PAN AFRICAN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2025/2026

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CRIMINOLOGY AND SECURITY LEADERSHIP

CAMPUS: ROYSAMBU
DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COURSE CODE: BCSL 319
COURSE TITLE: TERRORISM AND COUNTER-TERRORISM
EXAM DATE:
DURATION: 3 HOURS
TIME:

Instructions:

- Read the instructions and questions carefully before you write the answers.
- **Answer any TWO questions**
- *ALL PAC University's examination rules and regulations apply*

QUESTION ONE (1)

Case Scenario

In recent years, Xenon Republic has experienced a rise in terrorist incidents targeting public transport systems and social media platforms. Intelligence reports indicate that a loosely organized group of young individuals, primarily recruited online, subscribes to an extremist ideological narrative mixed with religious justification. The group does not formally claim responsibility for attacks, but uses mass communication channels to spread fear, misinformation, and propaganda videos glorifying violence. Evidence suggests external state actors may be indirectly sponsoring the group through financial networks and cyber support, while local security agencies struggle to balance counter-terrorism operations with the protection of civil liberties. Public opinion is deeply divided, with some citizens supporting aggressive security measures and others criticizing the government's approach as discriminatory and ineffective.

a) Using the case scenario, analyze any two examples of how contemporary perceptions of terrorism help explain the motivations behind the group's actions. (5 Marks)
b) From the case, explain the methods employed by the group. (5 Marks)

c) Evaluate the role of mass communication and social media in youth radicalization and shaping public perceptions of terrorism in Xenon Republic. (5 marks)

d) Assess the effectiveness of the "war on terror" approach in this context. (5 Marks)

QUESTION TWO (2)

Case Study

In the years following the September 11, 2001, attacks, many governments introduced sweeping counter-terrorism policies aimed at preventing future large-scale attacks. In the United States, measures such as the USA PATRIOT Act expanded surveillance powers, enhanced intelligence-sharing between agencies, and broadened the legal definition of terrorism-related offenses. Similar laws were adopted in the United Kingdom, Kenya, and other countries, increasing security checks, detention powers, and monitoring of suspected extremist networks. While these policies are credited with disrupting several planned attacks and improving national security coordination, critics argue that they have also led to mass surveillance, racial and religious profiling, indefinite detention without trial, and restrictions on freedom of expression and association.

a) From the scenario, assess any THREE ways in which post-9/11 counter-terrorism strategies have achieved security while preserving the fundamental human rights and civil liberties.

(6 Marks)

b) Name any FOUR ways in which the various governments balance national security concerns with the protection of constitutional rights and democratic principles. (4 Marks)

c) Discuss any THREE ways in which post-9/11 counter-terrorism policies can be considered effective in preventing major terrorist attacks in the world. (6 Marks)

d) From the scenario, explain any TWO ways in which a formulated counter-terrorism strategy globally has helped prevent its use in a terrorist attack.

(4 Marks)

QUESTION THREE (3)

a. From your knowledge on terrorism, examine any FIVE challenges of youth radicalization on global security. (10 Marks)

b. Assume you are advising a national security task force. Outline any FIVE typologies of modern terrorism that you will focus on during your presentation.

(10 Marks)

END

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MARKING SCHEME

QUESTION ONE (1)

Case Scenario

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balance counter-terrorism operations with the protection of civil liberties. Public opinion is deeply divided, with some citizens supporting aggressive security measures and others criticizing the government's approach as discriminatory and ineffective.

e) Using the case scenario, analyze how contemporary perceptions of terrorism help explain the motivations behind the group's actions. (5 Marks)
    - *Ideological Radicalization: The group subscribes to an extremist ideological narrative, showing how modern terrorism is often driven by rigid belief systems that frame violence as morally justified.*
    - *Religious Justification: The blending of ideology with religious rhetoric reflects contemporary religious extremism, where violence is portrayed as a sacred duty.*
    - *Youth Radicalization through Online Platforms: Recruitment primarily occurs online, illustrating how modern terrorism is shaped by digital radicalization and social media echo chambers.*
    - *Leaderless / Loosely Organized Structure: The absence of formal claims of responsibility reflects contemporary "networked" or decentralized terrorism, where groups operate without rigid hierarchy.*
    - *Psychological Warfare and Media Manipulation: The use of propaganda videos and misinformation shows terrorism as a communication strategy aimed at spreading fear beyond the physical attack.*
    - *Hybrid / State-Linked Terrorism: Possible indirect sponsorship by external state actors aligns with modern perceptions of proxy warfare and state-enabled terrorism.*

