



**AMREF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**  
**MASTERS IN SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS AND POLICY**  
**END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION APRIL 2025**

**HSR 710: THE DISCOURSE, POLICIES AND RIGHTS RELATING TO ABORTION**

**DATE:** April, 2025

**TIME:** Three Hours

**Start:**

**Finish**

**Instructions**

- 1) This paper has two sections; Section A and Section B
- 2) Answer **Question one (1)** in Section A
- 3) For **Section B**, answer **any three (3)** questions of your choice

**Note:**

**Each question carries a maximum of 15 marks.**

**SECTION A: ANSWER QUESTION ONE (15 MARKS)**

**Question 1**

- a) Discuss the effects of abortion stigma on healthcare service provision and policy reforms in African contexts (5 marks).
- b) Briefly outline World Health Organisation's (WHO) recommendations on legal and policy frameworks on abortion from WHO's Abortion Guideline of 2022 (5 marks).
- c) Explain the role of human rights treaty bodies such as the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the child in advocating for reproductive rights, particularly abortion rights, within African legal systems (5 marks).

## **SECTION B: ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS (45 MARKS)**

### **Question 2**

Analyse a recent legal case from an African Court or a regional or and international human rights tribunal (treaty monitoring body), which you believe advances the standards for access to safe abortion. In your response, discuss the following:

- The issues before the court or tribunal
- The courts determination of the issues and its reasoning in arriving at its conclusion
- How the court's or tribunal's determination and reasoning aligns with international human rights and standards
- The implications for abortion law reform in that country but also in the African region as a whole (15 Marks)

### **Question 3**

Discuss the role of healthcare professionals in providing safe and legal abortion services, the challenges they face, and how legal and policy reforms can support them to discharge their duties with conscientious commitment. (15 Marks)

### **Question 4**

*"Access to abortion services is not just a health issue but a justice issue."* Critically evaluate this statement from legal, policy, and human rights perspectives. (15 Marks)

### **Question 5**

Compare and contrast two African countries—one with progressive abortion laws and one with restrictive laws. Discuss:

- How the legal framework affects maternal health outcomes.
- The impact on access to services for women and girls.
- Analyse the factors that civil society actors should consider in advocating for the decriminalisation of abortion. (15 Marks)