

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

BDS 203: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 7TH 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:

LOCAL ECONOMY: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES WITH SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

The Local Economy focuses on fostering sustainable growth, creating job opportunities, and enhancing the quality of life within a specific community or region. This approach strengthens communities' economies by supporting local businesses, promoting entrepreneurship, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders. Although the activity of LED embodies a clear economic focus, i

It is increasingly considered to be not simply about economic growth; rather, it is geared ultimately towards attaining 'a sustainable development pattern which accommodates and reconciles economic, social and ecological issues and objectives.'

The Local Economic Development (LED) model is a bottom-up approach to development. It aims to keep money circulating within the community, maximising economic impact and resilience while prioritising metrics like household income, job creation, and quality of life. According to the World Bank, LED is:

...a process by which public, business and non-governmental sector partners work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation.'

Encouraging residents to shop locally and support community services helps keep money within the region. Studies consistently show that spending at local businesses has a greater economic impact than spending at large chain stores. For example, a study by Civic Economics found that \$100 spent at a local business generates 70% more local economic activity than the same amount spent at a chain retailer. Similarly, another study revealed that local retailers return 52% of their revenue to the local economy, compared to just 14% for chain stores. This local spending helps build a resilient economy and provides stability for local employment.

LED strongly emphasizes sustainability, focusing on local sourcing, reducing reliance on long-distance transportation, and minimizing carbon emissions. Communities that embrace LED often implement community-based natural resource management strategies, which empower residents to protect their environment and ensure long-term sustainability. Additionally, LED can promote eco-tourism, creating jobs and generating income while safeguarding natural areas. Moreover, by aligning with the principles of the circular economy, LED fosters a more sustainable and resilient future.

Required:

- a) In relation to the case above, discuss the importance of residents to shop locally. **(10 Marks)**
- b) Local Economic Development strongly emphasizes sustainability. Examine the focus for local economic development. **(10 Marks)**
- c) If local economic development is not simply about economic growth, examine other areas of importance in local development economies. **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION TWO

- a) Describe the historical background of community development. **(9 Marks)**
- b) Evaluate any three tools used for community participation. **(6 Marks)**

QUESTION THREE

- a) Explain the practice of community development. **(5 Marks)**
- b) The government launched a “strategy for performance improvement in the public service. Assess five objectives of this reform. **(5 Marks)**
- c) Discuss your understanding of civic infrastructure and the role of community development. **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Enumerate the following in relation to community development.
- i. Project planning (4 Marks)
 - ii. strategic planning (5 Marks)
- b) Elaborate six fundamentals of forming a community-based organization. (6 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a) The establishment and operation of community-based development is crucial. A big question is where do these programs reside? Expound using three examples. (6 Marks)
- b) With examples, distinguish how independent community based organizations differ from community development corporations (CDCs). (6 Marks)
- c) Explain how a community development project can become sustainable. (3 Marks)

QUESTION SIX

- a) There is a shift in the world, and development is not just social, economic or political. Argue out the issues of the following:
- i. International trade (3 Marks)
 - ii. foreign direct investment (3 Marks)
 - iii. The Great Global Job Shift. (3 Marks)
- b) Discuss community and economic development strategies in the global economy. (6 Marks)