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University Examinations 2013/2014

FIRST YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURE
AND
FIRST YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE IN
AGRICULTURE

AGR 0122: ANNUAL CROPS

DATE: APRIL 2014

TIME: 1 ½ HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question *one* and any other *two* questions

QUESTION ONE – (30 MARKS)

- (a) Explain the advantages of planting Hybrid seeds over the local seeds. (4 Marks)
- (b) Explain five factors that make maize an important crop in Kenya. (5 Marks)
- (c) Describe how you would control witch weed (*striga hermonthica*) in cereal production. (5 Marks)
- (d) Why is millet and sorghum considered as orphan crops? (5 Marks)
- (e) Explain the symptoms and control of the following:
 - (i) Blast (*Piricularia oryzae*) in Rice
 - (ii) Stem rust (*Puccinia graminis*) in wheat. (6 Marks)
- (f) Explain why sorghum is a good rationing crop. (5 Marks)

QUESTION TWO – (15 MARKS)

- (a) Explain the significance of early seed bed preparation in relation to weed control. (7 Marks)
- (b) Explain how you would correct copper deficient soil for wheat production. (6 Marks)
- (c) Give two varieties of wheat that are drought tolerant, resistant to lodging and high yielding. (2 Marks)

QUESTION THREE – (15 MARKS)

- (a) Highlight the differences between the finger millet, pearl millet and proso millet. (6 Marks)
- (b) Explain how you would use a natural pest enemies in controlling a given pest insect. (4 Marks)
- (c) Explain the significance of early planting in rainfall marginal areas. (5 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR – (15 MARKS)

- (a) Explain the advantages of ridging in potato production. (5 Marks)
- (b) Why are the vines cutting in sweet potatoes preferred to roots propagation as a planting materials. (5 Marks)
- (c) Explain the horticultural maturity in beans. (5 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE – (15 MARKS)

- (a) Describe two diseases and two pest commonly associated with beans (*Phaseolus Vulgaris*) and show their symptoms and control. (12 Marks)
- (b) Explain why Nitrogen fertilizers are not a requirement in root crops. (3 Marks)