



AMREF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
MASTER OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS AND POLICY
END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION APRIL 2026

UNIT CODE: HSR 710

UNIT NAME: The Discourse, Policies, and Rights Relating to Abortion

DATE: 7th April, 2026

TIME: Three Hours

Start: 5:00PM

Finish 8:00PM

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This exam is marked out of 60 marks
2. This Examination comprises TWO Sections
Section A: Compulsory Question (15 marks)
Section B: Long Answer Questions (45 marks)

SECTION A: COMPULSORY (15 Marks)

Short Answer Questions

1. (a) Distinguish between *safe* and *unsafe* abortion using the WHO framework. (b) Explain why this distinction is important for public health policy. (5 marks)
2. Explain how colonial legal inheritance has shaped contemporary abortion laws in African countries including Kenya. (5 marks)
3. (a) Briefly explain the concept of abortion stigma. (b) Identify one way it affects health systems or access to services. (5 marks)

SECTION B (5 Questions)

ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS (45 Marks)

Long Answer Questions

Question 1: Law, Epidemiology, and Maternal Mortality

- a) Analyse the relationship between abortion law restrictiveness and maternal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa. (5 marks)
- b) Using public health evidence, explain why unsafe abortion is considered a preventable cause of maternal death. (5 marks)
- c) Advise a Ministry of Health on two evidence-based policy reforms that could reduce abortion-related morbidity and mortality. Justify your recommendations. (5 marks)

Question 2: Human Rights and Regional Frameworks

- a) Explain how the Maputo Protocol and WHO Abortion Care Guideline (2022) frame state obligations regarding abortion access. (5 marks)
- b) Analyse the challenges of domestication of abortion-related rights within national legal systems. (5 marks)
- c) Propose practical steps civil society could take to strengthen implementation of regional human rights standards. (5 marks)

Question 3: Ethics and Conscientious Objection

- a) Define conscientious objection in abortion care and explain its ethical basis. (5 marks)
- b) Critically assess the tension between freedom of conscience and professional obligations in public health systems. (5 marks)
- c) Design a balanced policy framework for regulating conscientious objection in a public hospital system. (5 marks)

Question 4: Courts, Litigation, and Governance

- a) Explain the role of courts in shaping abortion access in Africa, with reference to at least one decided case. (5 marks)
- b) Analyse how judicial decisions can influence executive and legislative action. (5 marks)
- c) Using a governance lens, evaluate the risks if court decisions are not implemented by the executive branch. (5 marks)

Question 5: The Future of Access – Self-Managed Abortion

- a) Explain what is meant by self-managed abortion. (b) How it relates to the concept of self-care. (5 marks)
- c) Analyse the legal and ethical risks associated with criminalising self-managed abortion. (5 marks)
- d) Recommend a rights-based policy approach that balances autonomy, safety, and regulatory oversight. (5 marks)

