Summer Examinations 2016

LEM300216N

MODULE TITLE Rural Development, Policy & Practices
LEVEL Six
TIME ALLOWED Three hours

Instructions to candidates:

• Enter your student number not your name on all answer books.
• Answer three questions: one compulsory from Section A and two questions from Section B.
• All questions are not equally weighted.
• Section A carries 40 marks.
  Section B carries 30 marks per question.
• Begin each question on a separate page; label each page clearly with the number of the question you are answering.
• Neither books nor notes may be taken into the examination.

| No. of Pages | 4 |
| No. of Questions | 5 |
Section A

Answer the compulsory question.

Question 1

The impact of the revised Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for 2015-2020 has now had a year to take effect. Initial criticism from the agricultural industry focussed on the sole delivery mechanisms for ‘greening’ under the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), the additional financial support for pillar two schemes and a perceived burden of additional regulation for farmers. Using these and other pertinent issues, critically review the initial impact of pillar 1 and 2 delivery mechanisms of the CAP in England. Relate your discussion to socio-economic, political and environmental factors and produce an action plan for priorities moving forwards into the next year.

(40 marks)
Section B

Answer two questions.

Question 2

According to the UK Government\(^1\), many systems of food production are unsustainable, degrade the environment and compromise the ability to produce food in the future. With this in mind, comprehensively review current tools and initiatives available to attempt to balance agricultural production systems with environmental concerns in UK farming systems.

(30 marks)

Question 3

Yorke (2011)\(^2\) posed the question ‘Was the agri-environment movement drafted by practical farmers or civil servants constrained by EU targets?’ The author seemed to conclude that the latter prevailed. Using relevant case-studies and referring to current policy, critically appraise this question in light of more recent CAP changes.

(30 marks)

Question 4

The rural development framework across Europe attempts to encourage a synergy between competing demands on land for both the production of food and also energy. Using examples, how best might these issues best be balanced to ensure the provision of adequate yields and competitive prices?

(30 marks)

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Question 5

The LEADER (Liaison among Actors in Rural Economic Development) pillar two rural development scheme aims to provide funding for rural businesses and farmers wishing to diversify their enterprises. For 2016, the Local Action Group (LAG) for North Northants is considering supporting a number of themes, including:

- The conversion of redundant farm buildings to productive use;
- Processing and marketing of wild venison;
- Supporting farmer’s market supply chains.

For each of these themes, carry out a brief SWOT (strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-threats) analysis to deduce which would be a priority theme with which the LAG should manage funding within the region, conforming with LEADER expectations.

(30 marks)