



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2018/2019 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

THIRD YEAR SPECIAL/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY

SBT 301 UNIT NAME TAXONOMY OF HIGHER PLANTS

DATE: 26/7/2019

TIME: 8.30-10.30 AM

Instructions

1. Answer Question 1 (compulsory) and **any two** questions in Section B.
2. Use clean well labelled diagrams wherever appropriate.

SECTION A: ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS (30 MARKS)

- 1 a) Explain three importance of Plant Taxonomy (3 marks)
- b) Outline the hierarchy of six main taxonomic ranks and give latin endings where applicable. (3 marks)
- c) Distinguish between the following terms: (1 mark each)
- i. Nomenclature and Identification
 - ii. Qualitative and quantitative characters
 - iii. Homonyms and Heteronyms
- d) Outline three advantages of mounting herbarium specimen (3 marks)
- e) Describe the following terms (3 marks)

- i. monophyletic
 - ii. Cladistic
 - iii. Phenetic classification
- f) Explain three ways in which specific epithets are derived (3 marks)
- g) State the alternative name of the following families and give an example in each case (3 marks)
- i. Poaceae
 - ii. Brassicaceae
 - iii. Fabaceae
 - iv. Clusiaceae
 - v. Apiaceae,
 - vi. Lamiaceae
- h) Outline three characteristics of family Solanaceae (3 marks).
- i) Explain adaptations of flowers to various animal pollinators (3 marks).
- j) Describe three advantages of scientific names over common names to scientist (2 marks).

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO (2) QUESTIONS (TOTAL 40MARKS)

2. a) Discuss the contributions of early scientist to the field of taxonomy up to the time of Linneaus (10 marks)
- b) Discuss different types of herbaria and their uses (10 marks)
3. Discuss five sources of taxonomic characters and give relevant examples in each case (20 marks)
4. a) Discuss five rules of International Code of Botanical Nomenclature regarding naming of plants (10 marks)
- b) Describe types of reproductive data important to a taxonomist (10 marks)
5. Using specific examples, describe the floral characteristics and economic importance of the family Papilionaceae (20 marks)

