



# **MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY**

**REGULAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS  
2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR  
SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER**

**SCHOOL OF NATURAL RESOURCES, TOURISM  
AND HOSPITALITY**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN WILDLIFE  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**COURSE CODE: WRM 2108-1  
COURSE TITLE: COMMUNITY ECOLOGY**

**DATE: 15/12/2023**

**TIME: 1430-1630 HRS**

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

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

*This paper consists of 2 printed pages. Please turn over*

**SECTION A (20 MARKS)**

1 Define the following terms;

- I. Ecology (1 Marks)
  - II. Community (1 Marks)
  - III. Primary succession (1 Marks)
  - IV. Keystone species (1 Marks)
2. Using examples, explain the different types of species interactions that can occur in a community (6 Marks)
3. Briefly explain the niche theory (2 Marks)
4. Differentiate between species richness and species evenness (2 Marks)
5. Explain the Island biogeography theory (4Marks)
6. Differentiate between a food web and a food chain (2 Marks)

**SECTION B: ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS (10 MARKS EACH)**

6. Discuss the historical developments in community ecology (10 Marks)
7. Prey use different mechanisms to avoid predation. Using specific examples, discuss the anti-predatory behavior in different organisms (10 marks)
8. Describe the role of disturbances in shaping community structure and dynamics (10 Marks)
9. Discuss the importance of biodiversity in a community and the factors that can influence biodiversity (10 Marks)

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