

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND PLANNING
FINAL EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 2011
B.A., BASS, B. Ed. (FT/PT)

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

GEP 312: BIOGEOGRAPHY – DECEMBER 2011

SECTION A: COMPULSORY

QUESTION 1

- a) Define the following terms:
- i. Biomass (2 marks)
 - ii. Thermoperiodism (2 marks)
 - iii. Species diversity (2 marks)
 - iv. Dead organic matter (2 marks)
 - v. Photosynthetically active radiation (2 marks)
- b) Discuss how climate change may affect the physiology, phenology of species and interactions between species. (30 marks)
(40 Marks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 2

Discuss the positive and negative impacts of alien invasive plant species in an ecosystem. (30 Marks)

QUESTION 3

- a) Identify and describe the growth forms and life forms of terrestrial plant species. (18 marks)
- b) Explain the factors limiting development of forests on the Earth surface. (12 marks)
(30 Marks)

QUESTION 4

Using examples describe how plants and animals are stratified on the Earth surface. (30 Marks)

QUESTION 5

Using examples explain how organisms adapt to environmental change. (30 Marks)