



MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

REGULAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER

**SCHOOL OF NATURAL RESOURCE,
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND
AGRICULTURE**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN WILDLIFE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

COURSE CODE: WRM 1203-1

**COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO NATURAL
HISTORY OF EAST AFRICAN FLORA AND
FAUNA**

DATE: 13/5/2024

TIME: 0830-1030 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **ALL** questions in section A and any other **THREE** in section B.

SECTION A: Answer all questions (20 marks)

1. a) Define fossil records **(1 mark)**
b) Highlight the importance of fossil records in the study of organisms natural history **(2 marks)**
2. Explain the major events that occurred during the period Neogene, epoch Pleistocene about 1.8 MYA **(3 marks)**
3. a) Define the binomial nomenclature **(1 mark)**
b) The full scientific name of Malachite kingfisher (*Alcedo cristata*, Pallas 1974). Explain the meaning of each part of the name **(2 marks)**
4. Elucidate the importance of birds' songs and calls **(3 marks)**
5. a) Describe the characteristics that made amphibians colonize land from aquatic environment **(3 marks)**
b) Differentiate between frogs and toads **(5 marks)**

Section B: Answer two (3) questions (30 marks)

5. Giving specific examples, discuss the importance of flora and fauna in the East African environment **(10 marks)**
6. Discuss the reasons why most living organisms are thought to have originated from a single ancestor in the distance past **(10 marks)**
7. Flora and fauna contributes to tourism and economic development in Kenya.
 - a. Using specific examples, give an account of the challenges affecting flora and fauna in Kenya. **(6 marks)**
 - b. Highlight some remedial measures to these challenges. **(4 marks)**
8. Discuss the characteristics that differentiate mammals from other vertebrates **(10 marks)**

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