



CENTRAL WEST EDUCATION DIVISION

2026 MALAWI SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

MOCK EXAMINATIONS

AGRICULTURE

PAPER I

MARKING KEY

- 1.a) (i) – it reduces the speed of runoff /hence reducing erosion
- helps to increase the rate of infiltration of water therefore no erosion
(2marks)
- (ii) -Mulching decomposes to form humus which bind soil particles together
- Mulching helps to reduce the impact of raindrops
(2marks)
- b) (i) Build more cooling centers to keep their produce
- Having more customers
(2marks)
- (ii) Training leaders to have leadership skills
- Elect members who are trustworthy, honest, transparent leaders
- Put a mechanism of transparency for members to monitor what is going on
(2marks)
2. a).
- It facilitates transportation of farm produce to the market so that produce can be sold fresh at high prices
- Rural Electrification facilitates easy storage of perishable produce
- Irrigation enables farmers to cultivate more than once to increase yield

- Good communication systems promote trade as buyers and sellers know where to meet **(1mark each, 2marks total)**

b) (i) To prevent animals from hurting themselves by stopping the growth of horns **(2marks)**

(ii) It places names or numbers on the animals for easy identification **(2marks)**

c). Conservation agriculture is a set of soil management practices that reduce destruction of soil structure and composition and strives to attain high and sustainable crop production levels

3. a). A runner **(1mark)**

b). – crops mature faster / they do not remain dormant

- Maintains uniformity
- Plant material is hardy and can survive in dry conditions

c). – They transform the nature of produce thereby fetching high prices at the market

- Produce is kept for long hence food security
- They have good storage facilities to make produce stay for long time.

d). – mango stone weevil

- Mango scales
- Fruit flies **(2marks for any two)**

4. a). – it introduces new blood in the herb

- the offspring perform better than the parents (1mark)

b). (i) Opportunity cost is value of the forgone alternative /the next best alternative action given up (left out) **(2marks)**

(ii) The principle of diminishing returns states that if a variable input is increased

while other inputs are held constant, a point is eventually reached where additional output for each additional of input will decline (decrease) **(2marks)**

5. a). Inventory record (1 mark)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b). (i) Annual depreciation} &= \frac{\text{cost of item} - \text{salvage value}}{\text{life span}} \\ &= \frac{K\ 350,000 - K\ 50,000}{5\ \text{years}} \\ &= \text{K60,000/ year} \end{aligned} \quad \textbf{(2marks)}$$

(ii) Value of machinery in 2014

$$\begin{aligned} \text{In 2023 value} &= K350,000 - K60,000 \\ &= K290,000 \quad (1\ \text{mark}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{In 2024 value} &= K290,000 - K60,000 \\ &= K230,000 \quad \textbf{(1mark) (Total 2marks)} \end{aligned}$$

c) – small body size

- slow growth rate
- low calving interval **(1mark each total 2marks)**

6. a). – help farmers to have access to income and buy inputs for increased production

- helps to add value to produce and increase the monetary worth of the produce.
- Helps to distribute goods and services in order to make them available to more people **(2marks for each point total 4marks)**

b). – Promoting equal skills development in men and women so that women

can get used to technology

- Improving women access to capital so that they can hire or buy farm machinery
- Improving on rural infrastructure to reduce women work burden so that they can attend trainings on technology
- Improve girls' education so that they can build confidence to use technology **(2marks for each part)**

c). – It affects the activities of microorganisms to increase soil fertility for plant growth

- It speeds up the germination of seeds for fast growth
- It affects root growth and development for good absorption of nutrients
(1mark for each point)

7. a). – application of acidic fertilizers

- application of undecomposed manure
(1 mark for each point, 2marks total)

b). – High level skills are required for its installation

- It is labour intensive
- It requires large quantities of raw materials
- It is limited to a few farm operations
- It requires relatively high installation costs
- It is difficult to store in cylinders

(2marks for any two parts)

c). – monitoring spawn running

- monitoring colour change
- hanging in production sheds

- watering

d). – Improve road networks

- promote peace and harmony among consumers
- increasing production efficiency

(2marks for any 2 parts)

8. a). Rotational grazing (1mark)

b). – it helps to break the lifecycle of the ticks/ by depriving them of their host

c). – it requires a lot of land/ which most farmers do not have

- it requires fencing / which can be expensive to most small holder farmers **(1mark)**

d) – education levels of females is low / therefore difficult to understand new technologies

- lack of capital to buy new technologies / as they do not have collateral
- lack of confidence with technology/ since do not want to take risky
- lack of exposure to role models/ to encourage them

(4marks for any two)

9. a). – it should be away from livestock kraal/rubbish pits to avoid attracting flies

- should be near market /in order to sell fast as they are perishable
- be near clean water /to avoid contamination
- must be near the dense forest/ for easy availability of growing materials
- be free from pests/ to avoid destruction of mushroom

b)- practicing milking hygiene

- infuse long-acting antibiotics into the teat canal

- applying milking jelly to prevent dryness
- vaccinate the animals

(2marks for any two points)

10. – cutting the forage at young age to ensure availability of enough nutrients

- Ensuring the storage under shed to reduce rotting and development of moulds
- Harvest when is not rainy to ensure proper drying of the herbage
- Increasing legume spaces in the hay to increase palatability

(4marks for any two points)

Section B

11. – protecting the soil from raindrop impact/ thus preventing soil erosion

- Provide humus after decomposition/ to improve soil structure / or to conserve moisture
- Prevents the multiplication of dangerous weeds/ by smothering them
- Helps to prevent overheating of the soil / therefore modifying soil temperature
- Helps to reduce evaporation / therefore conserves moisture to be used in dry spells
- Decomposition of the mulch adds to soil fertility / to promote fast plant growth and escape dry spells

(2 marks for each point)

12. – Development of high yielding varieties / enable farmers to produce more yields

- Use of farm machinery enables farmers to cultivate more land/ or do farm operations fast and efficiently therefore harvest more yield
- Irrigation farming enables farmers to cultivate / more than once hence more food available
- Pesticides prevent crop damage and ensure availability of more food
- Conservation agriculture helps maintain soil fertility/ and moisture to

ensure high crop yields

- Good animal husbandry practices leads to high production/ this ensures availability of animal products to meet people's needs
- Good storage facilities avoid food spolage / to ensure that more food is available

(2marks for each point total 10 marks)

13. – They should use the extension workers to get access to new methods of farming to improve farming operations hence high yield

- Manure would be used in their crop fields to supply nutrients and this will reduce the cost of production and have high yields
- Farmers would acquire loans from the credit facilities to increase their hectarage of land and therefore harvest more
- The farmers would use the rivers as a water source and engage in irrigation to harvest more than once a year.
- They can use the remains from crop fields and give to animals that produce the manure
- Farmers can engage in different types of vegetable growing

(2marks for each point 10 marks)