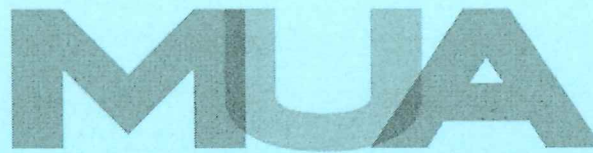


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UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

ENM 404: ENVIRONMENT POLITICS AND POLICIES

DATE: 3RD DECEMBER 2024

DURATION: 2 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.**

QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and, answer the questions that follow:

EFFECTS OF COP-RELATED MEDIA REPORTING ON AWARENESS AND POLICY PREFERENCES

The amount of information on climate change issues available to the public has increased dramatically over recent decades. Such information is now easily accessible to citizens who watch television, listen to the radio, read newspapers, or surf the web. The broader question arising is whether and how mass media coverage of climate change issues affects public opinion. We are interested in whether and how the strong intensification of media reporting on climate change issues (triggered by COPs at regular intervals) influences public opinion on climate change issues. Existing research suggests that mass media played an important role in creating public awareness of environmental issues in the past. Staats et al. (1996), for instance, found that mass media coverage of climate change issues increased knowledge of the greenhouse gas effect. Many other studies conclude, however, that mass media have only a modest influence on citizens' views and attitudes concerning politics and particular policies. Whether and how mass media influence citizens' awareness and preferences concerning climate change and climate change policy is thus far from obvious.

Environmental Politics Many surveys measure citizens' awareness and attitudes or preferences concerning climate change and climate change mitigation policy. They show that people do express attitudes and preferences when prompted to do so in surveys; in most surveys, only rather few respondents select the 'don't know' category when asked to respond to questions about climate change awareness and policy preferences. Generally, survey-based studies find that awareness and policy preferences are shaped by sociodemographic factors and pre-existing world-views (e.g. age, gender, income, education, political ideology) as well as structural characteristics of the country in which the respondent lives. Weber (2010) explains that people are influenced by their own experience. Experience, however, is a weak determinant, given that climate change-related hazards (i.e. floods, droughts) might be rare in some areas, and that people perceive climatic changes differently (depending on whether and to what degree they are affected). Compared to some

other policy issues (e.g. economic, or foreign policies), climate change appears to be an issue of (relatively) low salience, and many people are thus probably rationally (quite) ignorant about it or hold only weak opinions about the issue. Low saliency and limited knowledge imply that certain events and cues are likely to have an effect on people's awareness of and attitudes concerning climate change.

Some studies show, for instance, that extreme weather events affect climate risk perceptions, others that economic downturns do not uniformly have the widely expected negative effect on support for climate mitigation policies. Moreover, various survey experiments suggest that certain types of cues or frames have an effect on people's awareness and attitudes about climate change. These findings leave us with some ambiguity about how well developed people's attitudes towards climate change and climate change mitigation policy really are, and to what extent, certain types of events and cues or frames matter. We think that the effects of events and cues or frames should be studied together. Political stakeholders and the mass media, through which stakeholders communicate with citizens, can (and often do) add cues or frames to such events in order to shape their impact on citizens. For instance, stakeholders and mass media may frame a hurricane or drought to demonstrate the urgency of adopting climate change mitigation policies. But hurricanes or droughts may also be framed as natural events that simply happen due to bad luck, and may happen again regardless of humanity's reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

This reporting includes many cues, about the respective COP itself, and about climate change policy in general. Kinder (2010) argue that the mass media have a political agenda setting effect, which also shapes the attention citizens pay to certain issues. In addition, issues that make it onto the public agenda can be framed in a variety of ways, and these frames can affect public opinion. Framing is the process of communicating some aspects of a perceived reality, which promotes a particular problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or treatment recommendation. Framing can cause 'framing effects', which may include 'issue' framing effects and 'equivalence' framing effects. Issue framing effects refer to the particular emphasis of a subset of potentially relevant considerations that lead

individuals to focus on these considerations while they are forming an opinion about an issue. Equivalence framing effects refer to the use of logically equivalent, but distinct words or phrases that create different preferences. In our experiment, we focus on both issue and equivalence framing effects. We suggest that both issue and equivalent framing effects are likely to matter for climate change awareness, and that neither of these is likely to matter for climate change policy preferences to a significant degree. The issue framing effect on awareness is straightforward and derives from a large body of research on the relationship between the mass media and politics. It holds that COPs have an awareness increasing effect because they trigger a large amount of mass media reporting, irrespective of whether the reporting is positively or negatively slanted with respect to the COP.

Required:

- a) Media reporting on awareness and policy preferences for climate change is a must, Justify with five reasons from the case study **(10 Marks)**
- b) With five reasons explain why climate change issues are of global concern **(10 Marks)**
- c) At individual level give five solutions for this COPs debates **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION TWO

- a) In our country drought have attracted both environmental, political and policy strategies. Explain how **(5 Marks)**
- b) Explain any five(5) ways how El Nino cause environmental health hazard which require political and policy interventions **(10 Marks)**

QUESTION THREE

- a) The biotic as well as abiotic components of the environment has come to be seriously affected by the large scale human activities like agriculture, industrial production, energy production and consumption, transport, lumbering, harmful emissions, disposal of toxic chemicals etc. Discuss any five environmental impacts of human activities requiring political and policy guidance **(10 Marks)**
- b) Explain five(5) Causes of Ozone Depletion giving methods for adaptation and mitigation **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Discuss five Impacts of Air Pollution in the environment and government policy direction (10 Marks)
- b) Discuss any five Policies and human practices affecting water quality and quantity, and giving potential conservation solutions (5 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Discuss five (5) appropriate waste management strategies (5 Marks)
- b) Explain five (5) Causes and Consequences of environment change (5 Marks)
- c) Discuss any five components of environmental education to be addressed by politics and policy (5 Marks)

QUESTION SIX

- a) Explain five (5) Challenges facing Implementation of sustainable development at policy level (5 Marks)
- b) Describe Kenya Environmental Laws related to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (5 Marks)
- c) Explain any five roles played by National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) (5 Marks)

