



MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

REGULAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER

**SCHOOL OF NATURAL RESOURCES, TOURISM
AND HOSPITALITY**

BACHELOR OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

COURSE CODE: WRM 3119-1

COURSE TITLE: BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY

DATE: 4/12/2023

TIME: 0830-1030 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **All** the Questions in Section A and any **THREE** IN SECTION B

SECTION A [20 marks]

- 1) Define the following terms as used in behavioral ecology
 - (I) Kin selection [1 Mark]
 - (II) Sexual selection [1 Mark]
 - (III) Parental investment [1 Mark]
 - (IV) Sperm competition [1 Mark]
 - (V) Coevolutionary arms race [1 Mark]
- 2) Most birds are monogamous , with a few being polygynous and a fewer still polyandrous. In contrast, most mammals show some form of polygyny or promiscuity. Only about 5% of mammal species are monogamous, and “polyandry” is very rare. Explain this difference between birds and mammals? [5 marks]
- 3) Mute Swans are observed to be monogamous, and only very rarely are observed to change mates during their breeding lifetime. Scientists would not expect to observe infanticide in this species. Why not? [5 marks]
- 4) (a) Differentiate between innate and learned behavior [2 marks]
(b) State any three examples of innate behavior in animals [3 marks]

SECTION B (20 MARKS)

- 5) Giving specific examples, discuss strategies different prey species use to avoid predation [10 marks]
- 6) When choosing mates, females often prefer some males over others. Why are females usually the choosy sex and what are the benefits of mate choice to females. Provide examples to support your answer [10 marks]
- 7) Discuss how birds find their way during migration [10 marks]
- 8) Discuss brood parasitism and why do hosts tolerate brood parasitism? [10 marks]

N
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