



UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

FIRST SEMESTER 2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

**FOURTH YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN GEOGRAPHY**

ENSC 422: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

STREAM: R

TIME: 2 HRS

DAY: THURSDAY [8.30 – 10.30 A.M]

DATE: 05/02/2026

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE (3) PAGES

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR SAYS SO.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer question **ONE** and ANY other **TWO** questions

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- A factory discharges untreated waste into River 'Igwamiti', affecting 'Nyumba Kumi' village.
Explain **THREE** legal or policy avenues the community could pursue to seek redress. **(3 Marks)**
- Define *environmental law* in your own words and give an applied example from Kenya. **(3 Marks)**
- Explain *environmental policy* and describe one scenario in which policy could prevent environmental harm. **(2 Marks)**
- Identify one anthropogenic activity causing global environmental challenges and explain its impact briefly. **(2 Marks)**
- Giving a practical example, describe the policy formulation process **(8 Marks)**
- A county government in Kenya wants to drain wetlands for agriculture without consulting locals.
Outline two advocacy strategies that could be used to challenge the project. **(4 Marks)**
- Explain public participation in environmental decision-making with an applied example **(3 Marks)**
- Describe one historical environmental initiative in Kenya and explain its practical impact on law, policy, or advocacy. **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- A sugarcane plantation discharges effluent into a river supplying water to two villages. Apply the polluter-pays principle and discuss challenges in enforcement. **(8 Marks)**
- Using a scenario of overgrazing in communal lands, explain intergenerational equity. **(6 Marks)**
- Debate: "Economic growth can sometimes override environmental law." Using the principles of sustainable development and public participation, argue how Kenya could balance both priorities. **(6 Marks)**

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- A multinational company threatens to pollute a river shared by Kenya and Uganda. Identify three sources of law that regulate the river and explain how they interact. **(9 Marks)**
- A community uses a customary rule to clear wetlands for grazing. Analyse how customary law interacts with statutory law and judicial precedent. **(4 Marks)**
- Explain **two** challenges in enforcing international environmental law locally, using applied examples. **(4 Marks)**
- A court rules against illegal industrial discharge in a lake despite the absence of a specific statute. Explain how judicial precedents fill gaps. **(3 Marks)**

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) A coastal town experiences flooding due to climate change. Analyse how UNFCCC or Paris Agreement mechanisms support Kenya's adaptation efforts. **(6 Marks)**
- c) An international tribunal mediates a cross-border pollution dispute. Explain how compliance, monitoring, and dispute resolution mechanisms operate. **(9 Marks)**
- d) Give **two** examples of Kenya's contribution to international environmental governance and their impact. **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Compare an industrial pollution case in Athi River with the Green Belt Movement, highlighting the role of law, policy, and advocacy in achieving outcomes. **(12 Marks)**
- b) Explain how regional protocols (EAC and ECOWAS) facilitate transboundary environmental management, and one challenge. **(8 Marks)**