



PAN AFRICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

JANUARY -APRIL 2023 TRIMESTER

CAMPUS: ROYSAMBU

DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COURSE CODE: CDC 417

COURSE TITLE: DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

EXAM DATE:

DURATION: 3 HOURS

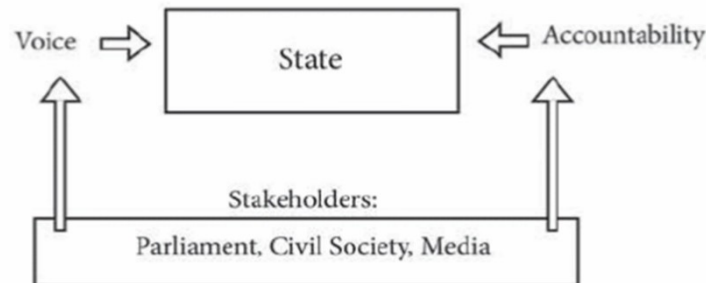
TIME: 5:30PM-8:30PM

INSTRUCTIONS

- Read the instructions and questions carefully before you write the answers.
- **Answer any TWO questions**
- *ALL PAC University's examination rules and regulations apply*

Question One

The concept of democratic governance can be illustrated using the following framework:



- Interpret the above framework and its application to developing countries. (5 marks)
- Robert Dahl argues that a democratic ideal is based on two main principles. Present the two principles and explain their importance to democracy (5 marks)
- Discuss any 5 principles of democratic governance with reference to the African context (10 marks)

Question Two

Civil society and media developed due to globalization and are both considered non-state actors in democratic governance.

- Describe any **two roles** of civil society organisations (CSOs) in democratic governance in Kenya, and explain any **3 challenges** that they continue to face (10 marks)
- While referring to the election period in Kenya, explain 3 roles the media plays towards the election process (5 marks)
- Assess the relevance of globalization in influencing democratic governance in Kenya (5 marks)

Question Three

E-Governance was developed to improve public value and service provision to the citizens.

- Relate five benefits of e-governance to developing countries (10 marks)

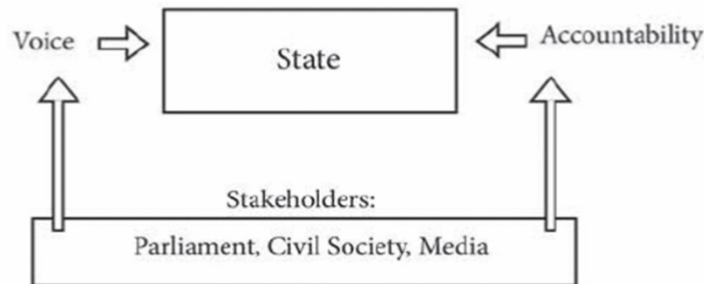
- b) Describe the SMART acronym that explains the benefit of e-governance to governments in developing countries (6 marks)
- c) While referring to any electoral process within or outside of African states, explain any 2 characteristics of an ideal electoral system design (4 marks)

CDC 417: DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Marking Scheme

Question One

The concept of democratic governance can be illustrated using the following framework:



- d) Interpret the above framework and its application to developing countries. (5 marks)

In a democratic setting, there are different players with different responsibilities. Stakeholders include parliament, civil society, media, and citizens who influence the decision-making of the state through political participation (the voice) and holding the state accountable for their actions (accountability). They can give a voice through a vote, participation in policy formulation exercises, protesting, and boycotting among others. They also hold the state accountable through checks and balances, monitoring, expressing discontent through media outlets, and launching complaints. Democratic governance is more than representation through an electoral process therefore is it both representative and monitory.

In developing countries like Kenya among others, this is particularly important for democracy to be upheld but at the same time, circumstances of corruption, limited resources, lack of awareness and illiteracy make this framework difficult to implement.

