



# MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

(A Constituent College of Kenyatta University)  
University Examinations for 2013/2014

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

**Examination for certificate .....**

## **Economics for Civil Engineers**

**Date:**

**Time:**

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### *Instructions*

*Answer THREE of the following FOUR questions*

*Question ONE is compulsory*

1. a) Outline the scope of economics. (10 marks)
- b) Explain the following terms as applied in economics
  - i. scarcity
  - ii. input and output
  - iii. utility
  - iv. opportunity costs
  - v. wealth (10 marks)
- c) Outline the evolution of money from exchange in commodity to the current use of plastic cards. (5 marks)
- d) Discuss the main FIVE sources of authority. (5 marks)
2. a) Briefly discuss the factors that influence demand of a commodity. (10 marks)
- b) With the aid of a neat and well labeled sketch, explain the equilibrium point as the determinant of the market price. (10 marks)

3. a) Explain the following terms used in the organization structure of a firm
- i. power
  - ii. responsibility
  - iii. accountability
  - iv. authority
  - v. lateral relationship (10 marks)
- b) Draw an organization structure for a medium sized construction firm. (4 marks)
- c) Mention the duties of the following personnel in a construction firm:-
- i. Clerk of works
  - ii. Quantity surveyor
  - iii. General foreman
  - iv. The consultant
  - v. Client
  - vi. Site agent (6 marks)
4. a) With the aid of suitable diagrams, explain the effect on supply curve of agricultural commodities on seasonal changes (drought and wet seasons). (10 marks)
- b) Based on cypress timber, draw up hypothetical demands and supply schedules and their corresponding demand and supply curves. (10 marks)