



**AMREF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOETHICS**  
**END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION SEPT-DECEMBER 2025**

**UNIT CODE:** MBE 714

**TITLE:** BELIEF SYSTEMS, RELIGION AND CULTURE

**TIME:**

**Start:** 5:30 PM

**Finish** 8:30 PM

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. This exam is marked out of 100 marks
2. This Examination comprises TWO Sections  
**Section A:** Compulsory Question (25 marks)  
**Section B:** Long Answer Questions (75 marks)

**SECTION A: COMPULSORY (25 Marks)**

**Short Answer Questions**

1. (a) Define belief systems (2 marks)  
b. Explain their significance in healthcare ethics. (2 marks)
2. (a) Distinguish between religion and culture (2 marks)  
b. Provide ways in which each influences bioethical decision-making. (2 marks)
3. A. Identify three ways in which either cultural or religious beliefs influence attitudes toward organ donation or blood transfusion (3 marks)
4. Explain two commonalities between major religious traditions regarding respect for human life. (4 marks)
5. Describe two ways cultural beliefs can shape the understanding of illness and healing. (4 marks)
6. State two ethical dilemmas that may arise when healthcare providers' values conflict with patients' religious or cultural beliefs. (3 marks)
7. Identify one role of literature in promoting empathy and understanding in bioethics education. (3 marks)

## **SECTION B**

### **ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS (75 Marks)**

#### **Long Answer Questions**

8. A. Analyze three ethical challenges that arise when cultural and religious beliefs conflict with biomedical recommendations in healthcare. (12 marks)
- B. Discuss three strategies with one example of how healthcare professionals can use to navigate these conflicts while maintaining patient safety. (13 marks)
9. A. Examine three commonalities among African traditional belief systems, Christianity, and Islam in shaping moral perspectives on life and death. (15 marks)
- B. Evaluate five ways in which understanding the commonalities can enhance bioethical decision-making in multicultural healthcare settings. (10 marks)
10. A. Discuss three ways in which religion, culture, and social processes contribute to the construction of gender roles. (15 marks)
- B. Discuss five ways in which the gender constructions influence access to healthcare and participation in health research. (10 marks)
11. A. Discuss using three examples how cultural practices can both support and hinder ethical healthcare delivery in African contexts. (15 marks)
- B. Propose two detailed practical approaches that healthcare systems can adopt to promote culturally sensitive care. (10 marks)
12. A. Explain three ways in which literature, art, music, and narratives can be used to understand human values and moral reasoning in bioethics. (15 marks)
- B. Illustrate with three examples how integrating humanities into bioethics education can foster empathy and ethical sensitivity among healthcare professionals. (10 marks)