Framework interpreted and related to the context of developing countries = 5 marks

- e) Robert Dahl argues that a democratic ideal is based on two main principles. Present the two principles and explain their importance to democracy (5 marks)

Political participation requires that all the people who are eligible to vote can vote while political contestation refers to the ability of people to express their discontent through freedom of speech and press. The two allow and facilitate the basic principles of democracy such as freedom of speech, rule of law, free and fair elections, political pluralism, and respect for human rights to avail.

Two principles explained (4 marks) and relation to democracy outlined (1 mark) = 5 marks

- f) Discuss any 5 principles of democratic governance with reference to the African context (10 marks)

Participation, Representation, Fair Conduct of Elections

Responsiveness

Efficiency and Effectiveness

Openness and Transparency

Rule of Law

Ethical Conduct

Active civil society (Organizations) participating in public affairs under the rule of law

Competence and Capacity

Innovation and Openness to Change

Sustainability and Long-Term Orientation

Sound Financial Management

Human Rights, Cultural Diversity, and Social Cohesion

Accountability

Any 5 principles mentioned and explained with examples from Africa = 10 marks

Question Two

Civil society and media developed due to globalization and are both considered non-state actors in democratic governance.

- d) Describe any **two roles** of civil society organisations (CSOs) in democratic governance in Kenya, and explain any **3 challenges** that they continue to face (10 marks)

Their role can be summarized in the sense of participation, access, and rule of law.

Locally, CSOs are actively engaged in:

- *community development,*
- *skill improvements for sustainable livelihoods and*
- *access to basic social services.*

At the national level they often

- *perform a watchdog function to improve the quality of electoral and parliamentary processes,*
- *work for public interest law reform,*
- *enhance access of the poor to justice through paralegal services and*
- *seek the accountability of public officials by informing the media about violations by public officials.*

Challenges faced include:

- *Legitimacy and accountability*
 - *No elections and no public transparency*
 - *Interference from stakeholders*
 - *Different interests of stakeholders – lack of homogenous goals*
- *Capacity deficits/Wanting structure*
- *Financial Dependency/Dependency on foreign aid*
- *Overlapping Mandate and Activities*

Any two roles described (4 marks) and any 3 challenges explained (6 marks) = 10 marks

- e) While referring to the election period in Kenya, explain 3 benefits of the media towards the election process (5 marks)

It acts as a bridge between the state, other civil society organizations, and the general public – a communication channel between stakeholders.

It is a source of information – awareness creation and civic education

A platform for freedom of expression

A means to mobilize the public towards a democratization process

Provides a platform for interpretation of various issues raised in the political arena. Platform for debate and conversation on development practice

Provides access for political candidates to the voting population due to their wide reach.

Context/characteristics of Kenyan elections provided (2 marks) any 3 benefits outlined (3 marks) = 5 marks

- f) Assess the relevance of globalization in influencing democratic governance (5 marks)

The impact of technology, international trade liberalization, and international organizations (characteristics of globalization) have influenced democratic governance

All characteristics are listed (2 marks) and examples provided of how each has influenced democratic governance either positively or negatively (3 marks) = 5 marks

Question Three

E-Governance was developed to improve public value and service provision to the citizens.

- d) Relate five benefits of e-governance to developing countries (10 marks)

*Less corruption,
Increased transparency,
Greater convenience,
Revenue growth, and/or
Cost reductions*

Five benefits listed and explained with examples from developing countries = 10 marks

- e) Define the SMART acronym that explains the benefit of e-governance to governments in developing countries (6 marks)

S – simple

M – moral

A – accessible

R – responsive

T – timely

Acronym defined (3 marks) and related to benefits of e-governance to governments in developing countries with examples (3 marks) = 6 marks

- f) While referring to any electoral process within or outside of African states, explain any 2 characteristics of an ideal electoral system design (4 marks)

*Ensuring a Representative Parliament
Making Elections Accessible and Meaningful*

Providing Incentives for Conciliation
Facilitating Stable and Efficient Government
Holding the Government and Representatives Accountable
Encouraging Cross-Cutting Political Parties
Promoting a Parliamentary Opposition
Cost Considerations

Any two characteristics mentioned and explained = 4 marks

END