



PAN AFRICAN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2025/2026

**FIRST TRIMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE BACHELOR IN CRIMINOLOGY
AND SECURITY MANAGEMENT**

BCSL 115: THEORIES OF CRIMINOLOGY

Instructions:

There are **FIVE QUESTIONS**. Answer any **THREE QUESTIONS**.

QUESTION 1 CARRIES 30 MARKS IS COMPULSORY. QUESTION 2-5 CARRY 15 MARKS EACH.

Support your answers with relevant examples.

QUESTION ONE

- a) Define criminological theorizing and give ONE Kenyan example of its application. (5 marks)
- b) State FIVE challenges in defining crime and briefly explain ONE. (5 marks)
- c) Distinguish classical school from positivist school using ONE core idea from each. (5 marks)
- d) Define biosocial theory and name ONE modern component. (5 marks)
- e) State TWO Akers/Sellers criteria for effective theory and apply ONE to labeling theory. (5 marks)
- f) Describe anomie theory and link it to ONE Kenyan social issue. (5 marks)

QUESTION TWO

A senior county procurement officer in Kisii is charged with corruption after awarding a KSh 500M ghost tender. The EACC uses public billboards stating: “Corruption = 15 years jail + KSh 10M fine.”

- a) Apply Beccaria’s three deterrence principles to evaluate the campaign’s likely impact. (8 marks)
- b) Discuss ONE limitation of classical theory in explaining elite white-collar crime in Kenya. (4 marks)
- c) Recommend ONE policy adjustment to strengthen deterrence. (3 marks)

QUESTION THREE

A 16-year-old boy from Kibera slum is arrested for violent robbery. Tests reveal low MAOA gene activity; he grew up in poverty, witnessed domestic abuse, and suffered chronic malnutrition.

- a) Using biosocial theory, explain in five (5) ways how gene-environment interaction leads to his criminal behaviour. (10 marks)
- b) Evaluate ONE strength and ONE ethical risk of genetic screening in Kenyan juvenile justice. (2 marks)
- c) Propose ONE biosocial intervention and justify its policy value. (3 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

A first-time thief in Moyale is convicted, publicly labelled “criminal,” and imprisoned. Upon release, he joins a gang and reoffends repeatedly.

- a) Using labeling theory to explain his criminal career trajectory. (10 marks)
- b) Discuss ONE way Kenya’s prison system reinforces stigmatization. (3 marks)
- c) Recommend ONE restorative justice reform to break the labeling cycle. (2 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

Cattle rustling in Turkana in 2025 kills 15 people. Factors include poverty, weak community controls, cultural glorification of raids, drought, and easy access to guns.

Construct an integrated explanation of the case scenario above; using:

- a) Strain Theory (3 marks)
 - b) Social Disorganization Theory (3 marks)
 - c) Routine Activity theory (3 marks)
- b) Evaluate two challenges in applying Western theories to African communal crimes. (6 marks)