



PAN AFRICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Jan – April 2025 Trimester Exams

UCC 103: Research & Writing

Time 3hrs.

Instructions: Answer question ONE and any other THREE questions

SECTION A: Critical Reading, Critical Thinking and Critical Writing

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. (10 marks)

One of the most important determinants of education quality for girls is the presence of a female teacher. A higher number of female teachers are desirable for many reasons, not least because women in positions of authority represent role models. Female teachers are also far better placed than their male counterparts to respond to problems faced by girls at school, especially when they reach puberty. By contrast, the gender bias of male teachers in the classroom often results in lack of self confidence among girls.

In school cultural settings where contact between females and males is limited, evidence suggests that recruitment of female teachers can enhance girls' enrolment and attainment in school. Unfortunately, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, the developing nations with the largest gender gap in educational outcomes, are also the regions with the lowest ratios of female to male teachers. In South Asia only one-third of all teachers are women. Limited recruitment of female teachers undermines the potential benefits of public investment in education by reducing qualitative outcomes. Households surveys in Ethiopia show that the presence of female teachers is likely to encourage parents to send their children to school, both because it gives them an increased sense of security, and because it improves learning among girl students. This assessment is backed by evidence from a number of countries. In competency tests conducted in Pakistan, young girls educated by female teachers score 25 per cent more than those taught by male teachers.

It is not just qualitative aspects of education performance that suffer from the under representation of female teachers. The presence of female teachers also exercises a positive influence on enrolment rates for girls: gender gaps are narrower in schools with higher proportion of female teachers. Sri-Lanka has the highest number of female teacher recruitment in South Asia, and the lowest gender gap in enrolment. In India the proportions of female teachers vary from 20 per cent in Bahar, which has some of the lowest country's widest gender disparities, to 67 per cent in Kerala, with India's lowest gender disparity. The PROBE survey found that only 21 per cent of teachers were female with an even lower representation of

women in senior posts. Almost two-thirds of the schools surveyed did not have a single female teacher.

There are no solutions to the problem of insufficient female recruitment. The same cultural constraints that require girls to be taught by women often make it difficult to attract women into teaching posts, especially in the rural areas, where shortages of female teachers are most pronounced. High profile campaigns to change attitudes and attract women to a career in teaching have an important role to play. Beyond this, innovative strategies are needed at various levels. At first step, recruitment policies for women teachers may need to be modified, especially in countries where few girls proceed beyond lower secondary grades. Allowing women to enter teacher training with lower levels of educational attainments and then providing support could help to remove one barrier to entry. The provision of grants to support girls through teacher training colleges would also help, as would salary incentives and travel expenses for working in rural areas. However, even with these incentives, many female teachers may be unwilling to work in remote areas away from their homes. Many of the successful non-government interventions have addressed this problem by focusing on local recruitment, with local women trained to reach in their communities.

Author: Kevin Watkins, Published, 2021 by Cambridge University Publishers

- i) Provide a suitable title to this passage and justify your choice. (2 marks)
- ii) Describe two critical reading skills that a user of the information in the excerpt above may use while writing an academic paper. (4marks)
- iii) What position does Kevin Watkins make on the issue in question? Give two examples of evidence used in support of his claim. (2 marks)
- iv) Show how you would use the underlined material in the excerpt above as a short direct quote using APA 7th Edition. (2 marks)

SECTION B: Answer any Three questions.

2. You have been given a question by your lecturer and you are to research and respond in a Term paper of 1000 words.
 - i) Describe any two types of resources that you will need to consult. (2 marks)
 - ii) Explain any three stylistic considerations that you will need to take into account while writing such a paper. (6 marks)
 - iii) Discuss two advantages that a writer gets from correct referencing. (2 marks)
3. Write an argumentative essay of about 400 words on **ONE** of the topics given below. Your essay should have: a title, an effective introduction, evidence, rebuttal, concession and effective conclusion. (10 marks)
 - i) “The government of Kenya is not doing enough to curb insecurity in the country,”
Discuss.

ii) “National examinations done in the Kenyan education system are not accurate measures of students’ competence,” Discuss.

4. In page 84 of a text entitled ‘Writing: A Practical Skill’ which was written by Thornton C. Smith in 2016 and published by the Chicago University Press, the following argument has been presented by the writer:

“Writing is a very practical skill. Although we may tell you everything there is to know about writing, for you to know how to write well you have to put to practice (in fact a lot of practice) the type of writing you want to produce.”

- i) Using the principles of APA 7th Edition, write a paraphrased paragraph of about 80 words and incorporate some of the information from the quotation above. (5 marks)
 - ii) Arrange the details of the text as they would appear as part of an APA (7th Edition) reference list. (2 marks)
 - iii) Describe any three qualities of an effective academic paper. (3 marks)
5. i) Describe the two types of quotations that are used in academic writing. (2 marks)
- ii) Explain any three reasons why plagiarism is treated with contempt. (3 marks)
 - iv) Describe any two features of an APA reference list. (2 marks)
 - v) Discuss any three benefits of information literacy. (3 marks)