## AGA-154: Fundamentals of Soil Science Northeast Iowa Community College – Calmar, Iowa (Tad Mueller) Question Bank (Answers Highlighted in Yellow)

1)	When gravity and capillary forces are the same SMT = a) 1/3 b) 15 c) 30 d) 0
2)	One acre furrow slice of soil weighs:  a) 2,000,000 pounds b) 100 tons c) 10,000 lbs. d) Way too much
3)	How does adding lime change the pH of the soil?  a) It replaces hydrogen ions with calcium.  b) It dilutes the acid.  c) It leaches the acid out.  d) It increases the bacterial activity.
4)	Which horizon has the highest amount of organic matter?  a) A horizon b) B horizon c) O horizon d) C horizon
5)	The corn stalk N test is good for making recommendations for the current year.  a) true b) false
6)	<ul> <li>A Udic Haplustoll than a Typic Haplustoll.</li> <li>a) developed under a somewhat drier microclimate.</li> <li>b) is slightly older.</li> <li>c) is slightly younger.</li> <li>d) developed in a slightly wetter microclimate.</li> </ul>
7)	What is the make-up of the idealized soil?  a) 10% Organic Matter and 90% Mineral  b) 50% Air 50% Soil

This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under project number LNC18-403 through the North Central Region SARE program under project number LNC18-403. USDA is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication ae those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

c) 16.6% Air, 33.3% Water, 5% Organic Matter, and 45% Mineral

d) 50% Bulk Density and 50% Particle Density
<ul> <li>8) A windbreak will protect a soil for distance times its height.</li> <li>a) One</li> <li>b) Five</li> <li>c) Ten</li> <li>d) One Hundred</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>9) What is the best SMT for plant growth.</li> <li>a) 1/3</li> <li>b) 3 to 4</li> <li>c) 10 to 15</li> <li>d) Greater than 15</li> </ul>
10)How many Land Capability Classes are there?  a) Four  b) Eight  c) Ten  d) One Hundred
<ul> <li>11)What would you call a moisture regime that is moist for most of the growing season a) Aquic</li> <li>b) Udic</li> <li>c) Adic</li> <li>d) Xeric</li> </ul>
12)An Aquic Paleudult would be called a (an) at the subgroup level.  a) Aquic Paleudult b) Paleudult c) Udult d) Ultisol
<ul> <li>13)What is the advantage of dolomitic limestone?</li> <li>a) It's cheaper.</li> <li>b) It provides two secondary nutrients as well as neutralizing the soil.</li> <li>c) It reacts more quickly.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>14)What would you call a soil that has a diagnostic horizon with a zone of accumulated clays and basic in pH?</li> <li>a) Ultisol</li> <li>b) Alfisol</li> <li>c) Agralf</li> </ul>
This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.

- d) Alaguult 15)What is the process called when wind spins a soil particle so fast that it flies up into the air. a) Saltation b) Spinning c) Suspension d) Splash Erosion 16) The amount of available phosphorus in an acre of soil at any one time is . a) less than 1 pound b) 5-20 pounds c) 50-75 pounds d) greater than 100 pounds 17) If the clay fraction is dominated by 2:1 silicate clay, the soil is more likely to be in the order. a) Mollisols b) Alfisols c) Oxisols d) Aridisols 18) What does CSR stand for? a) Crop Suitability Rating b) Corrected Soil Rate c) Carst Soil Remnant d) Carp Sick River
- 19) What percent slope is a C slope soil?
  - a) 0-2
  - b) 2-4
  - c) 4-6
  - d) 5-9
- 20) There is solid scientific research that shows organic farming is better for the soil.
  - a) True
  - b) False
- 21)Species of Rhizobium that fix nitrogen symbiotically with alfalfa also will fix nitrogen symbiotically with soybeans.
  - a) True
  - b) False

