

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL, EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
DISCIPLINE OF GEOGRAPHY
EXAMINATION: NOVEMBER 2014
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ENV5322

DURATION: 3 HOURS

TOTAL MARKS: 300

External Examiner: Prof. S. Grab
Internal Examiner: Ms. D. Trotter

NOTE: THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF TWO (2) PAGES. PLEASE SEE THAT YOU HAVE THEM BOTH.

Answer **THREE QUESTIONS only**. Answer ONE question from Section A and ONE question from Section B. Section C (i.e. Question 5) is compulsory. Each question carries 100 marks.

SECTION A: THEORY AND CONCEPTS

Question 1:

“Working effectively across boundaries is a critical skill for researchers focused on environmental governance in complex social-ecological systems, but challenges remain in the acquisition of such skills given the current structure of traditional disciplinary training” (Mattor et al, 2014: 90). Critically discuss how such challenges extend from research and science to the practicalities of environmental management. (100)

OR

Question 2:

Discuss, in the global context, the assertion that ecological modernization theory is very much the ‘sustainable development’ of today, rejecting the intervention of government regulation and subsidy in favour of market-based policy instruments and eco-efficiency. (100)

SECTION B: INSTRUMENTS, TOOLS AND METHODS

Question 3:

In the context of corporate environmental governance, outline the concept of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). In addition, critically discuss the benefits of and barriers to using LCA in guiding business philosophies and corporate strategies for improved environmental performance. Provide examples where appropriate. (100)

OR

Question 4:

“With better SEAs or EMFs underpinning SDFs, these spatial planning instruments can play an important role in the avoidance of unnecessary impacts, especially at a local level...” (DEA, 2014: 62). Provide an argument for whether or not you agree that this would provide the necessary strategic environmental context and guidance to facilitate decision making towards achieving sustainability outcomes at the local sphere. (100)

SECTION C: INTEGRATION AND APPLICABILITY

Question 5:

“Professionalism implies appropriate training, technical competence, experience which is relevant and adequate, independence, objectivity (with regard to knowledge), impartiality (with respect to decision-making) and ethical behavior” (DEA, 2014: 152).

You are a lecturer of an exit-level module in Environmental Management at the local university. Provide an overview of your course outline, including the list of topics to be covered in the module, in line with current and emerging trends in IEM, and discuss how these are aimed to equip your graduates with the relevant knowledge as well as skills to become an ‘environmental professional’ in South Africa, be it practitioner, specialist or government official. (100)
