



STRATHMORE INSTITUTE

DIPLOMA IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

DIPLOMA IN JOURNALISM AND NEW MEDIA

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION

DBM & DE 1102/DIR&DJNM 1103: INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL THINKING

DATE: Thursday, 20th April, 2023

Time: 13.00 -15.00 Hrs.

Instructions

1. This examination consists of **FIVE** questions.
2. Answer **Question ONE (COMPULSORY)** and any other **TWO** questions.
3. Do not write on the question paper.

QUESTION 1 (Total marks = 30)

Carefully examine the following cluster of critical thinking aspects and answer questions **(a - e)** that follow:

Open-mindedness, discovery of truth, problem-solving, inquisitive, depth, relevance, concepts, extensive, weighing options, clarity, logical, propaganda, prejudice, persistence, intellectual empathy, communicate effectively, relativism, intensive, being sceptical, accuracy, questioning assumptions, inference, information, objective, confidence in reason, egocentricism, point of view, intellectual humility, flourishing life

- a) Using elements from the cluster, briefly **define** critical thinking in your own way. **(2 marks)**
- b) **Classify** the related aspects into any **four categories** that are relevant to tools, skills and/or attributes of critical thinking **(8 marks)**. Give each category a **heading** (the heading is not in the cluster but should come from your own consideration of the tool/skill/attribute represented). *[Any wrong classification of an aspect will attract a deduction of 0.25 marks]*
- c) **(i) Identify** (from the cluster) and **explain** briefly any **two elements** that characterize thinking. **(4 marks)**

(ii) Demonstrate how each of one of the **two elements** you identified in (c i) above could be evaluated by use of an appropriate **intellectual standard** (one standard for each element, also picked from the cluster). **(4 marks)**

- d) Briefly describe any **two attributes** of Philosophy (from the cluster) and on their basis, substantiate the view that Critical Thinking is philosophical in nature. **(4 marks)**
- e) Explain any **two obstacles** to critical thinking (from the cluster) and clearly demonstrate how a critical thinker can overcome them using any **two** appropriate tools of transformation (one tool for each obstacle; also identified from the cluster). **(8 marks)**

QUESTION 2

The university is basically founded on three principles.

- a) Name and explain these **three** principles **(6 marks)**
- b) On the basis of the **three** principles, **justify** the necessity of learning critical thinking in the context of university education. **(9 marks)**

QUESTION 3

- a) Distinguish between the **logical** and the **ordinary** understanding of the term “argument” and give a clear example in each case. **(3 marks)**
- b) Construct a **deductive** argument formulated in a **non-standard form**. **(3 marks)**
- c) **Name** and **explain** the fallacies committed in the following statements, and; in the view of their use in our day to day life, point out the logical error(s) committed in each one of them. **(Total = 9 marks)**
- (i) The university should favorably consider my application for this job. I really deserve the job because I’m an orphan and my siblings are looking up on me. **(3 marks)**
- (ii) It does not make sense to sit here all the time listening to a class six drop-out discussing business entrepreneurship. What does he have to offer even though he has successfully made millions from investments? **(3 marks)**
- (iii) Will you contribute the money for environmental conservation or you are on the side of environmental destruction? **(3 marks)**

QUESTION 4

Our search for knowledge of the ultimate truth is mostly hampered by many errors and ideologies in the view of which our minds sometimes reduces Truth to just a part of it that is readily perceived by the mind in a particular context. Discuss any **three** errors/ideologies and clearly demonstrate how the **interdependent relationship** between **faith and reason** can help a critical thinker to overcome each of the three errors. **(15 marks)**

QUESTION 5 (Choose either A, or B, or C.)

Write an argumentative essay on any **ONE** of the following propositions. (The total points for and against the proposition should not exceed **four**.)

- A. An unexamined life is not worth living. (15 marks)**
- B. Reason does not contradict faith. (15 marks)**
- C. Fallacious reasoning is repugnant to good thinking. (15 marks)**