

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL, EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
DISCIPLINE OF GEOGRAPHY
MAIN EXAMINATION: NOVEMBER 2014
COURSE & CODE: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, ENVS 322 W2

DURATION: 3 HOURS

TOTAL MARKS: 300

External Examiner: Prof S. Grab

Internal Examiner: Dr F. Ahmed

THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF ONE PAGE.

Answer **THREE QUESTIONS** only. Answer ONE question from each section.

Section C (i.e. Question 5) is compulsory. Each question carries 100 marks.

SECTION A: THEORY AND CONCEPTS

1. Ubuntu philosophy reaffirms: “the supremacy of individualism, reasoning and action is being challenged in the growing awareness of the need for collective responsibility for the Earth and humanity’s survival” (Naicker, 2011: 456). Discuss the merits of this moral capital in contributing to contemporary environmental management in the South African context. (100)

OR

2. Unsustainable changes in human and natural systems have stimulated a search for new approaches to understanding complex socio-ecological systems. Discuss the contributions of sustainability science to the understanding of contemporary environmental problems. (100)

SECTION B: TOOLS AND METHODS

3. EIA focuses on a better execution of specific actions, but does not orientate or frame the intention. On the other hand, SEA focuses on the underlying conditions in which actions are inserted, hence Arce *et al.* (2000) state that SEAs are proactive while EIAs are more reactive in nature. Critically discuss this statement. (100)

OR

4. Risk assessments are powerful tools that highlight socio-ecological vulnerability in Geographical contexts and can inform measures for adaptive capacity. Discuss this statement. (100)

SECTION C: INTEGRATION AND APPLICABILITY

5. The African Union (AU) Commission is in the process of developing a Gender Equity Strategy with the aim of tracking and eliminating gender discrimination and other inequalities which impede Africa’s transition to sustainable development. It is envisioned that this Strategy will provide the basis to eliminate barriers to gender equality on the continent and enhance global commitments on gender including the Millennium Development Goals.

As a gender consultant, you are required to provide a strategic account of the drivers of gender inequalities in Africa and provide four comprehensive recommendations that enhance gender equality, human dignity and peace for the continent, as is the vision of the AU. (100)

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SECTION A: THEORY AND CONCEPTS

1. Ecological modernization is the dominant world view on the human-environment relationship and affects the way sustainability is perceived. Provide a critique of this statement. (100)

OR

2. Drawing on examples from *The Age of Stupid* (2009), discuss the concept 'resource curse' and the political economy over natural resource use and development. (100)

SECTION B: TOOLS AND METHODS

3. Good sectoral management in urban planning is indispensable, but it is not enough in contributing towards sustainable development. Critique this statement, considering the limitations of planning in the past and the need for integrated development planning. (100)

OR

4. Social impact assessments (SIAs) can be useful to the impact assessment process by capturing costs and benefits that are not readily quantified. Hence, employing SIA can help practitioners better understand the connections between human and natural systems and promote a more complete consideration of social factors in decision-making, thus advancing sustainability. Critically discuss these statements. (100)

SECTION C: INTEGRATION AND APPLICABILITY

5. The objective of auditing is to assist members of an organization in the effective discharge of their responsibilities; including furnishing them with independent analyses, recommendations and information concerning the activities reviewed. You are part of a team that is commissioned to conduct an audit on an oil refinery. Discuss the steps involved in undertaking an audit, using applicable examples. (100)

