PAN AFRICAN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2025/2026

FIRST TRIMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DIPLOMA IN CRIMINOLOGY AND SECURITY MANAGEMENT

BCSL 117: INTRODUCTION TO PENOLOGY

Instructions:
There are **THREE QUESTIONS**. Answer any **TWO QUESTIONS**.

EACH QUESTION IS 20 MARKS. SUPPORT YOUR ANSWERS WITH RELEVANT EXAMPLES.

QUESTION 1

(a) Define penology and explain its relationship with criminology and the broader criminal justice system. (10 marks)

(b) Trace the historical development of punishment from primitive societies to the modern prison system, highlighting at least four major historical shifts and the key thinkers associated with each period. (10 marks)

QUESTION 2

(a) Critically discuss retribution as a philosophy of punishment. In your answer, explain its core principles, strengths, weaknesses, and how it differs from other philosophies, such as deterrence and rehabilitation. (10 marks)

(b) Explain five (5) main types of sentences available in the Kenyan criminal justice system. (5 Marks)

(c) Discuss the sentencing process, including the role of pre-sentence reports, mitigating and aggravating factors, and the legal principle under Section 333(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code. (5 marks)

QUESTION 3

(a) Discuss five (5) roles of education and vocational training in the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. Support your answer with reference to international standards such as the Nelson Mandela Rules and provide examples from the Kenyan context. (10 marks)

(b) Discuss five (5) major challenges facing the Kenya Prisons Service today and evaluate the government's reform initiatives to address them. (10 marks)