

THYOLO DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOLS EXAMINATIONS

2026 JUNIOR CERTIFICATE MOCK EXAMINATION

AGRICULTURE

MARKING KEY

SECTION A (MULTIPLE CHOICE)

1. B	11. A
2. D	12. C
3. A	13. B
4. C	14. D
5. A	15. A
6. C	16. C
7. C	17. B
8. A	18. D
9. D	19. C
10. B	20. A

SECTION B (STRUCTURED QUESTIONS)

21. (a) -type of soil

-type of crop

-weather condition

-presence of mulch

-moisture content of the soil

-Stage of plant growth

2 marks for any two correct responses

(b) -topography

-amount of water supply

-soil type

2 marks for any two correct responses



22. -provides a means of presenting one's findings
- used in decision and policy making
 - outline significance of the findings
 - allows other scientists to replicate your work
 - gives recommendations
 - provides reliable permanent information

3 marks for any three correct points

23. (a) -land ownership

- land use
- access to credit
- use of farm income
- extension and training services

2 marks for any two correct points

(b) -inappropriate land preparation

- late planting
- low yields
- low household income
- low quality produce
- low adoption of mechanized agriculture

2 marks for any two correct points

24. Effective interest = $(1 + i/n)^n - 1$. 1 mark

$$= (1 + 0.15/5)^5 - 1$$

$$= 15.93\%. \quad 1 \text{ mark}$$

$$\text{Interest} = 15.93/100 * K5000. \quad 1 \text{ mark}$$

$$= K796.37. \quad 1 \text{ mark}$$

$$\text{Amount} = K5000 + K796.37 = K5796.37. \quad 1 \text{ mark}$$

Total= 5 marks

25. -broadcasting/random spreading of the chemical fertilizers over the seedbed
- foliar/the fertilizer is sprayed in solution form on the leaves of the crops

- irrigation method/the fertilizer is mixed and applied with the irrigation water
- drilling method/the fertilizer is directly placed in the planting hole or furrows
- injection method/the fertilizers in liquid forms are injected into the soil under pressure more especially green houses

4 marks for any two correctly backed points

26. -use of disease-free planting materials

- use of disease resistant varieties
- crop rotation
- use of quarantine
- proper spacing of crops
- proper seedbed preparation
- practicing field hygiene

3 marks for any three correct points

27. (a) -fairly hardy

- has good mothering ability
- good converter of feeds into meat
- most prolific of all pig breeds

3 marks for any three correct points

(b) -it has a cooling effect

- helps to control sun burns
- helps to control external parasites

2 marks for any two correct points

(c) -leads to higher weaning weight

- prevents over-suckling of the mother
- promotes fast growth as the piglets do not rely on the mother's milk only
- helps in the full development of the digestive system as piglets get used to solid feeds

3 marks for any three correct responses

28. (a) deep litter

1 mark for one correct response

(b) -there is high stocking rate

- there is low labour requirement
- there is fast accumulation of manure
- is appropriate for rearing breeding stock

2 marks for any two correct points

(c) -light Sussex

- Cornish white
- Cornish Dark
- Jersey Black Giant

3 marks for any three correct points

(d) -they provide high quality meat

- they are heavier and bigger in size
- they grow fast
- they lay few eggs
- they go broody

3 marks for any three correct points

(e) -chipazga

- chalida
- yakuda
- yoyela
- yankhanga

2 marks for any two correct points

29. -ruminants chew the cuds while non-ruminants do not chew cud

- ruminants regurgitate while non-ruminants cannot regurgitate
- ruminants have micro-organisms in the rumen while non-ruminants do not
- ruminants have alkaline saliva while non-ruminants have saliva that is neutral in PH

2 marks for 1 correctly backed point

30. (a)-watering

- mulching
- shading
- pricking out
- thinning
- hardening off
- pest control
- disease control
- weed control

2 marks for any two correct points

(b) -nearness to water supply

- shading
- space
- topography
- type of soil
- security
- previous crop grown
- soil fertility

1 mark for one correct point

31. -decayed organic matter from plants and animals

- inorganic fertilizers
- rain water dissolved with some elements
- Organic manures such as farmyard manure, green manure and compost manure
- biochemical fixation such as fixation by bacteria in legumes

2 marks for any two correct points

SECTION C: ESSAY QUESTIONS

32 - Increase in crop pests /which lowers crop yield.

- Erratic rainfall and drought leads to total crop failure/ lowering the expected yield.
- Flooding damages crops /lowering crop yield.
- Strong winds cause breakages of tree crops/ affecting the expected yield.



- Increased hailstorms cause serious damage to crops in the field/ lowering the output of the crop
- Flash floods lead to loss of top fertile soil/ which reduces the potential of the land to produce high crop yield
- Unpredictable weather patterns affects farmer decision making / resulting in early or delayed planting which considerably lowers the expected yield.

10 marks for any five correctly backed points

33. -Irrigation/ flooding – to drown and suffocate pests such as leaf miners and aphids

- use of lethal temperatures – involves application of extreme temperatures to control pest development especially in post – harvest management practices
- suffocation — some storage bins are filled with carbon dioxide to inhibit pest multiplication and survival.
- Hand picking, trapping and killing involves catching the pest and killing it.
- Creation of physical barriers — where metal plates are fixed on posts for raised granaries to prevent rats from gaining entry into the stores.
- Proper drying / to make the produce hard enough to limit pest damage on the grains.
- Scare crows — involves use of human figure-like objects used to scare away birds and other large animals.

10 marks for any five correctly backed points

34.

- Increasing food production/ through production of inputs used in agricultural production
- job creation/ whereby people work in factories and support services like transportation & marketing.
- Supply of raw materials/farmers find a market to supply raw materials to these industries hence earning income.
- Boosting foreign exchange/exports from agro-based industries earn the country much needed foreign exchange.
- Enhancing international relations/ agro industries engage in international trade, improving bilateral & multilateral relations.
- Enhances food security/ through agro-processing.
- Growth in GDP / which earns the country revenue to finance its budgetary needs.

10 marks for any five correctly backed points

END OF PROVISIONAL MARKING SCHEME....