

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU- NATAL
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL, EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
DISCIPLINE OF GEOGRAPHY
EXAMINATION: NOVEMBER 2013
MODULE NAME & CODE: URBAN STUDIES
GEOG727W2

DURATION : 3 HOURS

TOTAL MARKS: 300

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EXTERNAL EXAMINER: PROF S OLDFIELD, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

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

1. Neoliberalism refers to the ideologies and institutions that promote market rule. Gender theorists argue that little attention has been given to the impact of neoliberal policies and practices on the lives of women. Discuss this contention with reference to the urban context. (100)
2. Theorists argue that whilst decentralisation is aimed at creating a more responsive governance system it is characterised by advantages and disadvantages. Discuss the tenets of decentralised governance and explore its application in the South African governance system. (100)
3. Governance as a theory broadly refers to the collective action of various actors both within and outside the formal institution of government. Theorists propose a paradigm shift that will enable a move from 'government' to 'governance'. Critically discuss this statement providing examples. (100)
4. Public-private-partnerships (PPP's) are increasingly a mode of engagement with government in the management and distribution of public resources and service delivery. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of PPP's in the distribution of goods and services. Provide examples to enhance your argument. (100)
5. "Good governance and development are important goals in their own right; they also depend on and reinforce each other. That is one of the main lessons the United Nations has drawn from its vast and varied experience throughout the world. Without the rule of law and respect for human rights; without transparency and accountability; and unless governments derive their power legitimately, through the ballot box, the path to prosperity is likely to be more difficult, and gains could remain fragile and reversible" (United Nations Development Programme, 2006: 3). Discuss this argument with reference to examples. (100)
6. Some researchers of environmental sustainability argue that urbanisation and consumption patterns could impair the global environment for future generations. Others focus on environmental health issues and urban environmental hazards that constitute threats to the life and welfare of current residents. Critically assess these contrasting areas of focus. (100)
7. Legislation and policy governing territorial planning and urban management promote participatory governance as a means to deepen democracy. Critically assess the nature and form of participatory governance in post-apartheid South Africa, referring to examples. (100)