KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2015/2016

SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

APP 817: PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS

DATE: FRIDAY 8TH APRIL 2016 TIME: 5.30 P.M. - 8.30 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer any three questions from the list below. Each question carries 20 marks so that the total possible number of points is 60.

Question 1

Providing spare parts and tools to the governments is a big business, and apparently a profitable one. In recent years, there have been accusations that the prices of spare parts have been greatly inflated by some suppliers with government paying thousands of shillings each for single hammers, screwdrivers, wrenches, and similar items. Although a number of committees and commissions have examined this issue, reports of such abuses continue to surface. Stopping this spare-parts abuse is apparently a complicated undertaking. You will not be asked to solve this problem, but if you were to be assigned this task, what criteria should be used for judging alternatives? Identify, describe, and justify the technical, economic, political, and administrative criteria you believe should be used in such an analysis. (20 marks)

Question 2

Is policymaking in the Kenyan system more reflective of the rational-comprehensive model or the incremental model? Illustrate your argument with examples that reflect either mode.

(20 marks)

Question 3

What steps within the policy process model present the greatest challenges? Are the most formidable challenges presented by the institutional processes, the policy actors, or the nature of the policy itself. (20 marks)

Question 4

To many persons living in the outskirts of Nairobi, commuting to work can be frustrating. They view traffic congestion as a serious problem. To others congestion is a natural consequence of human behavior and not something to worry about. Using ideas discussed in class and form readings assigned, explore the concept of traffic congestion as a problem that may or may not need attention. In other words, define it from a number of different perspectives. (20 marks)

Question 5

Assume that a particular plot of land could be developed as residential, an industrial park, or a factory outlet mall. Also assume there is a passable road adjoining the property, and that the property is about half a kilometer from a major highway. Only one alternative at most can ultimately be approved. Rank these choices in terms of their net benefits, and chose the one that places first. Then calculate the benefit/cost ratio and rate of return for each alternative. Note that the benefit/cost ratios for the industrial park and the outlet mall are not consistent with the net benefit ranking. (20 marks)

Real estate alternatives

	Housing	Industrial Park	Outlet mall	Vacant plot
Benefits	Ksh 1,000,000	Ksh 1,250,000	Ksh. 1,600,000	Ksh 1,000
Net benefit	Ksh 1,100,000	Ksh 900,000	Ksh. 1,200,000	Ksh 1,000
Benefit/cost ratio				
Rate of return				