



EXAMINATION NO.: _____

THE MALAWI NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD

2023 MALAWI SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION

AGRICULTURE

Subject Number: M012/I

Monday, 3 July

Time Allowed: 2 hours

8:00 – 10:00 am

PAPER I

(100 marks)

Theory

Instructions

1. This paper contains 11 printed pages. Please check.
2. This paper has **two** sections, **A** and **B**. Section **A** has **ten** questions and Section **B** has **three** questions.
3. Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.
4. Write your **Examination Number** on all pages in the spaces provided.
5. In the **Table** provided on this page, **tick** against the question number you have answered.
6. At the end of the examination, hand in your paper to the invigilator.

Question Number	Tick if answered	Do not write in these columns	
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			

Section A (70 marks)

Answer **all** questions in this section in the spaces provided.

1. a. Name any **two** insect pests that attack mangoes.

(2 marks)

- b. Describe any **one** agricultural marketing problem faced by farmers.

(2 marks)

- c. State any **two** ways in which observation of safety rules when using a hoe is important.

(2 marks)

- d. Explain any **one** way of dealing with gender biases in livestock production.

(2 marks)

- e. State any **two** ways in which computer technology increases crop production.

(2 marks)

2. a. Explain **one** way in which each of the following economic principles affect farmers' decision making:

(i) Opportunity cost

(2 marks)

(ii) Substitution of inputs

(2 marks)

b. Explain any **two** challenges of running agricultural cooperatives.

(4 marks)

3. a. Table 1 shows one type of cropping systems recommended for high crop production.

Table 1

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Plot A	Groundnut	Maize	Cotton
Plot B	Maize	Cotton	Groundnut
Plot C	Cotton	Groundnut	Maize

- (i) Name the cropping system.

_____ (1 mark)

- (ii) Explain any **two** ways in which the cropping system would promote maize yield.

_____ (4 marks)

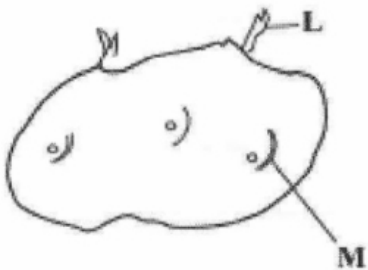
- b. Explain any **two** ways in which poor farming practices promote soil loss.

_____ (4 marks)

Continued/...



4. The figure below is a diagram showing a vegetative planting material.



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a. Name the parts labelled L and M.

L: _____ (1 mark)

M: _____ (1 mark)

b. Explain any **two** disadvantages of using the vegetative planting material.

(4 marks)

5. a. Explain any **one** effect of soil colour on mango production.

(2 marks)

b. Describe any **two** ways of adapting climate change in crop production.

(4 marks)

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6. a. State any **two** ways in which knowledge of oestrus cycle of a cow is important to a farmer.

(2 marks)

- b. State any **two** ways in which proper feeding of beef cattle is important.

(2 marks)

7. a. State any **two** uses of partial budget.

(2 marks)

- b. State any **two** roles for each of the following marketing agencies:

- (i) Middlemen

(2 marks)

- (ii) Retailers

(2 marks)

Continued/...

8. a. Explain any **two** ways of caring for a pregnant cow a month before giving birth.

(4 marks)

- b. Explain any **two** ways in which browsing in goats could be supplemented to ensure improved goat production.

(4 marks)

9. a. Table 2 shows cattle production record kept by a farmer.

Table 2

Animal	Body mass at Birth (Kg)	Feed Type	Body mass after 10 Months (Kg)
P	5	M	10
Q	5	N	15

- (i) Which feed would be recommended to farmers?

(1 mark)

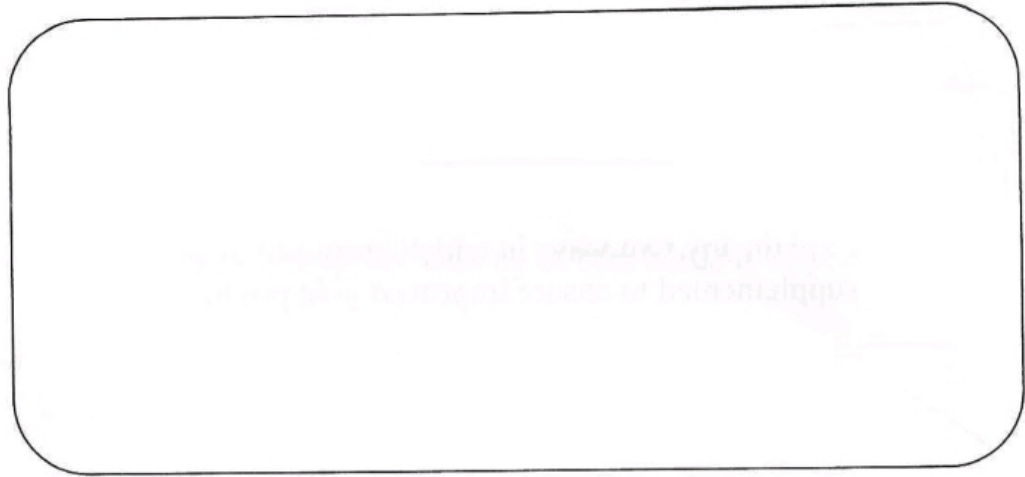
- (ii) Give a reason for the answer in a (i).

(1 mark)

Continued/...

9. a. (Continued)

(iii) Calculate the range in body mass for the two animals.



(2 marks)

b. Describe any **one** problem associated with farm mechanisation.

(2 marks)

10. a. State the **three** principles of conservation agriculture.

(3 marks)

b. Explain any **two** ways in which application of lime to the soil helps to improve its fertility.

(4 marks)

Continued/...

Section B (30 marks)

Answer all the **three** questions in this section. Your answers should be in an essay form.

11. Explain any **five** ways in which crop processing is important.

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(10 marks)
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13. Farmers in a certain village have the following agricultural resources at their disposal:

- A lot of herbage during rainy season.
- Swampy area
- A lot of cattle

Explain any **five** ways in which the farmers in the village would use the available resources to ensure increased livestock production.

[illegible]

(10 marks)

END OF QUESTION PAPER

NB: This paper contains 11 printed pages.