



STRATHMORE INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY

DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS CREATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION

DIR 1103 & DBCE 1102: INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL THINKING - FT

DATE: Tuesday 21st April 2026

Time: 11:00 – 13:00 Hours

Instructions

1. This examination consists of **5** questions.
2. You must Answer **Question ONE (COMPULSORY)** and any other **TWO** questions.
3. Do **Not Write** on the Question Paper.

QUESTION ONE

(TOTAL 30 Marks)

Case Study: Should social media be banned on campus?

Four students speak:

1. **Student 1:** "Social media should be banned. I read an article that said 70% of students admit social media distracts them from studying. We are paying fees to learn, not to scroll. If we want to succeed, we must remove distractions."
2. **Student 2:** "That's nonsense. My cousin met his wife online, and I have made friends from other countries. You can't ban something that brings people together."
3. **Student 3:** "I haven't decided yet. I need to check the evidence. How reliable is that 70% statistic? Who conducted the study? Are there benefits we haven't considered? We should also define what we mean by 'ban' – complete removal or just restrictions?"
4. **Student 4:** "Everyone I know uses social media. If it were really harmful, it would already be banned. Besides, all the good universities allow it. Why would we want to be stricter than everyone else?"

Give and briefly explain your answers to the following:

- i. For each student, evaluate whether their reasoning shows **critical thinking or lack of it**. Explain your judgment. **(8 marks)**
- ii. Student 1 uses a statistic ("70% of students admit social media distracts them"). List **two questions a critical thinker should ask before accepting this statistic**. **(4 marks)**

- iii. Student 2 uses a personal story about their cousin as evidence. What type of reasoning is this? **(1 mark)**. Give **one strength** and **one weakness** of using this type of reasoning. **(4 marks)**
- iv. Briefly differentiate between **heuristics** and **cognitive biases**. Identify **two cognitive biases** in Student 4's argument. Quote the part of the statement that shows each bias and explain why it is a bias. **(6 marks)**
- v. Student 3 asks: "We should also define what we mean by 'ban' – complete removal or just restrictions?" Explain **two reasons why defining terms is important in critical thinking**. **(4 marks)**
- vi. Based on the debate, which student shows the **strongest critical thinking**? Give **two reasons**. **(3 marks)**

QUESTION TWO (15 Marks)

In recent years, many young people have turned to online activities like betting and content creation to try to earn money quickly. This focus on instant income often leads them to undervalue regular jobs or careers that require sustained effort and learning. Furthermore, when young people see individuals without formal education becoming rich online, they often overlook the value of acquiring skills over time. If this trend continues, the country will face a shortage of skilled workers in the future. Therefore, the government should introduce financial literacy programs in schools to help young people understand the risks of quick-money schemes and the benefits of formal education and steady careers.

- i. Identify the **main conclusion** of the argument. (2 marks)
- ii. List **three premises** the author uses to support this conclusion. (3 marks)
- iii. Is the argument **strong or weak**? Give **three reasons** for your evaluation. (6 marks)
- iv. What kind of **evidence** would strengthen the claim that young people overlook long-term education? Give **one specific example**. (2 marks)
- v. Write **one Socratic question** you could ask the author to challenge an assumption in their argument. (2 marks)

QUESTION THREE (15 Marks)

From the topics studied in class, identify any **five obstacles to critical thinking** (5 marks). For each obstacle you choose, provide the following information:

- i. **Name the obstacle** (1 mark)
- ii. **Explain why** that obstacle makes critical thinking difficult. (1 mark)
- iii. **Suggest one practical way** to overcome it. (1 mark)

QUESTION FOUR (15 Marks)

Some intellectuals claim that faith is a blind belief devoid of reason.

- i. Explain what is meant by 'blind faith' and why the above view is rejected in philosophy. **(5 marks)**
- ii. According to **Thomas Aquinas**, explain the relationship between faith and reason. **(5 marks)**
- iii. Using any **two** of Aquinas' Five Ways, show how reason can support belief in God. **(5 marks)**

QUESTION FIVE (15 Marks)

- i. Define philosophy, truth and knowledge. **(6 marks)**
- ii. Using an example, explain how philosophy and critical thinking work together to ensure that our beliefs align with truth. **(9 marks)**