



**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES & EDUCATION**

**NHSA318: SOCIETY, ILLNESS AND SCIENCE**

**END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS**

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025**

**LECTURER: DR. P. MUCHEMWA-MUNASIREI**

**DURATION: 3 HOURS**

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***INSTRUCTIONS***

1. This paper contains **TWO** sections (Section A and Section B).
2. Section A is **COMPULSORY**.
3. Answer **ANY TWO (2) questions** from Section B.
4. Start each question on a new page in your booklet.
5. Credit will be awarded for logical, systematic and neat presentation
6. Do not repeat material.

## SECTION A: COMPULSORY

**INSTRUCTION:** *Answer Question 1.*

### Question 1

In rural Zambia, a community of about 2,000 people faces significant health service delivery challenges. Many residents rely on subsistence farming for their livelihoods, but recent droughts have led to food insecurity. Access to clean water is limited, with only one borehole serving the entire community. The nearest health clinic is over 10 kilometers away, and it is often understaffed and lacks essential supplies. As a result, residents experience high rates of preventable diseases, such as malaria and malnutrition, particularly among children.

Local health workers report that many families prioritize daily survival needs over seeking medical care, as they cannot afford transportation costs. Cultural beliefs about illness and healthcare further complicate access to services. For instance, some community members believe that illnesses are caused by spiritual factors or misfortune, leading them to seek traditional healers instead of medical attention. This cultural perspective can delay necessary medical treatment and perpetuate health issues.

- a. Analyse the specific social determinants of health that are impacting this community's health outcomes. **[20 Marks]**
- b. How do cultural beliefs and practices influence the social determinants of health in this community? **[10 Marks]**
- c. Suggest potential strategies that could be implemented to address the identified social determinants and cultural influences. **[10 Marks]**

## SECTION B

**INSTRUCTION:** *Answer ANY TWO (2) questions.*

### Question 2

Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the biomedical model in understanding health and illness in society. **[30 Marks]**

### Question 3

Examine how ethical research frameworks address the balance between scientific advancement and participant welfare. Support your answer with specific examples. **[30 Marks]**

### Question 4

Discuss the implications of medicalization of aging on health outcomes and societal perceptions in contemporary society. Provide examples to support your points. **[30 Marks]**

### Question 5

Explore the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in addressing contemporary health issues. **[30 Marks]**

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**END OF PAPER**