



FACULTY OF SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & ENERGY STUDIES

MODULE ENS0027
INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL & POLITICAL ASPECTS OF ENERGY
(ENERGY POLITICS)

CAMPUS APK

EXAM NOVEMBER 2016

DATE 22 NOVEMBER 2015

SESSION 12:30 – 15:30

ASSESSOR(S)

DR JOHN LEDGER

EXTERNAL MODERATOR

MR H. VOSLOO
(ESKOM)

DURATION 3 HOURS

MARKS 100

NUMBER OF PAGES: 2 PAGES

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please answer any THREE of the following FIVE questions. Each answer should be in the form of a comprehensive essay, with sketches and diagrams where these may be appropriate to enhance your answer. Alternatively you may provide your answer in point form. Each answer is worth the same number of marks (33.3%)

QUESTION 1

1. The Politics of Climate Change. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held its 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris in December 2015. There was much publicity about how successful the outcome was, with countries committing to 'national targets' to cut greenhouse gases to 'keep temperature rise below 2°C'. Discuss your own view about the Paris conference, and whether it will make any difference to climate change politics.

[33.3]**QUESTION 2**

2. The Politics of Natural Gas in Southern Africa. Write an essay on how the recent discoveries of natural gas in Mozambique and Tanzania might affect the energy politics of the region. It is believed that there are significant reserves of natural gas under the Karoo in South Africa. There is a political storm raging around the exploitation of this resource through 'fracking'. Discuss the issues in question.

[33.3]**QUESTION 3**

3. Nuclear Energy Politics. There is ongoing controversy about the South African government's intention to construct a fleet of nuclear power stations. Discuss the international politics of nuclear energy and the anti-nuclear movement in the context of the nuclear industry's safety record and the global approach to nuclear power.

[33.3]**QUESTION 4**

4. The Politics of Biofuel Production in South Africa. Southern Africa is currently in the grasp of a widespread drought and reports of crop failure are being received from many countries. There have been a number of government and private sector proposals for the large-scale production of biofuels in South Africa. These have largely ignored aspects such as land use, land ownership, access to water and introduction of alien plants. Discuss the complex issues around biofuel production in this political environment.

[33.3]**QUESTION 5**

5. The Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (REIPPPP). In terms of the Integrated Resources Report (IRP 2010-2030), the implementation of renewables into the electricity mix in South Africa has been pursued through the REIPPPP. A number of new photovoltaic and wind generation plants have now been connected to the national grid. This has been acclaimed by the 'green energy lobby'. How will the implementation of solar and wind plants in South Africa affect people at local, national and international level? Write an essay on the politics of renewable energy in South Africa.

[33.3]**TOTAL****[100]**