



MASENO UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2013/2014

**FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN URBAN AND
REGIONAL PLANNING WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(CITY CAMPUS – DAY)**

**PUR 122: ELEMENTS OF BIOLOGICAL AND
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

Date: 21st July, 2014

Time: 9.00 – 11.00 a.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions.

**PUR 122 ELEMENTS OF BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL
ENVIRONMENT**

Answer Question 1 and any other 2

- 1
- a) Define the following terms
 - i. Aquatic habitats
 - ii. Ecosystems
 - iii. Biological environment
 - iv. Urban ecosystems
 - v. Physical environment **(15 marks)**
 - b) Describe 5 desirable characteristics of an eco city **(15 marks)**
- 2 Comparing two cities, one in the developing world and another in the developed world, describe sustainable urban features **(20 marks)**
- 3 Human activity has had adverse effects on the biological and physical environment. With clear examples outline 5 categories of human activities and their effects on the environment **(20 marks)**
- 4 Describe any 2 of the following natural cycles
- a) Hydrologic cycle
 - b) Carbon cycle
 - c) Phosphorous cycle
 - d) Nitrogen cycle **(20 marks)**

5

- a) Define a wetland, giving examples (8 marks)
- b) What is the significance of wetlands to the human race? (12 marks)

6

- a) Differentiate between desertification and deforestation (4 marks)
- b) Desertification is a reality in Kenya, describe its causes and the likely effects(16 marks)