

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
 B.Sc. DEGREE PROGRAMME
 BOTANY – LEVEL 05
 FINAL EXAMINATION – 2015/16
 BOU3104/BTU3105/BTE5105 – SOILS AND PLANT GROWTH



DURATION – TWO HOURS

Date – 18th January 2017

Time – 1.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.

Answer any four (04) questions.

1. a. Define the term “weathering”.(05min)
 b. What are the main processes involved in weathering?(10min)
 c. Explain the factors affecting the weathering of minerals.(15min)
2. Granulation and structure formation are two important processes in developing soil for good plant growth. Discuss the factors that are influencing and responsible for these processes.
3. a. How does organic matter differ from humus?(05min)
 b. What are the basic products of decomposition?(05min)
 c. Explain the physical and chemical functions of organic matter in soil.(20min)
4. a. What is “green manuring”?(05min)
 b. List the beneficial effects of green manure crops.(05min)
 c. Discuss the effects of application of farm manure on soil.(20min)
5. Write detailed notes on the positive and negative effects of Agroforestry on soil properties.
6. Write short notes on any two(02) of the following.(15min each)
 - a. Factors influencing Phosphorus(P) retention in soil
 - b. Soil development in relation to topography
 - c. Management of acidic and saline soils