

GWANDA STATE UNIVERSITY



FACULTY OF NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND AGRICULTURE

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE AND CROP PRODUCTION

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

AGRIBUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

LAE 2203

Final Main Examination Paper

June 2025

This examination paper consists of 4 pages

Time Allowed: 3 hours
Total Marks: 100
Special Requirements: None
Examiner's Name: T. Mafirakurewa

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Answer **all** questions in Section A
2. Answer **two** questions in Section B

MARK ALLOCATION

QUESTION	MARKS
SECTION A	60
SECTION B	40
TOTAL ATTAINABLE MARKS	100

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SECTION A: Answer ALL questions in Section A

1. Agripreneurs play a crucial role in transforming traditional agriculture into competitive agribusiness ventures.
 - (a) Define the term Agripreneurs and explain how Agripreneurs differ from conventional farmers. [5]
 - (b) Discuss at least five key characteristics that define successful Agripreneurs and how these traits contribute to business sustainability. [8]
 - (c) Analyze the background factors that influence an individual's decision to become an Agripreneurs, including education, financial resources, and market opportunities. [5]
2. Risks and uncertainties are important aspects of the agri-business since they can cause wide swings on business income.
 - a) Distinguish between risks and uncertainties. [4]
 - b) Identify two enterprise risks and explain how they can be mitigated. [4]
3. State and explain any two sources of finance Agripreneurs may consider when establishing new businesses. [4]
4. Discuss how the identification of a market gap influence the subsequent steps in the entrepreneurial process, such as resource mobilization, business planning, and execution?[6]
5. Briefly explain how transformational and transactional leadership styles influence decision-making, innovation, and productivity in agribusiness management? [6]
6. What strategies can smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe employ to enhance their role in agricultural value chains, ensuring improved market access, equitable pricing, and sustainable production? [6]

7. Citing relevant examples, discuss how maintaining accurate and detailed business records enhance decision-making, financial management, and access to funding for agribusinesses in Zimbabwe? [6]
8. Discuss the roles and functions of national government in developing and enabling small business environments. [6]

SECTION B: Answer ONLY TWO questions in Section B

9. Discuss the role of innovation and technology in enhancing the productivity and sustainability of agribusiness operations. In your answer:
- Provide examples of at least two emerging technologies used in agribusiness.
 - Analyze the potential socio-economic impacts of these technologies on smallholder farmers.
 - Highlight any challenges or limitations associated with the adoption of these innovations in resource-constrained settings.

[20]

10. Explore the social, economic, and institutional challenges affecting entrepreneurs' potential to transform crop-livestock integration practices in the smallholder sector of Zimbabwe.

[20]

11. A commercial agribusiness firm in Zimbabwe is evaluating its financial performance for the past fiscal year. The following financial data has been provided:

- Total Assets: \$500,000
- Total Liabilities: \$300,000
- Total Equity: \$200,000
- Current Assets: \$150,000
- Current Liabilities: \$75,000
- Net Income: \$50,000
- Total Revenue: \$250,000

Using the provided data, calculate and interpret the following financial ratios:

- a) Compute the **Current Ratio** and explain its significance in assessing the firm's short-term financial health. [6]
- b) Determine the **Net Profit Margin** and discuss how it reflects the firm's ability to generate profit from its revenue. [7]

- c) Calculate the **Debt-to-Equity Ratio** and analyze its implications for the firm's financial stability and risk exposure. [7]
12. Explore how Agripreneurs contribute to economic growth and development in the context of developing nations. [20]

END OF EXAMINATION