<ul> <li>22)If 200 pounds of 2-20-18 (oxide) analysis fertilizer was applied per acre, how many pounds of P2O5 were applied?</li> <li>a) 4</li> <li>b) 36</li> <li>c) 40</li> <li>d) 400</li> </ul>
23)What would be the approximate CEC of a Minnesota soil that contains 30% clay and 2% organic matter?  a) 10  b) 14  c) 19  d) 23  e) 38
<ul> <li>24)You have a wheelbarrow loaded with 200# of soil. It has a Pw of 12%. How much lighter would the load be if it were oven dry?</li> <li>a) 24 lbs</li> <li>b) 21.4 lbs</li> <li>c) 12 lbs.</li> <li>d) still too heavy to push.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>25)Which of the following nutrients is taken up by the plant as an anion?</li> <li>a) P</li> <li>b) Ca</li> <li>c) Mg</li> <li>d) K</li> </ul>
26)Of a 30 inch rainfall how much actually leaches through to the groundwater?  a) 3" b) 5.5" c) 21.5" d) 30"
<ul><li>27)What is the term used for the ability of a soil to hold positively charged nutrients?</li><li>a) Organic Matter Content</li><li>b) Structure</li></ul>

- c) Cation Exchange Capacity
- d) Texture

28) Which type of process attaches water to a soil particle like glue?

- a) Adhesion b) Cohesion c) SMT d) Saturation 29) A good sound manure management plan considers all but which of the following? a) Economically Feasible b) Environmentally Friendly c) Agronomically Sound d) Socially Responsible e) Mechanically Sound 30) If you want a quick fix to a micronutrient deficiency it is best to apply it in the form. a) Sulfate b) Oxide c) Neither is fast-reacting d) Both are final 31)What is "HEL"? a) Hillside Erosion Length b) Highly Erodible Land c) Highest Elevation with a Lookout d) A place sinners go. 32)On acid soils, phosphorus is made unavailable by reacting with ... a) Ca and Mg b) Fe and Mn c) Mn and Ca d) Fe and Al 33) Because of the small quantities required it is easy to evenly apply micronutrients to the field.
- the field. a) true
  - b) false
- 34) What would be the abbreviation for a Corn/Oats/Alfalfa/Alfalfa rotation?
  - a) COAA
  - b) COA
  - c) COMM
  - d) COaAlAl

<ul><li>35)Fall tillage will result in a better seedbed for planting.</li><li>a) True</li><li>b) False</li></ul>
<ul> <li>36)Which of the following is NOT a general category of native vegetation?</li> <li>a) Prairie</li> <li>b) Brush</li> <li>c) Forest</li> <li>d) Transition</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>37)A Cryorthod would have a</li> <li>a) barrier to root development other than a strong Bt</li> <li>b) salt problem</li> <li>c) shallow root zone</li> <li>d) short growing season</li> <li>e) strongly developed Bt horizon</li> </ul>
38)What is the most common mineral in soil?  a) Feldspar  b) Quartz  c) Phosphorous d) Potassium
39)N-Serve keeps nitrogen fertilizer in which form?  a) N2 (gas) b) NO3- c) NO2 d) organic nitrogen e) NH4+
<ul><li>40)Micronutrients are not as important to plants as macronutrients.</li><li>a) true</li><li>b) false</li></ul>
<ul> <li>41)A metal-organic compound is called a:</li> <li>a) Chelate</li> <li>b) Sulfate</li> <li>c) Frit</li> <li>d) Oxide</li> </ul>
42)Which of the following types of rock would you most likely find around a volca

42)Which of the following types of rock would you most likely find around a volcano?a) Sedimentary

	Metamorphic
,	Basalt Control of the
d)	Slate
<mark>a)</mark> b) c)	example of a gas that is frequently used as a fertilizer is  ammonia nitrogen sulfur ammonium sulfate
a) b) c) d) e)	curate soil testing is available for which of the following micronutrients?  Fe Zn Mo S Bo All answers are correct
20 a) b) c) d)	
a) b) <mark>c)</mark>	which of the following soils will you most likely to find "mottles"? Well-Drained Moderately Well-Drained Poorly Drained Very Poorly Drained
a) b) c) d)	n, zinc, and manganese added to a fertilizer are examples of: carriers. conditioners. neutralizers. fillers. specialty ingredients.
	e late spring nitrate test should be conducted when: when the corn is planted

