



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2019/2020 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND TRADE

THIRD YEAR SPECIAL/ SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND EXTENSION

KRM/AGR308: ANNUAL CROPS PRODUCTION

DATE: 19/01/2021

TIME: 8.30-10.30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS:

Instructions: Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions

SECTION A: COMPULSORY: (40 MARKS)

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) i) Explain four characteristics that makes tobacco an annual crop (2 marks)
- ii) Explain five reasons why annual crops are important in the country's development (5 marks)
- b) Explain two uses of the following crops to a farmer
- i. Cotton (2 marks)
- ii. Cowpeas (2 marks)
- iii. Finger millet (2 marks)
- iv. Cassava (2 marks)
- v. Chickpeas (2 marks)
- c) i) Explain four reasons why maize does not do well in lowland parts of Kenya compared to cassava (4 marks)
- ii) With specific one crop examples, explain four ways how rainfall influence annual production (4 marks)
- d) Explain four reasons why a farmer should be advised to plant sorghum (4 marks)
- e) Under what ecological conditions will you advice a farmer to plant sweet potatoes (4 marks)

- f) Describe one symptom and two management of the following infestations in annual crops
- i. Bruchids (4 marks)
 - ii. Maize Lethal Necrosis (4 marks)
 - iii. Aspergillus crown rot (4 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS (40 MARKS)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain the production of maize under the following headings (10 marks)
- i. Ecological conditions
 - ii. Fertilization
 - iii. Harvesting
- b) Explain five factors a farmer must consider when selecting maize variety for planting in highlands (10 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Describe two methods of planting rice (12 marks)
- b) Explain the two advantages and two disadvantages of each method in (a) above (8 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain the production of green grams under the given headings (10 marks)
- i. Land preparation
 - ii. Planting
 - iii. Harvesting
- b) With a specific disease, explain six measures used in pulse disease control (6 marks)
- c) Explain four reasons why a farmer should be advised to plant wheat (4 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) With specific crop examples, explain three roles of the following in crop production
- i. Hardening
 - ii. Gapping
 - iii. Training
 - iv. Rogueing (12 marks)
- b) Describe two methods of planting sweet potato (8 marks)