



# THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA

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**MAIN EXAMINATION**

**MAY – AUGUST 2019 TRIMESTER**

**FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**PART-TIME PROGRAMME**

**BRS 102: CRITICAL THINKING**

**Date: JULY 2019**

**Duration: 2 Hours**

**INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Question ONE and any other TWO Questions**

- Q1. i) Give the precise meaning of the following terms:
- a) Definition (1 Mark)
  - b) Statement (1 Mark)
  - c) Premise (1 Mark)
  - d) Conclusion (1 Mark)
  - e) Argument (1 Mark)
  - f) Critical Thinking (1 Mark)
- ii) Blocks to critical thinking impede us from arriving at a reasonable basis for belief. They are obstacles that we must not only be aware of but work zealously to avoid following blindly. Explain eight blocks that might thwart our efforts to become more effective thinkers (24 Marks).
- Q2. i) As an accomplished Critical Thinker, having successfully completed the Unit on Critical Thinking, what qualities have you accomplished that will continue to help you in life as a scholar? (10 Marks)
- ii) An argument is not in itself an end or a purpose of communication. It is a rather means of discourse, a way to develop what we have to say. Discuss the various purposes that argument helps to accomplish (10 Marks).

- Q3. i) Give FIVE reasons why Critical Thinking is of great importance to the society today **(10 Marks)**
- ii) With examples give an explanation of the following Informal Fallacies of Presumption:
- a) Begging the Question (*PetitioPrincipii*) **(2 Marks)**
  - b) Slippery Slope **(2 Marks)**
  - c) Appeal to Consequence (*Ad Consequentiam*) **(2 Marks)**
  - d) Complex Question **(2 Marks)**
  - e) Excluded Middle (Black & White) **(2 Marks)**
- Q4. Give and explain TEN key Critical Thinking dispositions necessary for effective thinkers **(20 Marks).**
- Q5. i) Using examples, explain the meaning of the following Informal Fallacies of Relevance:
- a) Appeal to pity(*Argumentum ad misericordiae*) **(2 Marks)**
  - b) Missing the point (*IgnoratioElenchi*) **(2 Marks)**
  - c) Fallacy of *Red Herring* (Diversion) **(2 Marks)**
  - d) Straw Man **(2 Marks)**
  - e) *TuQuoque* ("You Too") **(2 Marks)**
- ii) Briefly explain FIVE different methods used in Philosophy **(10 Marks)**

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