Any five points (1 mark) =5 marks.

f) From the case, explain the methods employed by the group to amplify fear and insecurity among the public. (5 Marks)
    - *Targeting public transport systems – Attacking crowded, everyday spaces to maximize casualties and disruption.*
    - *Use of social media platforms – Spreading propaganda, misinformation, and extremist content online.*
    - *Online recruitment and radicalization – Mobilizing young individuals through digital networks.*
    - *Propaganda videos glorifying violence – Promoting fear and inspiring sympathizers.*
    - *Operating as a loosely organized network – Avoiding formal claims of responsibility to create uncertainty.*
    - *Possible cyber and financial support from external actors – Enhancing operational capability and reach.*

Any five points (1 mark) =5 marks.

g) Evaluate the role of mass communication and social media in youth radicalization and shaping public perceptions of terrorism in Xenon Republic. (5 marks)

- *Mass communication and social media play a central role in youth radicalization in Xenon Republic. The group primarily recruits young individuals online, showing how digital platforms act as spaces for spreading extremist ideology, religious justification, and propaganda. Social media enables rapid dissemination of radical narratives, creating echo chambers where vulnerable youth are exposed to one-sided, emotionally charged content that normalizes violence. The use of propaganda videos glorifying attacks further reinforces group identity and legitimizes extremist action.*
- *In shaping public perceptions of terrorism**,** mass communication amplifies fear beyond the immediate attacks. By spreading misinformation and sensational content, the group increases public panic and uncertainty. At the same time, divided public opinion—some supporting aggressive security measures and others criticizing discrimination—shows how media narratives can polarize society. Continuous exposure to online propaganda may distort perceptions, making the threat appear omnipresent and intensifying social tension. Overall, social media functions not only as a recruitment and mobilization tool but also as a psychological weapon, magnifying fear, influencing public discourse, and complicating counter-terrorism responses.*

Any five points (1 mark) =5 marks.

h) Assess the effectiveness of the "war on terror" approach in this context. (5 Marks)

- *Strength – Immediate Security Response: An aggressive "war on terror" approach may enhance surveillance, intelligence gathering, and disruption of attacks targeting public transport systems.*
- *Strength – Disruption of Financial and Cyber Networks: Strong counter-measures could weaken external state sponsorship and cyber support structures sustaining the group.*
- *Limitation – Decentralized, Online Radicalization: The group is loosely organized and digitally recruited, making traditional military-style responses less effective against networked terrorism.*
- *Risk to Civil Liberties: Aggressive security measures may infringe on freedoms of expression, privacy, and religious practice, especially if broadly applied.*
- *Potential for Further Radicalization: Perceived discriminatory or heavy-handed tactics may reinforce extremist narratives and increase youth recruitment.*

- *Public Division and Legitimacy Concerns: Since public opinion is divided, overly forceful approaches may reduce trust in government and weaken long-term counter-terrorism legitimacy.*

Any five points (1 mark) =5 marks.

QUESTION TWO (2)

Case Study

In the years following the September 11, 2001, attacks, many governments introduced sweeping counter-terrorism policies aimed at preventing future large-scale attacks. In the United States, measures such as the USA PATRIOT Act expanded surveillance powers, enhanced intelligence-sharing between agencies, and broadened the legal definition of terrorism-related offenses. Similar laws were adopted in the United Kingdom, Kenya, and other countries, increasing security checks, detention powers, and monitoring of suspected extremist networks. While these policies are credited with disrupting several planned attacks and improving national security coordination, critics argue that they have also led to mass surveillance, racial and religious profiling, indefinite detention without trial, and restrictions on freedom of expression and association.

e) From the scenario, assess any THREE ways in which post-9/11 counter-terrorism strategies have achieved security while preserving the fundamental human rights and civil liberties.

