



RIARA SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & DIPLOMACY

NURTURING INNOVATORS

JANUARY – APRIL 2026 TRIMESTER

**EXAMINATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS & DIPLOMACY**

INSTRUCTOR: FRANKLIN MWIRIGI MURIANKI

**UNIT CODE:RCCD 5112 : HISTORY OF DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOLS & MODERN
DAY APPLICATIONS**

DATE: APRIL 2026

TIME: 2 HOURS

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

**Students are NOT permitted to write on the examination paper during reading time.
This is a closed book examination. Text book/Reference books/notes are not permitted.**

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Write your REGISTRATION NO. Clearly on the answer booklet(s).**
- 2 Answer Question One (COMPULSORY) and ANY One in Section B.**
- 3 Questions in all sections should be answered in answer booklet(s).**
- 4 Marks allocated to each question are shown at the end of the question.**
- 5 PLEASE start the answer to EACH question on a NEW PAGE.**
- 6 For the questions, write the number of the question on the answer booklet(s) in the order you answered them.**
- 7 Write your answers in paragraph form unless stated otherwise.**
- 8 Keep your phone(s) SWITCHED OFF at the front of the examination room.**
- 9 Keep ALL bags and caps at the front of the examination room and do not refer to any unauthorized material before or during the course of the examination.**
- 10 You are only allowed to leave the examination room 30 minutes to the end of the Examination.**

SECTION A: (COMPULSORY 30 MARKS)

QUESTION ONE

CASE STUDY: DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL IN PRACTICE

In 2026, the Secretary-General of the United Nations appoints a distinguished Kenyan national, Ms. Amina Wanjiru Kamau, to serve as Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. This is a significant achievement for Kenya, as it reflects international recognition of the country's human capital and leadership in global governance. Following this appointment, the Government of the Republic of Kenya intends to formally communicate its appreciation and support to the United Nations. This communication must follow established diplomatic protocol and be transmitted through the appropriate institutional channel. You are the **Head of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of Kenya**. Your responsibility is to ensure that all official communication to international organizations is correctly prepared and transmitted in accordance with diplomatic norms and international practice.

a) As the Head of Protocol, draft a **Note Verbale** from the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Kenya to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, including all the particulars of a **Note Verbale**. (15 marks)

b) Identify the appropriate government institution responsible for drafting and sending official communication to the United Nations in this case. Explain **two reasons** why this institution, and not the Office of the President, is responsible for this task. Briefly explain why a **Note Verbale** is used instead of a signed letter in this situation. (15 marks)

(30 marks)

SECTION B (10 MARKS EACH) CHOOSE ANY TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION TWO (10 Marks)

Diplomatic titles are used to represent states and governments in different settings. Although titles such as Ambassador, High Commissioner, Envoy, Special Envoy, Chargé d’Affaires, Consul, and Permanent Representative are all part of diplomatic representation, they differ in rank, purpose, duration of appointment, and diplomatic context.

a) Define any four of the following diplomatic titles: Ambassador, High Commissioner, Envoy, Special Envoy, Chargé d’Affaires, Consul, Permanent Representative.

(5 marks)

b) What are the roles of these Diplomatic representatives?

(5 marks)

QUESTION THREE (10 MARKS)

CASE SCENARIO:

In 2018, a diplomat from Country X was involved in a fatal road traffic accident in a host state. The local police sought to arrest and prosecute the diplomat. However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Country X invoked the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) to block the prosecution. The public in the host state was outraged, demanding justice and questioning whether diplomatic immunity protects crime.

Using the case above as your reference point:

a) Comprehensively discuss the definition and history of diplomatic immunity and identify THREE specific immunities that diplomats enjoy under the Vienna Convention and explain the rationale behind each.

(5 marks)

b) In your own view, should diplomatic immunity be limited or reformed in the modern era? Give reasons for your answer.

(5 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (10 MARKS)

Diplomatic protocol is essential in maintaining order, respect, and effective communication in international relations.

Using one example from a meeting or negotiation at the United Nations or any other diplomatic setting, describe a situation where a diplomatic protocol violation (faux pas) occurred;

a) Clearly describe the scenario.

(4 marks)

b) Identify the diplomatic protocol rule that was violated.

(3 marks)

c) Explain the possible impact of this violation on the meeting or negotiations.

(3 marks)