

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN
MASTERS IN URBAN DESIGN

2011-2012 ACADEMIC YEAR

PART 1- FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS MARCH 2012

BUD 6104 ECONOMICS FOR URBAN DESIGN

Instructions

Time: 3 hours

1. Answer any 2 questions in Section A and any 2 in Section B
2. Illustrate examples where necessary
3. Each question carries 25 marks

SECTION A

Question 1

- a) Knowledge of price elasticity is always crucial because it helps business operators to design a pricing strategy. How true is this statement? [15]
- b) With the aid of appropriate examples, explain the factors that affect elasticity of demand. [10]
[25]

Question 2

- a) Explain the differences between public goods and common property resources. [8]
- b) Describe the difference between a progressive tax and regressive tax. [5]
- c) Explain in detail the main features of a good tax. [12]
[25]

Question 3

Explain how the following economic systems try to solve any three main economic problems in African cities:

- a) Traditional economy [6]
- b) Command economy [6]
- c) Market economy [6]
- d) Mixed economy [7]
[25]

SECTION B

Question 4

Assess the usefulness of the Bid Rent Theory in contemporary Urban Design. Make reference to cases and examples from both the developed and the developing countries.

[25]

Question 5

Discuss Veblen's notion 'that traditional economic theory is inadequate in answering questions that need to be answered'.

[25]

Question 6

Critically evaluate the extent to which the Agency Theory and the concept of Transaction Costs contribute to our understanding of the key challenges faced by Urban Design Professionals in Africa.

[25]