BUSINESS MANAGEMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT  
GBAT9103

SUPERVISED OPEN-BOOK EXAMINATION

Time Allowed: 2 hours
Plus Reading Time: 10 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This is a supervised open-book examination. Course study guide, self-made notes, pens, pencils and erasers may be brought into the examination room.

2. You are allowed to use electronic devices for the purpose of referring to digital course materials and notes only. These devices must not be connected to the internet, Wi-Fi must be disabled and tablets must be in flight mode. They must not be used to type your exam responses.

3. Your reading time before the examination is 10 minutes. Reading time is restricted to the examination paper only. No writing may be undertaken during reading time.

4. This examination paper contains six (6) questions. Answer any four (4) questions only.

5. All questions are of equal value and you should give each one equal effort in answering them.

6. Where a question has multiple parts, you must complete each part of the question.

7. Answers must be in blue or black ink.

8. Please begin the answer to each question on a new page in the exam booklets provided and identify the question number you are answering when you do so.

9. Please ensure that you have written your name and other details on every exam booklet used and any other documentation submitted.

10. This exam paper must be returned with your answer books at the conclusion of the examination. No materials are to be retained at the conclusion of the exam.

11. The exam contributes 35% towards your final grading in this course.
QUESTION 1 (all parts are worth equal marks)

Comment on how each of the following may contribute to moving society towards a more sustainable way of living. In each case, also explain the concept, and identify the type of key bodies (e.g. government, corporations, individuals) involved in putting the concept into action and the roles they might play.

a) Service economy
b) Triple Bottom Line
c) State of the Environment reporting

Provide examples to illustrate your answers.

QUESTION 2 (all parts are worth equal marks)

a) ‘Public participation and stakeholder engagement is critical for sustainable development and Corporate Social Responsibility.’ Provide reasons for why you agree or disagree with this statement.

b) There is much debate over the merits of decision-making tools/techniques in economics and how they deal with environmental and social values. Discuss the advantages and limitations of Cost-Benefit Analysis as such a tool and its effectiveness in achieving sustainable outcomes. What can be done to overcome the limitations?

Provide examples to illustrate your answers.

QUESTION 3 (all parts are worth equal marks)

Ecosystems are extremely complex and there is much uncertainty in our understanding of both the structure and functions of ecosystems. This means that there will also be considerable scientific uncertainty about the impacts we are likely to have on the environment as a result of our activities.

a) How are risk and scientific uncertainty dealt with in environmental management?

b) What role does the precautionary principle play in environmental decision-making and dealing with uncertainty?

c) What are the key difficulties and challenges associated with incorporating such uncertainty into our decision-making processes?

Provide examples to illustrate your answers.
QUESTION 4 (all parts are worth equal marks)

a) What is ‘dematerialisation’? Can dematerialisation help achieve sustainability? Why/why not? What approaches can help achieve dematerialisation. Discuss two such approaches.

b) What is meant by the ‘ecological footprint’ concept? Can this concept help us to address sustainability issues? What are its strengths and limitations? In relation to environmental management and more broadly to management for sustainability, what key messages come from a comparison of the ecological footprint of individuals within developed countries (the North) and between developing countries (the South)?

QUESTION 5 (all parts are worth equal marks)

a) ‘Project EIA will never lead us towards sustainability – a much more strategic approach is required.’

Comment on this assertion, considering the characteristics and weaknesses of ‘project EIA’ that have led to this statement and what a ‘more strategic approach’ might involve.

b) Environmental Management Systems (EMS) developed in conformity with ISO14001 have been criticised for not guaranteeing good sustainability outcomes.

Do you think it is fair? Why/why not?

QUESTION 6 (all parts are worth equal marks)

1. Comment (be critical – assess strengths and weaknesses) on the role of the following in helping the move towards sustainable practices and outcomes:

   a) Environmental legislation and regulation
   b) Market Based Instruments (MBIs)
   c) Corporate sustainability reporting

Provide examples to illustrate your response.

2. What do you see as the most distinctive and significant features of the concept of ‘sustainability’ within the context of modern environmentalism?

END OF EXAM