

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**2015/2016 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER**

**SCHOOL OF TOURISM & NRM**

**BACHELOR OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

**COURSE CODE: WLM 366**

**COURSE TITLE:** **HERPETOLOGY**

**DATE: 25th JANUARY 2017 TIME: 11:00AM-1:00PM**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer **All** the Questions in Section A and any **THREE** IN SECTION B

*This paper consists of* ***TWO*** *printed pages. Please turn over.*

**SECTION A (25 MARKS)**

1) (a) Amphibians are typically characterised by their incomplete transition from water to land. Explain [**2** **marks**]

(b) Explain three critical evolutionary steps that led to the evolution of reptiles from amphibians [**3 marks**]

2. (a) Tortoises and turtles are both reptiles from the family of Testudines. What is the major difference between the two [**2 marks**]

(b) Highlight three differences between amphibians and reptiles

[**3 marks**]

3. (a) Kenyan amphibians are classified into two orders. Giving examples, name the two orders [**2 marks**]

(b) Giving examples, name three symptoms of snake bites in Kenya [**3 marks**]

4. Explain five features that are important in the identification of snakes

[**5 marks**]

5. (a) Differentiate a voucher specimen from a type specimen [**2 marks**]

(b) Herpetological field collections must always be accompanied by field notes. Outline any **three** contents of such field notes [**3 marks**]

**SECTION B (45 MARKS)**

1. Discuss the economic, ecological and socio-cultural importance of reptiles and amphibians in East Africa [**15 marks**]
2. East African snakes can be classified into four groups. Giving examples, describe the groups detailing the basis for such classification

[**15 marks**]

1. Discuss **five** threats facing conservation of reptiles and amphibians in Kenya [**15 marks**]
2. Discuss the steps involved in the preparation of herpetological specimens for preservation/storage [**15 marks**]