

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF
ARTS IN HISTORY

HIST 811: HISTORY AND THEORY I

STREAM: R

TIME: 3 HRS

DAY: TUESDAY [12.30 P.M-3.30 P.M]

DATE: 03/02/2026

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF TWO (2) PAGES

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INSTRUCTIONS: Answer FOUR questions. Question ONE is compulsory

QUESTION ONE

- a) Attempt a broad definition the term “philosophy of history”. **(3 marks)**
- b) What role does the philosophy of history play in the study of history as a discipline? **(5 marks)**
- c) What justifications can you give for the study of ‘history and theory’? **(7 marks)**

QUESTION TWO

“All theory is provisional. The notion of having one consistent , all-embracing theory is a fallacy. I think of theory as critique, theory as polemic”. Discuss this statement in relation to the importance of theory in History. **(15 marks)**

QUESTION THREE

EITHER

- a) Examine the contention by J. B. Bury that “history is simply a science no less no more”. **(15 marks)**

OR

- b) “History is, in our view, a form of knowledge with features peculiar to itself, though it is not so different from natural science or even common sense as it has sometimes been thought to be.” Discuss. **(15 marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

How objective or subjective is historical knowledge? **(15 marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

Examine the concept “controversy in history” and show its significance in the study of history. **(15 marks)**

QUESTION SIX

Discuss any ONE of the following **(15 marks)**

- (i) Internal and external criticism of historical sources.
- (ii) Role of professional historian in his society.
- (iii) Causation and explanation in history.
- (iv) Concept of time in pre-colonial Africa.
- (v) Historical determinism.