b) when the corn first emerges

- c) when the corn is 12 inches high
- d) around the 4th of July
- e) at tasseling.
- 49)What would you call a diagnostic horizon that occurs as a mineral layer between the A and B horizons?
  - a) Argillic
  - b) Cambic
  - c) Albic
  - d) Natric
- 50) Which soil will warm up fastest in the spring?
  - a) Sand
  - b) Silt
  - c) Clay
  - d) Loam
- 51)Which of the following soil orders are found most commonly in the Appalachian Mountains?
  - a) Entisols
  - b) Inceptisols
  - c) Mollisols
  - d) Arents
- 52)If the soil is high in magnesium and the soil contains much more silicon than aluminum, \_\_\_\_\_ will be the dominate clay.
  - a) Montmorillonite
  - b) Illite
  - c) Kaolinite
  - d) Oxide clays
- 53) Green sands are:
  - a) a liming material rich in magnesium.
  - b) a metamorphic form of sandstone containing calcium.
  - c) a sediment rich in potassium.
  - d) an organic fertilizer.
  - e) responsible for potassium fixation.
- 54) Very little water will move through a crack if it is not open to the surface.
  - a) True
  - b) False

55)What is the Lyotropic Series?
<ul> <li>a) A ranking of nutrients in how tightly they are held by the soil.</li> </ul>
b) A group of cations that dissolve in lye.
c) A ranking of pH of soils.
d) A listing of bases that lower the pH of a soil.
56)Luxury consumption could best be described as: a) a nutrient deficiency.
<ul> <li>b) increased uptake leading to decreased plant growth.</li> </ul>
c) increased uptake without influencing plant growth.
d) increased uptake leading to increased plant growth.
e) decreased uptake without influencing plant growth.
57)One would expect the most potassium fixation in soils.  a) clayey b) loamy
c) sandy
d) silty
e) stoney
58)When a plant is at permanent wilting point there is not water left in the soil.  a) True b) False
59)The charge of Ca is
a) -2
b) -1
c) 0
d) +1
<mark>e) +2</mark>
60)What percentage of a phosphorus fertilizer would not be used by the plant the first year it was applied?
a) 10%
b) 20%
c) 50%
d) 80%
e) 100%
61)Three fertilizers are offered for sale: 5-10-10, 8-16-16 and 10-20-20. These materials all have the same
a) formula
This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S.

b) analysis c) guarantee <mark>d) ratio</mark> e) rate
62)The most common anion form of nitrogen taken up by plants is  a) ammonia b) ammonium c) nitrate d) nitrite
<ul> <li>63)What is CEC?</li> <li>a) Calculated value that is an estimate of the soils ability to attract, retain, and exchange cation elements.</li> <li>b) An indication of the organic matter content of a soil.</li> <li>c) A measurement of how many positively charged nutrients that a soil can hold d) Cats Escaping Capture</li> </ul>
64)You should take cores for each sampling area.  a) 3 - 5  b) 5 - 10  c) 10 - 15  d) 15 - 20  e) a minimum of 20
65)Plants may die when bulk density is greater than:  a) gm/cc b) 1.6 gm/cc c) 1.85 gm/cc d) 2.65 gm/cc
66)The major portion of soil nitrogen is found as:

- a) exchangeable ammonium.
- b) soluble nitrate.
- c) organic nitrogen compounds.
- d) exchangeable nitrate.
- e) mineral nitrogen.

67) A very poorly drained soils will be which of the following colors?

