



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

LEARNING FOR SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL CHANGE
LSC311

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
JUNE - 2025

QUESTION PAPER

Marks: 100

This paper consists of **7** pages including the cover page

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INSTRUCTIONS

1. The question paper consists of 5 questions
2. You are required to answer ALL questions.
3. Number your answers as they appear in the question paper.
4. At the end, check if you have fulfilled all the requirements of each question.

QUESTION 1 [5]

SCENARIO

You are one of three teachers on a field trip at an environmental education centre in a nearby nature reserve. You have a class of 33 children with you. You are all staying in a number of huts that can accommodate 11 or 12 people. Your daily program consists of breakfast at 8:00, followed by excursions in the veld. During these excursions you complete a number of worksheets. You take your lunch with you in bags but are back at the centre for supper. Breakfast and supper are prepared by the children themselves. During the evenings you have programs around a campfire, for example dramas. This gives the children the opportunity to show how creative they are. As teachers, you want to reinforce positive behaviour during this trip. Consequently, you decide to divide the children into three groups and let them compete with one another during the four days of the trip. They are to be awarded marks (out of 10) each day for positive behaviour in five categories. These marks (out of a total of 50 daily) are noted and at the end of the four days, the winning group is rewarded. The winning group is the group with the highest total out of 200.

1.1 1. How many teachers are mentioned in the scenario?

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. Three
- D. Four

E. Five

1.2 What is the daily program during the field trip?

- A. Excursions in the morning and afternoon
- B. Worksheets in the morning and excursions in the afternoon
- C. Breakfast, excursions, and campfire activities
- D. Breakfast, lunch, and supper in the huts
- E. Breakfast and supper prepared by the teachers

1.3 How many children can the huts accommodate?

- A. 10
- B. 11
- C. 12
- D. 13
- E. 14

1.4 What is the purpose of dividing the children into groups during the trip?

- A. To minimize social interaction
- B. To promote competition and positive behaviour
- C. To restrict access to resources
- D. To enforce discipline through isolation
- E. To facilitate easier supervision by teachers

1.5 How are positive behaviors of the children rewarded?

- A. With cash prizes
- B. With extra free time

- C. With marks out of 10 in five categories
- D. With academic awards
- E. With participation certificate

[5x1=5]

Question 2: Socio-ecological challenges & philosophical positions in environmental education [20]

Imagine a community facing one of the following socio-ecological challenges, the rapid biodiversity loss in a local ecosystem, deforestation, and plastic pollution. 10X2=20

Select one of the philosophical perspectives in Environmental Education - Behaviourist, Interpretivist, or Social Constructivist - and describe how your chosen philosophical perspective would shape your approach to addressing the challenge.

QUESTION 3: Issues of social justice, human rights abuse and the environment [20]

Case Study: The River Delta Project

A multinational corporation, "Global Energy," has proposed a large-scale hydroelectric dam project on the "Verdant River," which flows through a region inhabited by an Indigenous community, the "River People." The project promises to bring significant economic benefits, including increased energy production and job creation. However, the dam will flood a large area of the River People's ancestral lands, including their sacred sites and traditional fishing grounds. Additionally, environmental experts have warned that the dam could disrupt the river's ecosystem, leading to biodiversity loss and downstream water pollution. The River People have protested the project, claiming that it violates their rights to land, culture, and a healthy environment.

- 3.1 What are the key social justice issues present in this case study? (3x2=6)
- 3.2 How does this project raise concerns about human rights abuse? (4x1=4)
- 3.3 What are the primary environmental impacts that could result from the dam project? (2x1=2)
- 3.4 What are the ethical responsibilities of Global Energy in this situation? (2x2=4)
- 3.5 How can the principles of environmental justice be applied to address the issues in this case? (2x2=4)

Question 4: Sustainability and Education [20]

Imagine a school decides to implement a "Sustainability Week" where each subject area must contribute. In a history class, students are tasked with examining the historical roots of current environmental challenges. In mathematics class, they calculate the school's carbon footprint. In an art class, they create installations from recycled materials.

- 4.1 How do these activities exemplify the integration of sustainability across different disciplines? (2x2=4)
- 4.2 Discuss the potential benefits and challenges of this interdisciplinary approach (4x4=16)

QUESTION 5 (Environmental Laws) [35]

You live in a community with an officially vacant (unused) plot of approximately 5000 m², at the end of the residential houses. A section of the plot has accumulated a lot of water of unknown depth. People in the community have slowly started dumping their rubbish on this plot. This has started attracting vagrants (who come scavenging for food/goods), and some have started making fires and makeshift dwellings with the waste. You raised this issue in the last community meeting and some people asked you, "..Where is it written that we cannot dump there? It is an unused plot anyway..

- 5.1** To which law(s) would you point the residents to? (3x1=3)
Expand on whether they are right or wrong. (2x1=2)
[5]
- 5.2** Based on environmental law, what solutions can you propose to (5x2=10)
remedy this situation?
- 5.3** You have asked the municipal workers' supervisor to help drain the (10x2=20)
water as it is a danger for local kids. He has said the workers have
refused since this is a risk to their health (e.g., water depth, waste and
vagrant pollution).
Are the workers right or wrong? Explain.
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