



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2019/2020 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

THIRD YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION(ARTS)

BACHELOR OF ARTS

AGE 308: ARID AND SEMI ARID AREAS

DATE: 12/11/2020

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer QUESTION ONE and any other TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

- a) Distinguish between the following terms:
 - i) Climate change and Climate variability (6 marks)
 - ii) Aridity and desertification (4 marks)
- b) Assess three ways in which pastoralists conserve the ASAL regions in Africa (6 marks)
- c) Describe briefly the salient characteristics that make ASALs fragile ecosystems (6 marks)
- d) Explain the characteristics of different type of vegetation found in arid areas (8 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Discuss the natural factors that are responsible for the development of arid areas (12 marks)
- b) Explain the key principles in guiding solution to ASALs problems (8 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Using relevant examples, discuss the challenges facing Countries located in arid areas. (10 marks)
- b) Assess the potential strategies that could be employed to alleviate climate variations in dry land areas (10 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Describe five criteria used to define desert areas (10 marks)
- b) Explain two natural resources found in ASALs (4 marks)
- c) Explain three anthropogenic sources of greenhouse gases (6 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Describe the stratification of arid environments (6 marks)
- b) Assess any three ways of adapting to climate change (6 marks)
- c) Evaluate how degradation associated with human settlement can be combated (8 marks)