

**The Open University of Sri Lanka**  
**B.Sc./B.Ed Degree Programme-Level 05-2013/14**  
**BOU3104/BOE 5104 – Soils and Plant Growth**  
**Assessment Test II(No Book Test)**



**Duration – One (01) hour**

**Reg.No. ....**

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**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**Time: 4.00p.m. – 5.00p.m.**

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**Answer all questions on this paper itself.**

**There are four (04) questions and five (05) pages in this question paper.**

**1. a. Name the major groups of microorganisms found in soil.**

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**b. State two(02) functions of each of the groups you mentioned in part 1.a.**

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**c. Briefly explain briefly how nutrient status and aeration affect the abundance and distribution of microorganisms in soil.**

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d. Draw a fully labelled diagram in the space below to show the cycling of Nitrogen in nature.

e. Name the steps where microorganisms are involved in the cycle drawn above in 2.d.

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3. a. What are the desirable features in green manure crops?

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b. Briefly explain how addition of farm manure affects the development of soil.

c. Write two(02) advantages and two(02) disadvantages of mixed fertilizers.

Advantages:

Disadvantages:

4. a. Define the term "soil erosion".

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b. List the factors that affect on the rate of soil erosion.

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c. List six(06) methods available to control water erosion and two principles behind each of the method you mentioned.

Method	Principle of the method
1.	1. 2.
2.	1. 2.
3.	1. 2.
4.	1. 2.
5.	1. 2.
6.	1. 2.