



# MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2022/2023 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
MAIN EXAMINATION

**THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF ARTS**

**APH 308: PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE**

**Date:**

**Time:**

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**INSTRUCTIONS: Answer QUESTION ONE and any other TWO QUESTIONS.**

**QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)**

- a. By use of appropriate examples demonstrate the truth of the assertion that language helps us understand reality, but can also be the source of cognitive failures. (15 Marks)
- b. Identify and explain the nature of any three types of definitions. Demonstrate how these definitions are used to give meaning. (15 Marks)

**QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

Language is used in various ways to explain reality. By way of appropriate examples, explain any three of such ways

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

- a. Religious language can never accurately represent the nature of god or non-physical beings. Discuss. (10 Marks)
- b. Discuss any two responses to the problem of religious language. (10 Marks)

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

With reference to logical positivism, explain why analytic or apriori statements can never give meaningful information concerning the universe.

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

Critically examine Wittgenstein's claim that statements are only meaningful if they can be defined or pictured in the real world.