

The Open University of Sri Lanka  
B.Sc./B.Ed Degree Programme-Level 03-2009/2010  
BTU 3105/BTE 5105 – Soils and Plant Growth  
Assessment Test II(No Book Test)

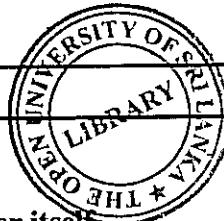


Duration – One (01) hour

Reg.No. ....

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009

Time: 11.00a.m. – 12.00 noon



Answer all questions on this paper itself.

There are four (04) questions and five (06) pages in this question paper.

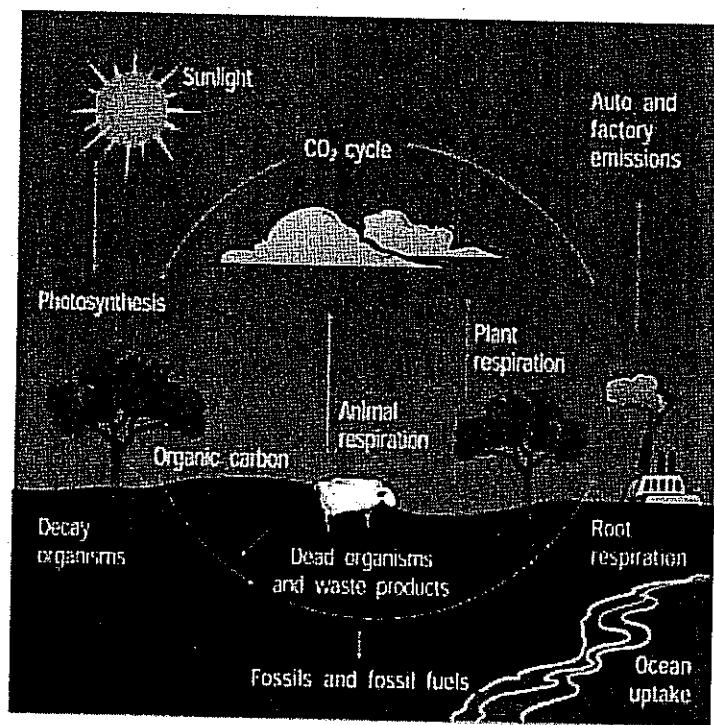
01. a.. Fill in the table below with respect to the major characteristics of soil microorganisms.

Group	Cellular Organisation	Major cell wall component	Method of reproduction	Nutrition
Bacteria				
Cyanobacteria				
Fungi				

b. Explain briefly how soil fungi resist unfavourable environmental conditions.

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c. Given below is a diagram of the Carbon Cycle in nature.



State briefly the role of microorganisms in this cycle.

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2. a. What is a "cover crop"?

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b. Explain briefly

- i. how plant nutrients are conserved by the cover crops
- ii. how the availability of plant nutrients is increased by the cover crops

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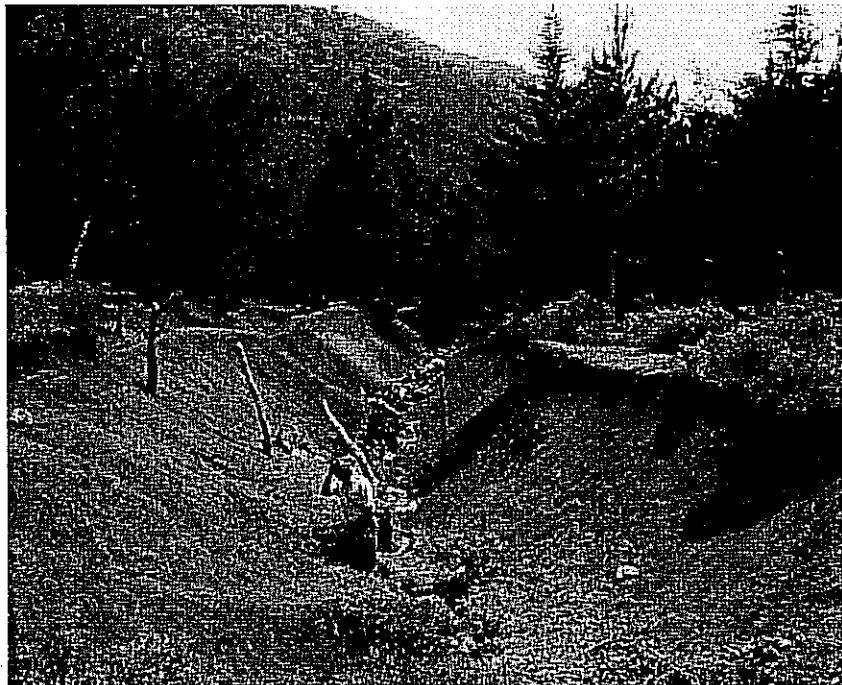
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3. What kind of measures would you suggest to improve the soil given in the diagram below which was subjected to erosion?



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4. a. List the factors which give rise to acidity in soil.

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b. What are the effects of soil acidity on plants?

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c. Explain briefly how you improve/manage acidic soils.

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