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NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

PLOT 91 UNIVERSITY VILLAGE, JABI CADASTRAL ZONE, AIRPORT ROAD, JABI, ABUJA

FACULTY OF SCIENCES

JANUARY, 2021 EXAMINATION...

COURSE TITLE: SOIL ECOLOGY

COURSE CODE: BIO 408 TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

CREDIT UNIT: 2 CREDIT UNITS

INSTRUCTION: ANSWER QUESTION 1 AND ANY OTHER THREE QUESTIONS

- 1 (a) (i) Explain the effects of soil on matrix potential (4marks)
 - (ii) Give an account of Soil effects on osmotic potentials (5marks)
- (b) Describe the Andisoils, their distribution and uses (5marks)
 - (c) State the importance of monitoring in soil ecology (5marks)
 - (d) Describe the application of soil analysis in soil ecology (6marks)
- 2. (a) Succinctly explain soil formation processes (6 marks)
 - (b) Explain biochemical weathering (4marks)
 - (c) Write on the Bases of soil classification (5marks)
- 3. (a) (i) What is soil structure? (**3marks**)
 - (ii) Explain the soil shape "spheroidal" (3 marks)
 - (b) (i) Describe soil pore size (4marks)
 - (ii) How is block-like structure described? (2marks)
 - (c) What is plate soil structure? (3marks)
- 4. (a) Explain the chemical nature of soil (5marks)
 - (b) Describe inorganic and organic soil (5marks)
 - (c) Explain the reaction of soil (5marks)
- 5. (a) (i) How would you explain biogeochemical cycling (4marks)
 - (ii) What are the major characteristics of biogeochemical cycles (4marks?)
 - (b) Briefly describe sulfur and its significant (4marks)
 - (c) Write a short note on the Detrivores (3marks)