INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF EAST AFRICA
'Learning to Succeed'

FACULTY OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS - APRIL 2025

PROGRAMME: BTHM
YEAR/SEM: YEAR 1/SEMESTER 2
COURSE CODE: BTHM 1203
NAME: ANIMAL ECOLOGY

DATE:
TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

SECTION A

Section A is COMPULSORY (40 MARKS)

Question 1:

A Case Study

The Serengeti National Park in Tanzania is home to a large population of African elephants. A recent study found that the elephants play a crucial role in shaping the park's vegetation through their feeding and browsing activities. Specifically, the study found that the elephants' preference for feeding on certain tree species, such as acacia trees, has led to a decrease in the density of these trees in certain areas of the park. In contrast, areas with low elephant densities have a higher density of acacia trees. This study highlights the important role that elephants play in shaping the vegetation structure and composition of the Serengeti ecosystem.

Questions:

a). To what extent do elephants influence the tourist experience in the Serengeti, particularly in terms of wildlife viewing and photography?(10 marks)

b). The presence of elephants in the Serengeti National Park has significant implications for tourism. Discuss (10 marks)

C) Elephant-induced changes in vegetation may impact tourist experiences. Evaluate this statement (10 marks)

d). The conservation of elephant populations and their habitats in the Serengeti is crucial for maintaining biodiversity. Evaluate the potential role of tourism revenue in supporting these conservation efforts (10 marks)

Question 2:

Acase study on Elephants.

In Botswana's Okavango Delta, elephants have adapted to their environment in unique ways, showcasing their complex ecology. These majestic creatures have developed defensive mechanisms, such as forming close-knit family groups and using their large ears to deter predators. Elephants also play a crucial role in shaping their ecosystem, dispersing seeds and creating pathways that benefit other species. In the tourism industry, elephants are a major draw, with visitors flocking to witness their social behavior and majesty. Responsible tourism practices, such as guided safaris and respectful viewing distances, help support conservation efforts and promote the importance of preserving elephant habitats.

Questions:

(a) Examine the defensive mechanisms exhibited by elephants while defending themselves from enemies (10 marks)

(b) Describe the contributions of elephants to their ecosystem, and benefits other species derive from their presence (10 marks)

(c) As a tour guide on one of your tails, you happen to see an elephant, what would be your

description of this majestic creature to your clients the tourists? (10 marks)

(d) Examine the causes and consequences of human-wildlife conflicts. Elaborate no how human wildlife conflicts can be mitigated (10 marks)

SECTION B

Atempt any THREE Questions from this Section (60 MARKS)

Question 1:

Discuss the human factors which may lead to habitat destruction in the tourism industry. suggest measures to such challenges in your Country (20 marks)

Question 2:

Discuss the concept of "wildlife tourism" and its potential impacts on wildlife populations and ecosystems. Examine the benefits and drawbacks of wildlife tourism (20 marks)

Question 3:

. (a) Identify the following animal and classify it to its correct kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species:

A massive, intelligent, and social mammal with a distinctive trunk, tusk and large ears characterized by it’s gray wrinkled skin and pillar- like leg found in Uganda’s Savanah grasslands.

a) Kingdom: _____ (1 mark)

b) Phylum: _____ (1 mark)

c) Class: _____ (1 mark)

d) Order: _____ (2 mark)

e) Family: _____ (2 mark)

f) Genus: _____ (2 mark)

g) Species: _____ (2 mark)

(b) Describe the key distinctions between Omnivores and herbivores animals which enable them to occupy unique ecological niches (9 Marks)

Question 4:

Discuss the unique characteristics of birds, Explain how these characteristics enable birds to adapt to different environments. (20 marks)

Question 5:

(a) Compare and contrast different types of competition in animal populations.(10 marks)

(b)Explain how these competitive interactions impact the tourism industry (10 marks)

Question 6:

Compare and contrast the benefits and drawbacks of living in groups for animals. Elaborateon how these social behaviors impact the tourism industry. (20 marks)

Question 7:

Discuss the importance of community engagement and participation in wildlife tourism development. Describe the strategies for ensuring that local communities benefit from wildlife tourism. (20 marks)

Question 8:

((a)Describe the food feeding classes of different animals and their food selection habitats. (10 marks)

((b)Explain the different defensive mechanisms in animals (10 marks)

Question 9:

(a)Examine the impact of human activities on wildlife populations and habitats. (10 marks)

(b)Examine the consequences of habitat loss and destruction to wildlife conservation. (5 marks)

Question 10:

(a) If on one of your trails, you came across a Lion, what would be your description of this lion your clients? (12 marks)

(b) Examine the characteristics of big wild cats and their uniqueness for tourism (8 marks)

Question 11:

(a)Examine the impact of human activities on wildlife populations and habitats. (15 marks)

(b)Examine the consequences of habitat loss and destruction to wildlife conservation. (5 marks)

Question 12:

(a) Discuss the role of climate change in threatening wildlife populations and ecosystems (10 marks)

(b) Describe how tourism operators can contribute to mitigation and adaptation efforts (10 marks)

Question 13:

Discuss the importance of adaptation in enabling animals to survive in different environments. Provide examples of adaptations in different animal groups. (20 marks)