

**MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

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**University Examinations 2014/2015**

FOURTH YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE BIOLOGICAL

**SBT 2420: DIAGNOSIS OF PLANT DISEASES**

**DATE: NOVEMBER, 2015 TIME:** $2 $**HOURS**

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

**QUESTION ONE – (30 MARKS)**

1. Explain Robert Koch’s postulates . (4 Marks)
2. State five characteristics of a good indicator plant. (5 Marks)
3. State four normal physiological functions of a plant. (4 Marks)
4. State three environmental factors that influence disease development (3 Marks)
5. State two common nematodes and the diseases they cause. (4 Marks)
6. State the main components of disease development. (3 Marks)
7. Outline three effects of pathogens on plant growth. (3 Marks)

**QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

1. State and explain the physiological processes that are affected by pathogens in plants

(14 Marks)

1. Describe factors to consider when diagnosing crop problems in the field.(6 Marks)

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

Discuss the events in disease cycle. (20 Marks)

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

1. Describe factors that make plants more susceptible to diseases. (12 Marks)
2. Explain various methods of viral transmission in plants. (8 Marks)

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

1. Discuss the various techniques used to identify fungal pathogens. (14 Marks)
2. Describe ways through which plant diseases are classified. (6 Marks)