



**AMREF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOETHICS**  
**END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION MAY-AUGUST 2026**

**UNIT CODE:** MBE 714      **UNIT NAME:** Belief Systems, Religion and Culture  
**DATE:** 7<sup>TH</sup> August, 2026  
**TIME:** Three Hours      **Start:** 5:00 PM      **Finish:** 8:00 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 (i) belief system, (ii) religion, and (iii) culture (3 marks)  
    (b) Give one reason why they matter in bioethics. (2 marks)
2. Explain three ways in which religious beliefs may influence healthcare decision-making. (5 marks)
3. Describe three ways in which culture may influence either (i) illness experience, (ii) healing practices, or (iii) patient decision-making. (5 marks)
4. Distinguish cultural humility from cultural relativism in bioethical practice. (5 marks)
5. Explain three ways in which (i) narratives, (ii) literature, (iii) art, or (iv) music can support bioethical reflection. (5 marks)

**SECTION B (Set 5 Questions)**

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

### **Long Answer Questions**

- 6. a)** Explain three ethical concerns raised when a competent adult refuses treatment for religious reasons. (10 marks)
- b)** Propose four practical steps the healthcare team should take to manage the situation respectfully and safely. (15 marks)
- 7. a)** Describe three ways African cultural family involvement can support ethical patient care. (9 marks)
- b)** Analyse two ethical risks that may arise when family wishes differ from the patient's wishes. (8 marks)
- c)** Outline four ways clinicians can balance family involvement with respect for patient autonomy. (8 marks)
- 8. a)** Identify three ethical values that may be in tension when a harmful cultural practice is defended as tradition. (9 marks)
- b)** Analyse two reasons why simple condemnation of harmful cultural practices may be ethically inadequate. (8 marks)
- c)** Highlight four ethically appropriate responses to the above problem in (b) above by either healthcare workers or policymakers. (8 marks)
- 9. a)** Explain three ways narratives or stories can influence moral experience in healthcare. (9 marks)
- b)** Analyse two limitations of relying only on principles when interpreting lived experience. (8 marks)
- c)** Apply two examples of humanities approaches to a healthcare or research ethics. (8 marks)
- 10.** Case study: A pregnant patient declines a recommended hospital-based delivery because her religious leader has advised prayer and home delivery. The clinician believes that hospital delivery is necessary because the pregnancy is high risk. The patient's family is divided, and the clinical team is concerned about possible harm to the mother and baby.
- a)** Discuss three ethical concerns raised by the case. (15 marks)
- b)** Recommend four steps the clinician should take in managing the above case. (10 marks)