



GARISSA UNIVERSITY

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION 2017/2018 ACADEMIC YEAR ONE
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION**

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

COURSE CODE: HIS 121

COURSE TITLE: SOURCES OF AFRICAN HISTORY

EXAMINATION DURATION: 3 HOURS

DATE: 17/04/18

TIME: 2.00-5.00 PM

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

- **The examination has SIX (6) questions**
- **Question ONE (1) is COMPULSORY**
- **Choose any other THREE (3) questions from the remaining FIVE (5) questions**
- **Use sketch diagrams to illustrate your answer whenever necessary**
- **Do not carry mobile phones or any other written materials in examination room**
- **Do not write on this paper**

This paper consists of THREE (3) printed pages

please turn over



QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY)

- (a) Give three definitions of history. [3 marks]
- (b) Define the following terms:
- i. Artifact [2 marks]
 - ii. Excavation [2 marks]
 - iii. A site [3 marks]
- (c) Discuss the following:
- i. The importance of studying archaeology [6 marks]
 - ii. Key indicators of an archaeological site [4 marks]
 - iii. Methods of site discovery [3 marks]
 - iv. Two main ways of collecting fossils and artifacts from a site [2 marks]

QUESTION TWO

“Excavation is a major undertaking in which archaeologists acquire data about the past. Unlike surveys which recover data from the surface, excavation recovers data from beneath the ground.”

With regards to the above statement, discuss:

- i. The two kinds of information that excavation yields [2 marks]
- ii. The practical considerations to be taken in mind before embarking on an excavation [7 marks]
- iii. The two approaches used to get knowledge about an excavation site. [2 marks]
- iv. The basic excavation methods or strategies [4 marks]

QUESTION THREE

- (a) State the Two dating methods used by archaeologists, geologists, paleontologists and other scientists in dating their evidence. [2 marks]
- (b) *“Where there are no written records to give us dates, other methods have been devised to date the various things that we know took place.”* Discuss five reasons as to why scientists date evidence. [5 marks]
- (c) Discuss advantages and disadvantages of each of the following Relative Dating methods:
- i. Stratigraphy
 - ii. Fluorine Analysis [4 marks]



(d) Discuss advantages and disadvantages of ANY two of the following Absolute Dating methods;-

- i. Uranium 238 (^{238}U)
- ii. Potassium 40 (^{40}K)/ Potassium Argon ($^{40}\text{K}/^{40}\text{Ar}$)
- iii. Carbon 14 (^{14}C)
- iv. Archaeomagnetism/ Palaeomagnetism
- v. Dendrochronology
- vi. Varve Chronology

[4 marks]

QUESTION FOUR

Explain the role, advantages and disadvantages of ANY of the following as a source of historic information:

- i. Social anthropology
- ii. Historic linguistics
- iii. Water Courses and Personal names.
- iv. Oral tradition and oralities
- v. Genetics
- vi. Geology

[15 marks]

QUESTION FIVE

Discuss the role and importance of ANY of the following as source of historic information;-

- i. Graeco-Roman written sources
- ii. Arabic written sources
- iii. African written sources

[15 marks]

QUESTION SIX

Analyze how fossils and artifacts are important as sources of history.

[15 marks]

