the use of Class A, B and C road reserve land. Kenha was also barred from putting up billboards or in any way interfering with the management of roads under the counties. Ngugi’s judgement arose from an appeal by county governments.

“Devolution is, in spite of challenges and threats, arguably the most revolutionary and transformative aspect of our governance under the constitution of Kenya 2010.”

Discuss. **(15Marks)**

**Either Question Three or Four but not both**

**QUESTION THREE**

The United Nations Peacekeeping began in 1948 when the Security Council authorized the deployment of UN military observers to the Middle East.

Given this background, and as a journalist, do you think the United Nation's Peacekeeping mission has been effective in resolving conflict in Africa? Discuss (15Marks)

**QUESTION FOUR**

To resolve conflict in Africa is like operating on a patient that is anaesthetized – it constantly moves around.” – Anon. Discuss (15Marks)

**QUESTION FIVE**

“There is freedom of speech, but I cannot guarantee freedom after speech”, said Idi Amin, the former president of Uganda. As a journalist, do you think such a mindset for a leaders is ideal? Discuss your answer taking into account the provisions of Article 33. Freedom of Expression and Article 34. Freedom of the Media in the Constitution of Kenya 2010. **(15Marks)**