527/ 1 & 2 (O'Level Agriculture updates and key highlights)

527/1 - THEORY

SOIL SCIENCE

- Anything added to soil to improve its fertility or properties MUST be assessed here.
- A colour change on plant leaves in a scenario under soil science indicates a deficiency symptom of one of the major plant element.
- Always put support material for the learner on information which isn't obvious i.e. favorable soil pH of different crops, spacing of different crops. Etc.

N.B

The item here should have **five (5) challenges** distributed as follows:

- 2 challenges on soil properties i.e. soil pH, water retention, drainage etc.
- 1 challenge on soil and water conservation.
- 1 challenge on soil improvement practices
- 1 challenge on land tenure system.

VALUE ADDITION

- Value addition starts after harvesting agro products i.e. crop products or animal products. Emphasis has been put on ***Milk, meat and agro-waste products.***
- It involves post- harvest practices like winnowing, grading, sorting, cleaning and marketing functions like transportation, storage, advertisement, packaging, weighing, branding, selling etc.

N.B

The item has two tasks

Task (a) is about how to add value on a selected product, the learner here is required to write the procedure of making a selected product i.e Yogurt, flavored milk, minced meat, Meat balls, Sausages, briquettes, etc. Teachers are therefore advised to provide such information to learners.

N.B

- Start with requirements and materials required in making that selected product.
- Write the procedure involved in making that particular product.

Task (b) should have **Five (5) challenges** distributed as follows:

- 2 challenges on post- harvest practices and marketing functions.
- 1 challenge on financial literacy.
- 1 challenge on cooperatives and self-help groups.
- 1 challenge on value addition topics.

ANIMAL PRODUCTION

- Assess rearing of domestic animals except ***a pig.***

N.B

The items here should have **Ten (10) challenges** distributed as follows:

- 4 challenges on livestock establishment i.e. setting up an animal enterprise involves selecting the right animal in line with the objective or goal of the farmer, selecting the site for the farm, construction of farm buildings and structures, installation of watering points, parasite and disease control measures etc.
- 4 item on management of farm animals i.e. feeding, watering, vaccination, deworming, drenching, vaccination, restraining, grooming, maintaining hygiene in animal quarters, insemination and breeding etc.
- 2 items on harvesting of animal products i.e. milk, meat, hides and skins

CROP PRODUCTION

Here we are expected to assess on farm tools, biotechnology, hydroponics, permaculture, agroforestry, all kinds of crops, their establishment and harvesting, pasture growing and management.

N.B

Items here should have **Ten (10) challenges** distributed as follows:

- 4 challenges on crop establishment i.e. nursery bed management, seed selection, primary and secondary tillage, timely planting.
- 4 challenges on crop management i.e. gap filling, weeding, pest control, disease control, earthing up, pruning, staking, and thinning.
  NOTE: FERTILIZER APPLICATION SHOULD NOT BE ASSESSED HERE. IT'S ALREADY ASSESSED UNDER SOIL SCIENCE.
- 2 Challenges on crop harvesting practices i.e. how is the crop harvested, which tool is right to be used in harvesting a particular crop.

N.B

- Put support material on spacing, management and harvesting.
- A Colour change in a scenario here (in crop production) should be treated as a sign of a disease but not a deficiency symptom of one of the major plant elements (NPK).

527/2 Practical

All items here are scenario based.

Has two items

Item 1 is an investigative question where a learner is supposed to carry out an investigation or experiment to determine a particular aspect in agriculture.

Items can be set from the following

1. Soil science which involves
   - Soil physical and chemical properties i.e. soil texture, soil drainage, soil water retention, soil organic matter, soil pH etc.
2. Seed viability
3. Hatchability of eggs

4. And any other scientific investigations on agro products.

The learner is expected to have their responses packaged as follows

- Aim of the experiment
- Hypothesis
- Variables (Independent, dependent, Controlled)
- Materials, tools, equipment
- Procedure
- Data presentation
- Data analysis
- Conclusion
- Recommendation

Item 2

Is a diagnostic item that comes from other section or branches of agriculture except economics as a theme. The item here can have three task

Task (a) Identify the specimen by features observed.

Task (b) Suitability for survival (Parasites or weeds), adaptation of the specimen i.e. parasites (tape worms, liver flukes, round worms) and (tools, equipment and implements)

Task (c) Control of the specimen e.g weeds, parasites like ticks, liver flukes, round worms. Recommendations given to the farmer.

- ❖ Let's prepare and assess our learners the right way.
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