

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL, EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
DISCIPLINE OF GEOGRAPHY
EXAMINATION: NOVEMBER 2012
MODULE NAME & CODE: URBAN STUDIES
GEOG727H2

DURATION: 3 HOURS

TOTAL MARKS: 300

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EXTERNAL EXAMINER: PROF S OLDFIELD
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INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS.
ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

1. Urban governance is an interdisciplinary field, with eclectic theoretical roots. Theories in urban governance function as both explanations and justifications for planning, governing, regulating, and administrating cities. Critically assess this statement with reference to theoretical approaches to urban governance. (100)

2. Those opposed to public-private partnerships (PPPs) most often cite the loss of public control and lack of oversights that occur when a private sector company is involved in financing, building or delivering public services. PPPs have also created new opportunities for the private sector to exercise power and influence domains which were once the preserve of public-sector organizations. Do you agree with this view? Discuss with reference to examples. (100)

3. Underlying the case for democratic decentralisation is an assertion that a more decentralised state apparatus will be more exposed, and therefore more responsive, to local needs and aspirations. This, it is argued, will produce systems of governance that are more effective and accountable to local people. Critically assess the extent to which decentralization has achieved these goals and improved urban governance. (100)

4. While the principle of participation by civil society in urban governance is generally accepted, its practical implications have tended to be more complex. For some cities, the process of involvement has led to harnessing the latent force of the urban poor and asserting the citizenship of those who have been marginalized and excluded. In other cities, involvement by the population has been perceived as an impediment to growth and efficiency in this era of globalization. Critically evaluate this statement, referring to examples. (100)

5. Women experience and use the urban environment in different ways from men and thus have different priorities in terms of services and infrastructure. Despite this, women's interests and needs as users of cities rarely feature in urban policy. This is hardly surprising when women are largely excluded from urban planning decision-making processes. Develop in your essay a strong argument for policy-makers and planners to be gender sensitive so that women are consulted and encouraged to participate in the planning process. (100)

6. Environmental issues, while often technical in nature, pose critical political questions concerning access to power and resources in society. In most cities in the developing world a failure of governance underlies most environmental problems. Do you agree with this statement? Discuss with reference to examples. (100)

7. Integrating the poor into the fibre of the city is an important theme in urban policies in post-apartheid South Africa, and this is premised on notions of equity and social change in a democratic political dispensation. However, these potentially transformative thrusts have been eclipsed by more conservative, neoliberal developmental trajectories. Critically assess this statement, referring to examples. (100)