

The  
Management  
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**UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**  
**SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP**  
**DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

**BDS 104: THEORIES AND STRATEGIES OF DEVELOPMENT**

**DATE: 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

**DURATION: 2 HOURS**

**MAXIMUM MARKS: 70**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. DO NOT write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains SIX (6) questions.
4. Question ONE is compulsory.
5. Answer any other THREE questions.
6. Question ONE carries 25 MARKS and the rest carry 15 MARKS each.
7. Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided..

## QUESTION ONE

**Read the Case Study below carefully and, answer the questions that follow:**

### **THE REPUBLIC OF AZANIA**

Azania, a Sub-Saharan African country, gained independence in the early 1960s with high hopes for rapid modernization. At independence, it adopted a state-led model of industrialization, focusing on import substitution and large infrastructure projects. However, political instability and weak institutions limited implementation. By the 1980s, mounting debt forced Azania to adopt structural adjustment programs (SAPs) under the guidance of the World Bank and IMF. While these programs liberalized trade and privatized state enterprises, they also led to job losses, weakened social services, and deepened inequality.

Economically, Azania remains heavily dependent on exporting raw commodities such as copper, coffee, and timber. Limited investment in value addition has locked the country into the role of a primary goods exporter. Foreign direct investment has increased in recent years, but multinational corporations dominate the mining and telecommunications sectors, often repatriating profits abroad.

Socially, Azania struggles with high levels of poverty and inequality. Rural areas lag behind urban centers in terms of education, healthcare, and infrastructure. Youth unemployment is rising, fueling frustration among the growing urban population. Gender disparities persist, with women facing limited access to credit, land, and political representation.

Politically, corruption and weak governance undermine public trust. Civil society organizations and youth movements increasingly challenge state authority, demanding transparency, accountability, and inclusive development. Ethnic divisions, while politically sensitive, also influence access to resources and political power.

Globalization presents mixed outcomes: while digital technologies and global markets open new opportunities, dependence on foreign aid and international lenders continues to limit Azania's policy autonomy. Climate change further

complicates development, as droughts and floods displace rural populations, threaten food security, and exacerbate competition over resources.

Today, Azania faces a crossroads: Should it pursue rapid economic growth through global competitiveness, strengthen participatory and human-centered approaches, or embrace alternative development paradigms rooted in local knowledge and sustainability?

**Required:**

- a) Compare how Rostow's Stages of Growth and World Systems Theory would each interpret Azania's development challenges. **(10 marks)**
- b) Discuss how the interaction of global structures and domestic agency has shaped Azania's successes and failures in development. **(8 marks)**
- c) Propose two theoretically informed interventions that could address Azania's structural challenges while promoting inclusive growth. **(7 marks)**

**QUESTION TWO**

- a) Distinguish between internal and external causes of economic change in African development. **(7 marks)**
- b) Critically evaluate how development indicators can misrepresent real progress in Africa. **(8 marks)**

**QUESTION THREE**

- a) Using Wallerstein's World Systems Theory, analyze Africa's position in the global economy and its implications for long-term development. **(10 marks)**
- b) Evaluate the effectiveness of the Basic Needs approach as a strategy for poverty reduction in African societies. **(5 marks)**

**QUESTION FOUR**

- a) Compare the relevance of classical trade theories to contemporary African trade policy. **(7 marks)**
- b) Examine how economic and social dualism perpetuates inequality in African development contexts. **(8 marks)**

**QUESTION FIVE**

- a) Assess the potential of participatory development models in promoting inclusive development in Africa. **(7 marks)**
- b) Using an African example, analyze how grass root strategies can challenge dominant top-down development approaches. **(8 marks)**

**QUESTION SIX**

- a) Discuss how postcolonial perspectives challenge mainstream development discourses in Africa. **(7 marks)**
- b) Analyze how the principles of sustainable development and SDGs can address governance challenges in African societies. **(8 marks)**