(6 Marks)

- *Improved Intelligence Sharing Between Agencies**:** Laws such as the USA PATRIOT Act enhanced coordination among security agencies, enabling early detection and disruption of terrorist plots while still operating under judicial and legislative oversight.*
- *Legal Frameworks for Counter-Terrorism: Governments broadened the legal definition of terrorism-related offenses, ensuring that suspects were prosecuted through formal legal systems rather than extrajudicial measures, thereby maintaining rule of law principles.*
- *Enhanced Security Screening and Monitoring: Increased airport security checks and monitoring of extremist networks helped prevent attacks while being regulated by constitutional safeguards and human rights standards.*
- *Parliamentary and Judicial Oversight Mechanisms: Many countries implemented review mechanisms and court supervision of detention and surveillance powers, ensuring that counter-terrorism actions remained accountable and protected civil liberties.*

Any three points (1 mark) and a relevant explanation (1 mark) =6 marks.

f) Name any FOUR ways in which the various governments balance national security concerns with the protection of constitutional rights and democratic principles. (4 Marks)

- *Judicial Oversight**:** Courts review surveillance warrants, detentions, and prosecutions to ensure actions comply with constitutional rights.*
- *Legislative Checks and Parliamentary Review: Counter-terrorism laws are debated, amended, and periodically reviewed by Parliament to prevent abuse of power.*
- *Time-Limited (Sunset) Clauses: Some security laws expire unless renewed, ensuring emergency powers are not permanent.*
- *Independent Oversight Bodies: Human rights commissions and watchdog agencies monitor security operations to prevent violations such as unlawful detention or profiling.*
- *Due Process and Fair Trial Guarantees: Suspects are prosecuted through established legal systems, ensuring access to legal representation and protection against indefinite detention without trial.*

Any two points (1 mark) and a relevant explanation (1 mark) =4 marks.

g) Outline any THREE ways in which post-9/11 counter-terrorism policies can be considered effective in preventing major terrorist attacks in the world. (6 Marks)

- *Disruption of Planned Attacks**:** Enhanced intelligence and surveillance helped intercept plots before execution.*
- *Improved International Cooperation: Sharing information between countries made it harder for terrorists to operate across borders.*
- *Stronger Border and Transportation Security: Airport and port security measures reduced the risk of large-scale attacks.*
- *Targeting Terrorist Financing: Laws tracking and freezing terrorist funds limited their operational capacity.*

Any three points (1 mark) and a relevant explanation (1 mark) =6 marks.

h) From the scenario, explain any TWO ways in which a formulated counter-terrorism strategy globally has helped prevent its use in a terrorist attack.
(4 Marks)

- *Early Detection of Threats**:** Intelligence sharing and monitoring helped identify terrorist plans before they were carried out.*
- *Disruption of Terrorist Networks: Coordinated international operations dismantled cells and prevented coordinated attacks.*
- *Enhanced Security Infrastructure: Strengthened airport, border, and public space security, reducing opportunities for attacks.*
- *Legal and Financial Controls: Freezing terrorist funds and prosecuting financiers limited the resources needed for attacks.*

Any two points (1 mark) and a relevant explanation (1 mark) =4 marks.

QUESTION THREE (3)

c. From your knowledge on terrorism, examine any FIVE challenges of youth radicalization on global security. (10 Marks)

- *Increased Terrorist Recruitment – Radicalized youth provide a steady pool of recruits, strengthening extremist groups and sustaining global terrorism networks.*
- *Expansion of Online Extremism – social media enables rapid spread of propaganda, making radicalization transnational and harder for governments to control.*
- *Lone-Actor Attacks – Youth radicalization often produces self-radicalized individuals who conduct unpredictable attacks with minimal detection.*
- *Cross-Border Security Threats – Radicalized youth may travel to conflict zones or support international extremist groups, complicating border and intelligence efforts (e.g., recruitment by groups such as Al-Shabaab).*
- *Long-Term Instability and Violence – Youth radicalization undermines social cohesion, fuels cycles of violence, and creates future generations vulnerable to extremism.*

Any five points (2 marks) with relevant explanation= 10 marks.

d. Assume you are advising a national security task force. Outline any FIVE typologies of modern terrorism that you will focus on during your presentation.

(10 Marks)

- *Religious Extremist Terrorism – Violence motivated by radical religious ideology, often aimed at perceived enemies of faith (e.g., groups like ISIS).*
- *Political Terrorism – Acts carried out to influence government policy, destabilize political systems, or overthrow regimes.*

- *Ethno-Nationalist / Separatist Terrorism – Violence used by groups seeking independence, autonomy, or territorial control for a specific ethnic group (e.g., Irish Republican Army).*
- *Right-Wing / Ideological Terrorism – Driven by extremist ideologies such as racism, nationalism, or anti-government beliefs.*
- *Cyber Terrorism – Use of digital attacks on critical infrastructure (power, finance, communication systems) to create fear, disruption, or economic damage.*

(Any five points (2 marks) and a relevant explanation = 10 marks).