

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND
PLANNING
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2008
B.A., BASS, B.Ed.**

TITLE OF PAPER: BIOGEOGRAPHY

COURSE NUMBER: GEP 312

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS**
- 2. QUESTION 1 IS COMPULSORY**
- 3. ILLUSTRATE YOUR ANSWERS WITH
EXAMPLES AND CLEARLY DRAWN DIAGRAMS
WHERE APPROPRIATE**

**ALLOCATION OF MARKS: QUESTION 1 (COMPULSORY) CARRIES
40 MARKS WHILE THE REST CARRY 30
MARKS EACH.**

**THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION IS GRANTED
BY THE INVIGILATOR**

**SECTION A
COMPULSORY**

QUESTION 1

a) Explain the following:

i) Biomass

(10 marks)

ii) Dead organic matter

(10 marks)

iii) Ecosystem concept

(10 marks)

b) Discuss the factors influencing primary productivity.

(10 marks)

(40 marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 2

Using examples, explain how climate affects ecosystem characteristics and development.

(30 marks)

QUESTION 3

'Forests are one of the most productive ecosystems; however, their development is limited by a number of factors'. Discuss the validity of this statement.

(30 marks)

QUESTION 4

Discuss how biological factors affect ecosystem characteristics and development.

(30 marks)

QUESTION 5

'The most common features used to classify ecosystems include form and species composition of vegetation cover and characteristics of the physical environment'.

Discuss the validity of this statement.

(30 marks)