

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

FIRST SEMESTER 2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

THIRD YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE
OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

HIST 311: GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUTIONS

STREAM: BED ARTS

TIME: 2 HRS

DAY: THURSDAY [14.30 P.M-16.30 P.M]

DATE: 29/01/2026

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE (3) PAGES

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR SAYS SO.

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question **ONE** and any other **TWO**.

QUESTION ONE

- a) Explain the meaning of the following concepts:
 - i) Government and reasons for its existence. **(3 marks)**
 - ii) The three branches of Government and their major functions. **(3 marks)**
 - iii) Constitution and its four elements. **(4 marks)**
 - iv) The State and its defining features. **(4 marks)**
 - v) Distinguish between power and authority. **(5 marks)**
 - vi) The three key aspects that define the term “politics”. **(3 marks)**

- b) “In Kenya, the President is both the Head of State and Government”. Identify and explain any four functions the President performs for each of these two roles. **(8 marks)**

QUESTION TWO

Discuss Plato’s political idea in regard to the following:

- a) The features of a harmonious soul and their reflection in society and governance. **(6 marks)**
- b) His considered opinion on the reason why man established the institution of government. **(3 marks)**
- c) The problems of oligarchy and democracy as systems of governance in ancient Athens. **(6 marks)**
- d) Characteristics of his so called “Ideal State” and his disillusionment with it. **(5 marks)**

QUESTION THREE

- a) Explain the term “Teleology” as expressed in Aristotle’s political ideas. **(4 marks)**
- b) Discuss Aristotle’s levels/stages of state formation. **(8 marks)**
- c) Citing specific examples, explain what Aristotle meant by the terms “normal” and “perverted” constitutions and how they affected governance. **(8 marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

Examine St. Augustine’s political ideas along the following:

- a) Sin in human history and government. **(5 marks)**
- b) State as a Divine institution. **(5 marks)**
- c) Role of Church in a state. **(5 marks)**

d) Just War Theory.

(5 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

How was government organized in any ONE community in Kenya before the advent of European colonization?

(20 marks)

QUESTION SIX

Examine any ONE of the following themes:

(20 marks)

- a) Evolution of divine kingship in **EITHER** Mesopotamia **OR** ancient Egypt
- b) The *Magna Carta*
- c) Direct and indirect rule in colonial Africa.
- d) Youth and governance in Africa