

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

**MODULE NAME & CODE: URBAN GOVERNANCE: MANAGING
SUSTAINABLE CITIES GEOG726W2**

DURATION : 3 HOURS

TOTAL MARKS: 300

INTERNAL EXAMINER: PROF B MAHARAJ
EXTERNAL EXAMINER: PROF S OLDFIELD, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS.
ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

1. Different theoretical approaches have been adopted to understand and explain urban governance. Critically assess each of the different approaches. Indicate clearly which is your preference, giving reasons for your choice. (100)
2. A gender-sensitive approach to urban governance has two principal objectives; firstly, to increase women's participation in decision-making and, secondly, to foster gender-awareness and competence among both women and men in the political arena and planning practice. A concerted approach to the issue of participation is required, including an improvement in women's representation in political structures and their active involvement in advocacy. Critically assess this statement referring to examples. (100)
3. The process of decentralisation, the strengthening of local governments and the search for local democracy are objectives which are shared by diverse political sectors. Critically assess the extent to which decentralisation has been successful in improving governance, with reference to examples. (100)
4. Discuss the contention that public-private partnerships (such as the outsourcing of various public services which is often associated with the privatisation of responsibility) are more likely to undermine democracy and accountability, and lack the capacity to be effective, while limiting local policy options to those consistent with the neoliberal policy agenda. Reference examples in your response. (100)
5. The relationship between urban politics and citizen participation is a key issue in urban governance. The growing strength of civil society has increased the space for citizens to influence urban policies. To what extent has this been successful? Discuss with reference to examples. (100)
6. Urban environmental issues, while technical by nature, pose critical political questions concerning access to power and resources in society. There is a tendency to separate issues of environmental quality and sustainable development, from issues of urban governance. Do you agree with this view? Discuss with reference to examples. (100)
7. The new democratic government in South Africa acknowledged that local authorities have an important role in unleashing the political and creative energies of the people and bringing the government closer to the people. Critically assess the extent to which these objectives are being realised with reference to the various urban policies which have been promoted since 1994. (100)