



MASENO UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2015/2016

FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE
DEGREE OF MASTER OF EDUCATION IN PEDAGOGY, MASTER
OF EDUCATION IN CURRICULUM STUDIES AND MASTER OF
EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

CITY CAMPUS-SCHOOL BASED

ECT 802: CRITICAL THINKING IN EDUCATION

Date: 22nd December, 2015

Time: 9.00 - 12.00 noon

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer ANY FOUR questions.

QUESTION ONE

- (a) Explain the meaning of *ad hominem* argument in educational discussions and literature, citing specific examples of the fallacy. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain the major characteristics of a strong and sound argument. (7 marks)
- (c) With reference to a specific case within the discipline of education, sketch a schematic diagram, showing any shotgun and chain links within a strong argument. (5 marks)

QUESTION TWO

Explain each of the following concepts, giving suitable examples of simple premises and conclusions that relate to the field of education.

- (a) *modus ponens* (affirming antecedent) (5 marks)
- (b) *modus tollens* (denying consequent) (5 marks)
- (c) *post hoc* comparisons (3 marks)
- (d) *cum hoc* deductions (2 marks)

QUESTION THREE

Construct a logical inductive argument that may lead to the conclusion that *Critical Thinking should be taught as a compulsory course in the Master of Education program* (This should cover about 1 page of the answer book). (15 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

Critically examine the procedures applied in the teaching and learning of any one of your teaching subjects. (15 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

John Locke's *theory of critical realism* posits that matter has primary and secondary qualities. Primary qualities are real and objective while secondary qualities are subjective states or ideas of the mind. The theory considers colour, taste, smell, hotness, coldness, hardness, and softness as secondary qualities since they vary under different conditions in the same object to different persons and to the same person at different times. Extension, impenetrability, motion, shape, size and the like are universal and permanent qualities which belong to all matter under all circumstances and are regarded as actual or objective qualities of matter.

Critique the critical theory in the light of other relevant theories and personal experiences. (15 marks)

QUESTION SIX

Explain three themes that form the core of Lev Vigotsky's theory of social constructivism in education. (7 marks)

Critically analyze the theory to bring out the strengths, weaknesses and your own synthesis. (8 marks)

