



SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2014/2015

**THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR B.SC FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT AND AQUACULTURE TECHNOLOGY**

WFA 307: Ecology of estuarine ecosystems

DATE: 21st APRIL 2015

TIME: 2 HOURS

Instructions: Answer ALL question in Section A and ONLY TWO questions in Section B

SECTION A

1. What do you understand by the term ‘mangrove’? List 4 other words or phrases that are used synonymously with ‘mangrove’ **(3 marks)**
2. Identify 3 environmental factors that influence the distribution of sea grass **(3 marks)**
3. State 4 advantages of tides in the mangrove community **(4 marks)**
4. State 2 precautions that you would take when sampling organisms which inhabit the sea grass beds **(2 marks)**
5. Describe 5 important roles of mangrove forests **(5 marks)**
6. Explain what Pneumatophores are. Describe 4 types of pneumatophores **(5 marks)**
7. Describe the zonation of sea grasses **(5 marks)**
8. Distinguish between True mangroves and non-True mangroves **(4 marks)**

SECTION B

9.
 - a) Discuss the connectivity between mangrove ecosystems, the coral reef ecosystem and the sea grass beds **(8 marks)**
 - b) Describe the importance of seagrass in the marine ecosystem **(8 marks)**
 - c) Discuss the adaptations of sea grass to their environment **(4 marks)**
10.
 - a) Describe 4 unique characteristics of mangrove habitats **(4 marks)**
 - b) Discuss in detail how mangroves are adapted for life in their habitat **(12 marks)**
 - c) Discuss the current threats facing the mangroves and their habitats **(4 marks)**
11.
 - a) Describe the zonation of mangrove species along the Kenyan coast **(14 marks)**
 - b) Discuss 3 factors that influence the zonation described in (a) above **(6 marks)**