- a) Yellow
- b) Black
- c) Grey

- d) Red
- 68) Which of the following is NOT a device used to measure soil moisture?
  - a) Pressure Plate
  - b) Tensiometer
  - c) Bouyoucos Block
  - d) SMT Meter
- 69) Which of the following types of erosion has the least overall effect on the productivity of the soil.
  - a) Sheet Erosion
  - b) Rill Erosion
  - c) Gully Erosion
  - d) Splash Erosion
- 70) What is the term for the breaking down of a soil mineral?
  - a) Leaching
  - b) Decomposition
  - c) Resynthesizing
  - d) Weathering
- 71) Denitrification is the conversion of:
  - a) nitrite to nitrate.
  - b) nitrate to NH3.
  - c) NH3 to nitrite.
  - d) nitrate to nitrite.
  - e) nitrate to N2 gas.
- 72) What soil order would the shifting sand dunes of the Sahara Desert be in?
  - a) Entisol
  - b) Inceptisol
  - c) Mollisol
  - d) Psamment
- 73) What is the point when no air exists in the soil.
  - a) Field Capacity
  - b) Saturation
  - c) Permanent Wilting Point
  - d) Air Dry
- 74)Which of the following fertilizer grades will supply 16 pounds of potash when 50 pounds of fertilizer is used?

a) 4-20-40 b) 8-16-32 c) 10-6-4 d) 0-20-0 e) 10-10-10
75)How many pounds of 0-50-0 would be used to supply the P2O5 in a 40# bag of 2-15-40?  a) 18.75  b) 16  c) 133  d) 12  e) 8.3
<ul> <li>76)In a 16-6-12 fertilizer, the 12 indicates that the fertilizer contains:</li> <li>a) 12% water soluble potassium as K2O.</li> <li>b) 12# of total potassium.</li> <li>c) 12% citric acid soluble potassium as K2O.</li> <li>d) 12% total potassium.</li> <li>e) 12% available phosphorus.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>77)Poorly managed Ultisols that are abandoned after 2-3 years are an example of:</li> <li>a) Shifting Agriculture</li> <li>b) Production Agriculture</li> <li>c) Brazilian Agriculture</li> <li>d) Sustainable Agriculture</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>78)Your soil test report calls for 150# of nitrogen/Ac. How many pounds of urea (45-0-0) should be applied to meet this need?</li> <li>a) 0</li> <li>b) 33</li> <li>c) 67</li> <li>d) 333</li> <li>e) 675</li> </ul>
<ul><li>79)Cation Exchange takes place within the clay crystal and is irreversible.</li><li>a) true</li><li>b) false</li></ul>
80)The utilization of atmospheric nitrogen by microbes is called  a) nitrogen fixation b) nitrification
This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture II.S.

<ul><li>c) denitrification</li><li>d) ammonification</li><li>e) none of the above</li></ul>
<ul> <li>81)What kind of test is done before designing a drainage system or septic system?</li> <li>a) Texture test</li> <li>b) Permeability Test</li> <li>c) Shear Test</li> <li>d) Perc Test</li> </ul>
82)If the soil is high in potassium and the there is much more silicon than aluminum,  will be the dominate clay.  a) Montmorillonite  b) Illite  c) Kaolinite  d) Oxide clays
<ul> <li>83)Which of the following is the correct Universal Soil Loss Equation?</li> <li>a) SL = CSR x R x L</li> <li>b) A=RKSLCP</li> <li>c) SL = Rain x Slope x Tillage</li> <li>d) SL = Length x Height x Slope of field</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>84)What would you call an epipedon that has a medium organic matter level and more than 50% base saturation?</li> <li>a) Ochric</li> <li>b) Histic</li> <li>c) Mollic</li> <li>d) Umbric</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>85)Which of the following would provide the greatest limitations for a Septic Tank Field?</li> <li>a) Slope</li> <li>b) Percs Slowly</li> <li>c) Pan</li> <li>d) Flooding</li> </ul>
86)According to the Food Security Act a 50 acre farm that had 15 acres of HEL soil would be considered Highly Erodible Land.  a) True  b) False
87)Most of the nitrogen lost from the soil by leaching is usually in the form of
This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S.

b) ammonium <mark>c) nitrate</mark> d) N2	
88)Volcanic glass is unique because it is: a) primarily basalt b) low in quartz c) amorphous d) a clear mineral	
89)The rate of replacement of available nutrient from insoluble compounds or organic materials in the soil as they are removed by plants is more critical for the any other macronutrient.  a) calcium b) nitrogen c) phosphorus d) potassium e) sodium	
90)Which of the forms of fertilizers may cake, making application difficult?  a) solids and gases b) fluids and anhydrous ammonia c) solids d) only liquids e) only inert granules	
91)At any one time, most of the unavailable sulfur in the soil is  a) in insoluble iron and aluminum compounds b) fixed by clay minerals c) in sulfur dioxide d) in organic compounds e) They have deep cracks in dry weather.	
92)The charge of Mg is a) -2 b) -1 c) 0 d) +1 e) +2	

a) nitrite

93) Most nutrient deficiencies cause discoloration or abnormality in a plant.

