



**STRATHMORE INSTITUTE
DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
DIPLOMA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION
DBM 1104, DIR 1103: INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL THINKING**

DATE 15th September 2021

Time: 2 Hours

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.
4. Write the correct question number of the questions attempted.

Question 1 COMPULSARY (30 marks)

- a) In the modern world, not too many people like thinking but would rather get ready made solutions to their problems most probably on the internet. In this regard, give five ways in which you can explain to someone the importance of critical thinking. (10 marks)
- b) The experience we have about the world is the most reliable source of information, so it must be trusted. But there are occasions when our own observation may not be trusted. Give five circumstances under which our own observation may not be trusted. (5 marks)
- c) Differentiate between an argument as used in logic and argument as used in daily language. (5 marks)
- d) Critical thinking is a systematic disciplining of the mind to guide it in thinking for clarity and precision. Identify any five problems faced by University students in modern Kenya and by applying your critical thinking skills, suggest solutions to each of these problems. (5 marks)
- e) Read the argument below and identify the conclusion and the reasons given to support it. (5 marks)
All of Russia's problems of human rights and democracy come back to three things: the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. None works as well as it should. Parliament passes laws in a hurry, and has neither the ability nor the will to call high officials to account. State officials abuse human rights (either on their own, or on orders from on high) and work with remarkable slowness and disorganization. The courts almost completely fail in their role as the ultimate safeguard of freedom and order.

Question 2 (15 marks)

- a) Thinking is an integrative process that happens when one is confronted with a real problem. Discuss how the following five factors facilitate thinking. (10 marks)
- b) For a student to excel in his studies he has to collaborate and share knowledge with other students. Considering what you have learnt in class, explain five benefits of sharing knowledge among students. (5 marks)

Question 3 (15 marks)

- a) Truth has five properties; knowable by man; one; indivisible, unchangeable; and absolute. In your own words, explain whether EACH of these properties apply in modern politics and/or business. (10 marks)
- b) In critical thinking, skepticism is explained as having polite doubt about issues as it improves problem solving. Give five reasons why skepticism is important in critical thinking (5 marks)

Question 4 (15 marks)

- a) Highlight five points why logic is an art as well as a science (5 marks)
- b) Reasoning is our capacity for rational thought, meaning that we have to have reasons for what we believe and do. In this regard, give reasons to explain how reason strengthens the faith of a believer (5 marks)
- c) Students and other people are encouraged to apply critical thinking in their daily activities but they are often faced with difficulties. Explain any five barriers to critical thinking. (5 marks)

Question 5 (15 marks)

- a) Identify the fallacies of relevance in the following arguments explaining why it contains that fallacy. (3 marks each total 9 marks)
 - i) “I suggest that you rethink your opposition to the art display – that is, unless you want to be known as closed-minded, born-again Neanderthal.”
 - ii) Boss: In this company there is a new policy that everyone has to report to work at seven o’clock in the morning...and this starts tomorrow...
Worker: But that is too sudden...Besides we have been working up to very late...Most of us come from far...
Boss: No excuses. Any one opposed to this policy can seek a job elsewhere!
Worker: If you don’t allow me to come late tomorrow, I’ll tell your wife that you have been cheating on her.
Boss: What...? Well... eh...
 - iii) Our team is the outstanding team at the conference because it has the best players and the best coach. We know it has the best players and the best coach because it will win the conference title. And it will win the conference title for it is the outstanding team in the conference.
- b) One of the key functions of a university is to provide service to society. From your experiences at university/college, discuss three ways in which the university provides service to society (6 marks)