



**UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP**

**DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

**BDS 204: AGRICULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**DATE: 1<sup>ST</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:**

**BUILDING RESILIENCE IN AGROLAND: PATHWAYS TO FOOD SECURITY**

Agroland is a developing country whose economy depends heavily on agriculture. In recent years, the nation has faced serious challenges in ensuring food security for its people. The population has been rising rapidly, and with higher incomes, many families are shifting from traditional plant-based diets to those rich in meat and processed foods. This has increased demand for water-intensive crops and livestock, putting pressure on already scarce resources. Farmers in Agroland are struggling with falling water tables and slowing irrigation systems, caused by years of overuse and poor maintenance of water infrastructure. At the same time, climate change has made rainfall unpredictable, leading to frequent droughts and floods that destroy crops. The once-reliable mountain glaciers that supplied rivers are now melting, reducing long-term water reserves.

Soil erosion has also become a major threat. Over-cultivation and deforestation have stripped away fertile topsoil, reducing yields. Many farmers now find it difficult to afford quality seeds, fertilizers, and other farm inputs due to their rising costs, which further reduces agricultural productivity. In rural areas, poor roads and lack of storage facilities have led to post-harvest losses—up to 30% of crops rot before reaching the market. Meanwhile, in urban centers, the spread of cities has taken up much of the country's arable land, leaving fewer areas available for farming. Conflicts in some regions and general political instability have also made it difficult for food aid and farm inputs to reach those in need.

As a result, many households experience more foodless days, especially during dry seasons. Families with low income or those displaced by conflict often lack access and entitlement to food, even when food is available in markets. The government of Agroland, together with international partners, is now working to address these issues. They are investing in irrigation systems, promoting climate-smart farming, improving food storage facilities, and introducing policies to ensure sufficiency of food for the growing population. However, achieving lasting food security will take time and

consistent efforts to restore soil health, manage water resources, and ensure equitable food distribution.

**Required:**

- a) Identify and explain the four concepts of food security shown in the case study. (8 Marks)
- b) Discuss five global challenges of food security as evidenced from the case study above (10 Marks)
- c) Briefly suggest seven possible solutions to improve food security in Agroland (7 Marks)

**QUESTION TWO**

- a) Evaluate the contribution of agriculture to Africa's economic development and explain why its role remains vital in the 21st century. (6 Marks)
- b) By use of various examples, explain three comparisons how agricultural policies in developed and developing economies differ in their objectives, implementation, and outcomes. (9 Marks)

**QUESTION THREE**

In recent years, farmers in Eastern Africa have noticed a dramatic shift in weather patterns. Rainy seasons have become unpredictable, sometimes starting late or ending early while droughts and floods have become more frequent. For instance, a maize farmer in Kenya reports losing nearly half of his crop due to prolonged dry spells, while another in Uganda struggles with pests and diseases thriving in warmer conditions.

**Required:**

- a) Explain any SIX ways that the above situation described illustrate the wider impact of climate change on agriculture across Africa (12 Marks)

- b) Identify any THREE roles that the government should play in helping farmers mitigate the effects of climate change. **(3 Marks)**

#### QUESTION FOUR

- a) Agriculture plays a vital role in enhancing the livelihoods and overall growth of rural communities. It serves as a key driver of economic and social development in many regions. Identify any FIVE ways of improving rural development through agriculture **(5 Marks)**
- b) Rural agriculture in the developing world faces numerous limitations that affect productivity, income levels, and sustainable development. Discuss the major constraints on rural agriculture in developing countries and explain how they impact overall rural development. **(10 Marks)**

#### QUESTION FIVE

- a) A component of sustainable agriculture is a key element or practice that ensures farming meets present food needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. It must be economically viable, socially responsible and ecologically sound. Discuss any FIVE components of Sustainable Agriculture **(10 Marks)**
- b) Briefly explain any FIVE global factors contributing to the continuous rise in food prices and suggest sustainable ways to manage each of them. **(5 Marks)**

#### QUESTION SIX

- a) Suggest any SIX potential food control policies that can help reduce hunger and poverty at both national and international levels. **(6 Marks)**
- b) An agricultural system is an organized framework that involves the interaction of different components and processes used to produce, manage, and sustain agricultural activities within a specific environment. By use of appropriate examples, explain any THREE agricultural systems **(9 Marks)**