b) false
94)What is the term that refers to how well a soil responds to manipulation?  a) Tilth b) Structure c) Shear d) Texture
95)Which of the following will have the highest shrink-swell? a) Kaolinite b) Illite c) Montmorillonite d) Vermiculite
96)What would be the texture of a soil that forms a fair ribbon and feels gritty? a) Loam b) Clay Loam c) Sandy Clay Loam d) Sandy Loam
97)The symbiotic association between used to be responsible for fertility maintenance before the introduction of cheap nitrogen fertilizer.  a) soybeans and azotobacter  b) alfalfa and Rhizobia  c) sweet clover and fungi  d) wheat and actinomycet
98)What is the percent pore space in a soil that has a particle density of 2.0 and a bul density of 1.5?  a) 75%  b) 25%  c) 50%  d) 0.5
99)Under anaerobic soil conditions will occur.  a) ammonification b) immobilization c) nitrification d) denitrification e) All of these occur under anaerobic conditions.

a) true

b) <mark>c)</mark>	A loam soil with no stratification. A loam soil stratified over top of a clay soil. A loam soil stratified over a sand soil. A sand soil with not stratification.
a) <mark>b)</mark>	T @
Orga) b) c) d)	What is the approximate CEC of a soil that contains 10% Vermiculite and 3% ganic Matter 6 15 21 210 60
a) b) <mark>c)</mark>	The most commonly used potassium fertilizer is K2SO4 KNO3 KCI none of these
opt a) b) c) d)	Where would the soil most likely contain an adequate supply of sulfur for timum plant growth? in Northeastern California near industrial areas where the soil has been intensively cropped for a number of years where legumes have been grown for hay for long periods allow for drainage of excess water.
a) b) c) d)	A Typic Durorthid at the order level would be called a(an)  Aridisol Durorthid Typic Durorthid Orthid None of the above are correct.
This mo	nterial is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture,

100) In a wet year what would be more desirable?

a)	Sap and Tissue analysis are the same thing. True False
a) <mark>b)</mark> c)	Alfisols are usually dominated by in their clay fraction.  2:1 silicate clay a mixture of 2:1 and 1:1 silicate clay  1:1 clay with some oxide clays oxide clays with some 1:1 clay
into a) b) c)	In alkaline soils, the availability of phosphorus is restricted because of its eraction with to form insoluble compounds. iron aluminum aluminum and iron calcium
a) b) <mark>c)</mark>	What is the most critical time of water needed for a plant? Germination Early Growth Pollination Maturity
a)	Nutrient deficiency symptoms are a good and easy way to assess nutrient needs.  true false
a) b) c) d)	Ammonium nitrate is an acid forming fertilizer because  NH4+ is nitrified.  NH4+ leaches from the soil  NH4+ is fixed.  NO3- is denitrified.  NO3- leaches from the soil
a) b) c) d)	Which of the following nitrogen fertilizers is the most dangerous to handle? Ammonium Nitrate Anhydrous Ammonia Aqua Ammonia Sodium Nitrate Ammonium Sulfate
113)	What is the term for when clavs have moved into the B horizon?

b) c)	Eluviation Illuviation Solum E horizon
a) <mark>b)</mark> c)	What area of the soil has the greatest amount of microbial activity? The top 1/4 inch. The rhizosphere The troposphere The humus
el a) b) <mark>c)</mark>	A fertilizer labeled as 33-0-0 in the oxide system would be a in the emental system of labeling fertilizers.  14-0-0 27% 33% 42%
a) b) c)	A ton of 2-20-18 fertilizer will provide pounds of available nitrogen.  40 100 360 400
a) b) <mark>c)</mark>	In 1995 % of soils ISU soil test lab tested high to very high. 25 50 75 100
a) b) c) d)	Which of the following is not a metal micronutrient?  Fe Cu Mn Zn Mo
,	The transformation of ammonium to nitrate is called: ammonification. immobilization. mineralization.

