



# MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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## University Examinations 2024/2025

THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE BACHELOR OF  
SCIENCE IN BIOCHEMISTRY

### SHC 3302: INTEGRATED BIOCHEMICAL TECHNIQUES II

DATE: JANUARY 2025

TIME: 2 HOURS

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INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question *one* and any other *two* questions

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#### QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Distinguish immersion from perfusion fixation (4 marks)
- b) Explain briefly a swinging bucket rotor and a fixed angle rotor (4 marks)
- c) Outline the purpose of SDS in SDS-PAGE (2 Marks)
- d) Explain three factors to consider when choosing a material for forming gradients in density centrifugation (3 marks)
- e) Describe briefly three factors that can affect enzyme activity (3 marks)
- f) Outline the equation that governs all types of electrophoresis (3 marks)
- g) Explain briefly two methods used to apply samples on an electrophoretic paper (2 marks)
- h) Describe the concept of molecular sieving in gel electrophoresis (3 marks)
- i) Explain two (2) methods of creating pH gradients in Iso-electric focussing (2 marks)
- j) Outline two advantages of using alternating electrical fields in pulsed gel electrophoresis (2 marks)
- k) Differentiate continuous and discontinuous enzyme assays (2 marks)

**QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

- a) Describe the steps involved in subcellular fractionation (10 marks)
- b) Discuss the steps involved in western blotting (10 marks)

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

- a) Differentiate between differential and density gradient centrifugation (10 marks)
- b) Discuss SDS-PAGE (10 marks)

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

- a) Describe the principles of simple and coupled NAD<sup>+</sup> (p) linked spectrophotometry (10 marks)
- b) Explain the principles of 2D-PAGE and its application in protein analysis (10 marks)