

BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION**FACULTY OF COMMERCE****DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

JUN 2024

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN ECONOMICS**AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ECONOMICS (EC 403)****EXAMINATION****DURATION: 3 HOURS****INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

1. Answer four (4) questions
2. The paper carries six questions
3. All questions carry equal marks of 25 each

Question 1

"Mechanization policy is about the comparative impact of different types of mechanical innovation on input, employment, income distribution and farm size". Using examples from a country of your choice discuss the importance of mechanical innovations as opposed to biological innovations. [25 marks]

Question 2

"In his famous "efficient but poor" hypothesis, Schultz argued that low-income levels in developing country agriculture are a result of the low productivity of the available factors of production, not of inefficiencies in their allocation" (Ball and Pounder 1996, p.735). In light of this statement present the procedure used to test the peasant farmers' efficiency and highlight the major shortcomings of the hypothesis. [25 marks]

Question 3

With the aid of well-labelled diagrams present the Theory of the Drudgery Averse Peasant (Chayanov's household model) on peasant decision making which incorporates both production and consumption decisions with NO labour market. [25 marks]

Question 4

Explain the key elements of food policy and discuss in detail the policy options which Zimbabwe adopted under the Transitional Stabilization programme (TSP) and the current National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) to achieve food security. **[25 marks]**

Question 5

"Zimbabwe's land reform has radically reconfigured the agrarian economy" (Scoones, 2015)
In light of this statement, discuss the rationale of Land reform and evaluate the land reform process in Zimbabwe since 1980. **[25 marks]**

Question 6

- a) With the aid of a well-labelled diagram differentiate factor substitution from technical change in Agriculture. **[9 marks]**
- b) Using examples from agriculture discuss the key differences between product and process innovation. **[8 marks]**
- c) Discuss the main factors that determine the rate of technology diffusion and adoption. **[8 marks]**

END OF PAPER