

INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE

This topic entails the following:-

- Definition of agriculture
- Main branches of agriculture
- Farming systems
- Farming methods
- Role of agriculture to Kenya's economy
- Varied opportunities in agriculture.

The following relevant questions and their answers in this topic will help and motivate the user to comprehend and understand the required concepts and practices:

1. Give **two** factors which characterize intensive farming
2. State **three** reasons why organic farming is encouraged in farming
3. State **two** ways in which agriculture contributes to industrial development
4. State **four** ways by which wind affects the growth of crops
5. State **one** physical characteristic used in classifying soil
6. Outline **four** advantages of organic farming
7. State **two** conditions under which shifting cultivation is practiced
8. Differentiate between the following terms as used in Agriculture:-
 - (a) Oleculture and floriculture
 - (b) Apiculture and aquaculture

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1. two factors which characterize intensive farming
 - Small farms
 - Huge capital
 - Skilled labour
 - Produce for saleMechanization done
2. three reasons why organic farming is encouraged in farming
 - Cheap
 - Environmental friendlyNo chemical residues in produce
3. two ways in which Agriculture contributes to industrial development.
 - Provide raw materials for industries.
 - Provide market for industrial goods.
 - Is a source of capital for starting industries.

4. four ways by which wind affects the growth of crops.
 - Causes physical damage to crops.
 - Cause rapid spread of diseases/ pests/ weeds.
 - Can cause water stress as a result of evaporation.
 - Causes stress of crops due to chilling caused cold winds.
 - Encourage transpiration hence water and mineral uptake.
 - Agriculture – rearing of fish in fish ponds
5. One physical characteristic used in classifying soil is:
 - Colour,
 - Texture,
 - Structure
6. Four advantages of organic farming
 - Environmental friendly
 - Products do not have organic farming
 - Products do not have organic chemical residue
 - Improve soil structure
 - Replenishes nutrients in the soil as it uses organic manure
 - Enhances soil water retention
 - Provides food for soil microbes
 - Enhances soil water infiltration
7. Two conditions under which shifting cultivation is practiced are:
 - Can only be practiced where land is abundant
 - Practiced where population is sparse
 - Practiced where number of livestock per units low (2 ½mks)
8. Four factors that determine the time of planting a crop
 - (a) Olericulture – production of vegetables
 - Floriculture – production of flowers
 - (b) Apiculture – bee keeping
 - Agriculture – rearing of fish in fish ponds