

**UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE**

**AGE 326**

**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS**

**NOVEMBER**

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**Duration:** 3 hours  
**Subject:** Agricultural Policy  
**Subject Code:** AGE 326  
**Marks:** 100

**This paper consists of 4 pages including the cover page**

**Internal Examiner**  
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**Exterternal Examiner**  
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**INSTRUCTIONS**

**Answer ALL the questions**  
**Note the different mark allocations between questions.**

## QUESTION 1

(20 marks)

Typically, when a new agricultural policy is formulated in a government's policy development department, it will then be implemented, at which point another unit in the department will assume responsibility for Monitoring & Evaluation ('M&E') in respect of that policy.

- 1.1 What is meant by 'Monitoring & Evaluation', and in particular, what is the difference between 'Monitoring' on the one hand, and 'Evaluation' on the other hand? [5]
- 1.2 Suppose you work in the policy development unit, and you have contributed to the development of a new policy. Explain why you would care what is found out by the Monitoring process? [5]
- 1.3 And now explain why you would care what is found out by the Evaluation process? [5]
- 1.4 Even though you and your colleagues in the policy unit are 'technocrats', you are aware that the policy that is ultimately adopted is not purely the product of objective analysis in which the only consideration is how best the Department should seek to accomplish its objectives in the most cost-effective manner possible. What other influences/factors might possibly have affected the design of the new policy? [5]

## QUESTION 2

(15 marks)

The President implements a cabinet reshuffle resulting in the introduction of a new Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development. This new Minister decides that enough is enough; specifically, small-scale / smallholder agriculture is a dead end; worse, it's a 'poverty trap'. The Minister decides that from now on government will focus on building the large-scale black commercial farmers sector.

Identify at least 2 advantages and 2 disadvantages of this new approach. [15]

## QUESTION 3

(25 Marks)

Suppose the Eastern Cape's Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR) decides to promote minimum tillage among small-scale grain farmers. Minimum tillage means that instead of conventional ploughing, special equipment is used so that seeds can be planted and fertiliser applied in such a way as to disturb the soil as little as possible. Over time, this should improve the fertility of the soil, reduce

reliance on chemical fertilisers, reduce soil erosion, and reduce demands on scarce tractor services/power (i.e. because tractors don't have to do so many operations prior to actual planting, and don't need to be as powerful).

However, there are different possible ways of promoting minimum tillage. 'Option 1' is for government to acquire large numbers of tractors and appropriate minimum tillage equipment, and then send the tractors out to help farmers plant, perhaps for a fee. 'Option 2' is to target existing tractor owners who provide tractor services to their neighbours, by subsidising their purchase of minimum tillage equipment and providing them (and their drivers) with training in minimum tillage methods.

3.1 Identify at least 2 advantages and 2 disadvantages of each option. [15]

3.2 Identify and describe what additional information and analysis might be helpful to determine which of the two possible options should be adopted. [10]

#### QUESTION 4

(40 Marks)

Recall the fictional scenario:

"One day a student collapsed while climbing the steps leading up to the UFH library on Alice campus. It turns out the student was weak from hunger. UFH's senior management therefore decided that the University needed to develop a 'UFH student food security policy', not only out of concern for their immediate welfare, but to boost their academic performance."

Prof K was asked to convene a task team to develop the policy, however he was too busy, so eventually the task was re-assigned to Dr L. Dr L identified three possible interventions:

- (a) The University should rehabilitate its kitchen on Alice campus, hire a team of cooks, and allocate enough budget so that each student can be fed a full supper up to three times per week upon presentation of a student card, at no cost to the student.
- (b) The University will buy food from retailers in the area on a quarterly basis from which it will assemble 1000 food parcels. These in turn will be distributed to students each quarter on a first-come / first-served basis.
- (c) The rugby field and surrounding land will be dug up and turned into agricultural fields which will then be split up into about 400 small, irrigated plots of about 6 metres x 5 metres. These in turn will be allocated to students based on their neediness, as determined by their responses to a mandatory questionnaire designed to ascertain each student's extent of deprivation.

4.1 Compare and contrast how well each option would perform in terms of targeting students at greatest risk of food insecurity. [9]

4.2 For each of the three options (ie a, b and c), verbally 'sketch' / explain a 'theory of change' according to which the policy option appears intended to operate. [9]

4.3 For each of the three options (ie a, b and c), identify the main advantages and disadvantages. [9]

4.4 Suppose through your research, you discover that 25% of students experience food insecurity more or less continuously throughout the year. However, another 65% of students experience acute food insecurity during exams. Another fact that has come to light is that the University is close to financial distress, meaning that it has limited means to fund a new food security policy/programme.

In light of what you've learned, propose your own approach to addressing food insecurity among Fort Hare students. [13]