

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

STAGE II FIRST SEMESTER DECEMBER 2008 EXAMINATIONS

**ILI 5108 SPECIALISED INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

Time: 3 hours + 30 minutes reading

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Answer any 4 questions.
 2. Importance is attached to accuracy, clarity of expression and legible handwriting.
 3. Each question carries 25 marks.
 4. Give equal time to all questions.
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1. At present, there are a number of developments in methodologies, applications and standards for managing agricultural information. Discuss the critical issues that are germane in ensuring homogeneity and interoperability of the existing systems.
2. Critique the view that agricultural information systems interact with and influence agricultural productivity.
3. Most countries' health information systems lack cohesion having been developed in a piecemeal way, fashioned by administrative, economic, legal and donor pressures and are invariably highly complex. With reference to a system of your choice, discuss how you would design a viable national health information systems (NHIS).
4. Sustainable development information systems should differ from more traditional linear approaches to information flows. Discuss.
5. Critique the view that health information systems form the weakest link in Zimbabwe's health sector.
6. It has been argued that Internet technology will inevitably play a role in future information systems. However, in terms of development, whether this reinforces the status quo or improves the social well-being and equality is still a contentious topic. Discuss.

The end