d) nitrogen fixation.

e)	nitrification.
gra a) b) c) d)	When taking soil samples, you should stay at least feet away from evel road.  50 100 150 200 300
a) b) c)	Which of the following organisms occur in the greatest number in the soil? Algae Actinomycetes Fungi Bacteria
a) b) <mark>c)</mark>	Which soil are you most likely to find an "O" and an "E" horizon in? Prairie Brush Forest Transition
a) b) c)	Which of the following is not a benefit of organic matter in the soil?  Better soil structure  Higher CEC  Contains many plant nutrients.  Greater soil depth
a) b) <mark>c)</mark>	Which of the following elements does not form organic compounds in the plant? calcium magnesium potassium phosphorus
a) b) c) <mark>d)</mark>	Typic Ustochrept is a soil name. series great group suborder subgroup family

<ul> <li>126) What is the bulk density of a soil that weighs 200 grams and takes up a space 2 cm x 5 cm x 10 cm?</li> <li>a) 2.0 g/cc</li> <li>b) 2.65 gm/cc</li> <li>c) 0.5 g/cc</li> <li>d) 1.32 g/cc</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>127) The loss of ammonia to the atmosphere when the ammonium ion (NH4+) is converted to ammonia gas (NH3) occurs when the soil pH is:</li> <li>a) high.</li> <li>b) neutral.</li> <li>c) low.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>128) What soil order is considered the most naturally fertile?</li> <li>a) Entisol</li> <li>b) Inceptisol</li> <li>c) Mollisol</li> <li>d) Udoll</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>129) One of the most serious limitations to the management of Vertisols is:</li> <li>a) they have a low base saturation.</li> <li>b) they are low in organic matter.</li> <li>c) they have a narrow moisture range over which they can be easily tilled.</li> <li>d) they have a low buffering capacity.</li> <li>e) they have a low water holding capacity.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>130) What level of taxonomy is an Udifluvent in?</li> <li>a) Order</li> <li>b) Suborder</li> <li>c) Great Group</li> <li>d) Subgroup</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>131) The process of ammonium fixation is most closely related to fixation.</li> <li>a) Ca</li> <li>b) N2</li> <li>c) P</li> <li>d) K</li> <li>e) S</li> </ul>
<ul><li>132) What is a pedon?</li><li>a) A segment of soil 1 meter in diameter to the depth of rooting.</li><li>b) A cross section of the soil</li></ul>
This production is because of the second of the second of the Marking of Institute of Free decided and the second of the second

•	A layer in the profile of a soil sample A part of a flower
a) b) c) <mark>d)</mark>	Calcium is: very mobile in the soil and therefore an important source of agricultural pollution not an important plant nutrient usually deficient in the soil added to the soil in lime. Both 3 and 4 are correct.
<mark>a)</mark> b)	Potassium deficiencies would be most common in the pH range  4.0 to 5.5 5.0 to 6.5 6.0 to 7.5
a) b) c)	Which of the following is considered a high energy transporter.  River Glacier Ocean Wind
a) <mark>b)</mark> c)	The arrangement of soil particles is called: Texture Structure Ped Pedon
a) b) c)	Which of the following microbes is capable of photosynthesis?  Algae Actinomycetes Fungi Earthworms
b) c)	The most reduced form of sulfur is SO2 SO3 SO S—
	How much power does a one inch rainfall have on one acre of land? As much as an atom bomb As much as a quarter ton of TNT
	nterial is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. ment of Agriculture, under project number LNC18-403 through the North Central Region SARE

- c) 300 foot lbs.
- d) 43,560 inch lbs.
- 140) Which of the following is NOT one of the steps of soils testing?
  - a) Taking a good soil sample
  - b) Properly analyzing the sample
  - c) Interpreting the analysis
  - d) Adjusting the recommendations to your situation
  - e) Find a good lab.