

The
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UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

BDS 106: SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 2ND APRIL 2026

DURATION: 2 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.**

QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

URBAN YOUTH AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN NAIROBI

In 2025, Nairobi has become one of Africa's fastest-growing cities, attracting youth from across Kenya in search of education, jobs, and better lifestyles. The rise of technology, new media, and modern education systems has transformed how young people interact, dress, and communicate. However, this rapid change has also created tensions between traditional cultural expectations and modern values.

Many families struggle to adapt, as elders feel that cultural norms such as respect for authority, communal living, and marriage traditions are being undermined. Religious institutions are also debating how to respond to the growing influence of globalization and modernization. Meanwhile, high unemployment and urban poverty force many young people into informal work, social activism, or migration abroad.

Sociologists argue that Nairobi's transformation reflects deeper changes in Kenya's social structure and culture. They note that while modernization brings opportunities for empowerment and creativity, it also increases social inequality and weakens traditional support systems. Others believe that youth resistance to outdated customs is necessary for progress.

The government has attempted to manage the challenges through youth empowerment programs, education reforms, and policies promoting innovation. Yet, resistance from conservative groups remains strong. Many citizens are divided between preserving tradition and embracing new ways of life. This situation reflects broader debates about the meaning of social change in Kenya: Who benefits, who is left behind, and how should society adapt?

Required:

- a) Using examples from the case, analyze how social change affects traditional social structures. **(5 Marks)**
- b) Discuss how modernization is shaping youth identity and behaviour in Nairobi. **(5 Marks)**

- c) Examine five roles of globalization in influencing family and community life in Kenya, as seen in the case. **(10 Marks)**
- d) Suggest two strategies policymakers can adopt to balance tradition and modernization in Kenyan urban centres. **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION TWO

- a) Assess five characteristics of sociology and explain why they make it a distinct field of study. **(10 Marks)**
- b) Discuss the importance of sociology in understanding contemporary Kenyan society. **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION THREE

- a) Using Kenyan examples, evaluate four elements of social structure and their role in shaping social order. **(10 Marks)**
- b) Discuss two functional problems of social structures that Kenya faces today. **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Discuss three major theories of social change, and explain how they can be applied to Kenya's ongoing development. **(10 Marks)**
- b) Examine five reasons for resistance to change in traditional communities in Kenya. **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Analyse three ways globalization influences impoverished nations, with reference to Kenya. **(10 Marks)**
- b) Evaluate five challenges urbanization poses to the environment and society in Kenya. **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION SIX

- a) Discuss four agents of socialization and their role in shaping individual behaviour. **(10 Marks)**
- b) With examples, show how social norms guide behaviour in everyday life. **(5 Marks)**