

THE UNIVERSITY *of York*

Degree Examination 2007

ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

MSc Environmental Economics & Environmental Management

MSc Environmental Economics

MSc Environmental Science & Management

**POPULATION & COMMUNITY ECOLOGY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**

Time allowed: **two hours**

You must answer **TWO** questions out of **FOUR**.

Pay adequate attention to spelling, punctuation and grammar, so that your answers can be readily understood

1. Discuss the claims that some predators are “keystone species” in ecological systems.
2. What is the logistic model for population growth and what evidence is there that it is a good descriptor of what happens in nature?
3. Provide a critical account of the evidence for relationships between biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, and the provision of ecosystem services.
4. Discuss the evidence for the existence of alternate stable states in terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems, and the implications for environmental management.