



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2011/2012
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF
SCIENCE AND BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

SZL 302: ANIMAL ECOLOGY

DATE: Friday 2nd December, 2011

TIME: 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer ALL questions in Section A and any ONE question in Section B. Within each section all questions carry equal marks. Illustrate your answers with diagrams and give examples where appropriate.

SECTION A

1. Differentiate the following terminologies:
 - a) Ectotherm and endotherm
 - b) Eurythermal and stenothermal
 - c) Poikilotherms and homeotherms
 - d) Conformers and heterotherms
 - e) Hibernation and Aestivation
2. Explain the following concepts
 - a) Optimum conditions
 - b) Microclimate
 - c) Winter and Summer solstice
 - d) El Niño and La Niña
 - e) Tides in the oceans
3. Discuss briefly the causes of seasons experienced in tropical conditions, and why are sunsets red or orange.

4. Explain the ecological relevance of the competitive exclusion principle.
5. Differentiate between proximal and ultimate explanations of ecological data.
6. Describe Malthusian Law in population growth.
7. Describe briefly the niche concept.
8. Distinguish between decomposition and recycling providing the different agents of decomposition.

SECTION B – *Answer ONE question (30 marks)*

9. Write an essay on migration of animals using examples in East Africa.
10. Write an essay on properties of sandy soil clay soil and loam soil.

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