

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

# UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

FIRST SEMESTER 2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

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

**RELI 312: RELIGION, POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT  
STUDIES**

***STREAM: BED ARTS***

***TIME: 2 HRS***

***DAY: WEDNESDAY [8.30 A.M-10.30 A.M]***

***DATE: 4/02/2026***

**THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF TWO (2) PAGES**

**PLEASE DO NOT OPEN UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR SAYS SO.**

**INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER QUESTIONS ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO.**

**QUESTION ONE**

Discuss the following theories, giving clear examples of each:

- a) Social Theory **(8marks)**
- b) Dependency Theory **(8marks)**
- c) Modernization Theory **(8marks)**
- d) Give a clear definition of politics and democratization **(6marks)**

**QUESTION TWO**

- a) Provide an example of a "soft" theocracy and explain how it differs from a "hard" theocracy. **(10marks)**
- b) How can religious institutions contribute to social transformation and development? Provide examples. **(10marks)**

**QUESTION THREE**

- a) Describe the challenges associated with implementing universal human rights principles in diverse cultural contexts. **(10marks)**
- b) Explain the concept of "cultural sensitivity" in the context of development initiatives. **(10marks)**

**QUESTION FOUR**

- a) Discuss the potential conflict between "religious freedom" and "human rights". **(10marks)**
- b) How does the relationship between religion and politics impact social cohesion in contemporary societies? **(10marks)**

**QUESTION FIVE**

- a) Evaluate the implications of secularism and religious pluralism on social cohesion in multicultural societies. **(10marks)**
- b) What are the ethical dilemmas in balancing culture, religion, and human rights in African development? **(10marks)**

**QUESTION SIX**

- a) Explain clearly how political structures influence human rights implementation. **(10marks)**
- b) What is a theocracy and how does it differ from secular forms of government? **(10marks)**