



The Open University of Sri Lanka
Faculty of Engineering Technology
Technology/Industrial Studies Program

Final Examination- 2007

AEX 3232 Plant and Soil Science



Date : 15-05-2008
Time : 0930-1230 hours

SECTION II: Answer any four (04) questions

- (1) (a) Define the "soil" in agricultural point of view.
(b) Briefly discuss the factors that influence the properties and characteristics of soil.
- (2) (a) Write a short essay on present status of fertilizer use in Sri Lanka.
(b) Briefly outline why fertilizer applications to crops do not always result in positive yield responses.
- (3) (a) Write a brief account on nutrient interactions and multiple deficiencies on plant growth.
(b) Out of the nutrients N, P and K, what is the most important nutrient element in vegetative growth of a plant? Give reasons for it.
- (4) (a) What are the changes occurred in soil by the activity of soil organisms?
(b) Briefly describe the importance of humification in order to have better plant growth.
- (5) (a) Distinguish between Saline soils and Sodic soils.
(b) How could these soils be reclaimed?
- (6) Write short notes on any three (03) of the following
 - (a) Organic fertilizers
 - (b) Soil profile
 - (c) Common mistakes of fertilizer application
 - (d) Use of indicator plants in deficiency studies