



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

UNIT CODE: HSR 710

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

DATE: 11TH AUGUST, 2026

TIME: Three Hours

Start: 5:30PM

Finish 8:30PM

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) Explain why language and definitions are important in abortion discourse, law, and public policy. Give an example. (5 marks)
- (2) Briefly discuss one potential benefit and one potential challenge of implementing the WHO recommendation on decriminalisation of abortion in your country. (5 marks)
- (3) What does it mean to say that abortion-related deaths are largely preventable? Support your response with evidence. (5 marks)

SECTION B (5 Questions)

ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS (45 Marks)

Essay Questions

- (4) Critically analyse the relationship between abortion law, access to safe abortion, and maternal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa. Drawing on public health evidence, discuss policy reforms that governments could adopt to reduce abortion-related morbidity and mortality. (15 marks)
- (5) Evaluate the contribution of international and regional human rights frameworks to abortion governance in Africa. In your answer, discuss the challenges of domestication and propose strategies for strengthening implementation. (15 marks)
- (6) Critically assess the role of conscientious objection as well as commitment in abortion care. How can health systems protect freedom of religion and conscience while ensuring equitable access to lawful abortion services? (15 marks)
- (7) Critically analyse self-managed abortion as an emerging model of abortion care. Discuss its relationship to self-care, the risks associated with criminalisation, and the policy approaches required to balance autonomy, safety, and accountability. (15 marks)
- (8) Different philosophical traditions offer different ways of thinking about life, autonomy and ethical responsibility. Drawing on one or more perspectives discussed in this course, including African ethical traditions such as Ubuntu/Ubunthu where relevant, explain and justify your view on how societies should address unsafe abortion in contexts where abortion laws are restrictive. (15 marks)