WI-2-60-1-6

JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY
University Examinations 2025/2026

EXAMINATIONS FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

PPH 4106: HEALTH SYSTEMS AND POLICY

DATE: AUGUST 2026 **TIME: 3 HOURS**

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ANY 4 QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1

Evaluate the contribution of global health governance actors, including the WHO, World Bank, GAVI, and bilateral donors, to health system strengthening in low-income countries. In your response, discuss the tension between aid conditionality and national health policy sovereignty, and propose mechanisms through which recipient countries can assert greater ownership of their health agendas. **(25 Marks)**

QUESTION 2

Construct a comprehensive health workforce development plan for a county in Kenya experiencing critical shortages of oncology nurses and clinical officers. Your plan should address recruitment, task-shifting, continuing professional development (CPD), incentive structures, and retention strategies, anchored to the Kenya Health Workforce Policy 2020. **(25 Marks)**

QUESTION 3

Analyze the implementation challenges of the Social Health Authority (SHA) reform in Kenya, introduced under the Social Health Insurance Act 2023. Specifically examine:

(i) The transition from NHIF **(6 Marks)**
(ii) (ii) Equity implications for informal sector workers **(7 Marks)**
(iii) (iii) Governance and accountability mechanisms **(6 Marks)**
(iv) (iv) The role of devolved government in implementation **(6 Marks)**

QUESTION 4

Critically evaluate how the COVID-19 pandemic exposed structural vulnerabilities in health information systems in Africa, and assess the extent to which digital health innovations such as mobile health (mHealth), electronic health records (EHR), and disease surveillance platforms have contributed to closing these gaps in the post-pandemic period. **(25 Marks)**

QUESTION 5

Design a climate-resilient health system framework for a coastal Kenyan county (e.g., Mombasa or Kilifi) that is experiencing increasing burden of climate-sensitive diseases including cholera, malaria, and heat stress. Your framework should integrate One Health principles, intersectoral action, and community resilience strategies. **(25 Marks)**

QUESTION 6

Analyze the structural determinants of maternal mortality in Kenya, drawing on the most recent Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) data and the three delays model (Thaddeus & Maine). In your analysis:

(i) Identify the leading direct and indirect causes of maternal death **(4 Marks)**
(ii) Examine geographic, socioeconomic, and ethnic disparities in maternal mortality (7 **marks**)
(iii) Evaluate the performance of Kenya's Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) system **(7 Marks)**
(iv) Critically assess the adequacy of national policies including the Beyond Zero Campaign, Linda Mama, and SHA maternity benefit in addressing identified gaps. **(7 Marks)**