

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

FIRST SEMESTER 2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

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

HIST 412: PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY

STREAM: BED ARTS

TIME: 2 HRS

DAY: FRIDAY [8.30 A.M-10.30 A.M]

DATE: 6/02/2026

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF TWO (2) PAGES

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR SAYS SO.

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question ONE and any other two.

QUESTION ONE

- (a) Define history and distinguish between different varieties of history. How does understanding these varieties enhance our comprehension of the past? **(10 marks)**
- (b) Discuss the relevance of history in contemporary society. In what ways does historical knowledge contribute to addressing present-day challenges? **(10 marks)**
- (c) "The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles." Discuss Marx's materialist conception of history and its influence on historical studies. **(10 marks)**

QUESTION TWO

Compare and contrast cyclical, linear, and nonlinear patterns of history. Which of these perspectives offers the most convincing framework for understanding historical development, and why? **(20 marks)**

QUESTION THREE

Analyze the contributions of Ibn Khaldun, Vico Giambatista, Oswald Spengler, and A.J. Toynbee to the cyclical theory of history. **(20 marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

Examine Michel Foucault's analysis of historical and political discourse. How does his approach challenge traditional historical methodology? **(20 marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

Compare and contrast traditional African understanding of history with Western philosophical approaches to history. What unique perspectives does the African view offer? **(20 marks)**

QUESTION SIX

Analyze Hegel's philosophy of history, particularly his concept of the "World Spirit" guiding historical development. How convincing is his teleological view of history? **(20 marks)**