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UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA
FACULTY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE SCIENCES &
TECHNOLOGY

Academic Year 2022/2023

Bachelor of Science Honours in Marine and Freshwater Sciences Degree

Level III Semester I Examinations – April/May 2024

OCG31C2: Marine and Coastal Ecosystems

Section II

Answer only three (03) questions.

Time: 1 ½ hours /75 marks

1. Write short notes on any **three (03)** of the following. (25 marks)
 - a.) Estuarine salinity profiles
 - b.) Hypothesis on Crown of Thorns star outbreaks
 - c.) Latitudinal variation of rocky shore zonation
 - d.) Role of sharks in coral reefs
 - e.) Anthropogenic impacts on estuaries/lagoons
2. Explain any **two (02)** of the following. (25 marks)
 - a.) Indo-Pacific coral reefs vs Caribbean Coral reefs
 - b.) Ecological role of parrot fishes in coral reefs
 - c.) Macroscale diversity patterns of sandy shore
3. Compare and contrast reflective sandy beaches and dissipative sandy beaches. (25 marks)
4. “Drastic population fluctuations of keystone species result in coral-algal phase shifts in many shallow marine ecosystems”. Justify this statement providing examples. (25 marks)

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