**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 sale

Mechanization done

2. three reasons why organic farming is encouraged in farming

* Cheap
* Environmental friendly

No 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