



American University of Beirut  
Department of Geology  
330 N Groundwater Hydraulics  
Final Exam

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Spring 1999

- (20 points) 1.  
(10 points) A. Compare and contrast the vadose zone and the saturated zone.



- (10 points) B. Why do we use boundary conditions to solve groundwater flow equations?
- (20 points) 2. Discuss the relationship between the volumetric water content and the pressure head in the vadose zone. Support your answer with a diagram.
- (20 points) 3. List and DISCUSS the methods that can be used to solve the groundwater flow equations.

(20 points) 4.

(10 points) A.

Prove mathematically that there is an angle between the specific discharge vector and the hydraulic gradient vector in anisotropic porous media with two-dimensional flow.

(10 points) B.

Prove mathematically that in the absence of recharge, the equation of hydraulic head ( $h$ ) in unconfined aquifers with steady horizontal flow is:  $h^2(x) = c_1x + c_2$ , where  $x$  is the horizontal distance,  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are constants.

(20 points) 5.

The diagram below shows a layered unconfined aquifer. Flow in the aquifer is horizontal and steady. The thickness of the lower layer = B meters. Units of heads and horizontal distances are meters; units of hydraulic conductivities are m/day.

- (7 points) A. Derive an equation for the discharge per unit width ( $Q'_i$ ) in the upper layer.
- (6 points) B. Derive an equation for the hydraulic head in the upper layer.
- (6 points) C. Derive an equation for the hydraulic head in the lower layer.

