

**POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT (PGDESD)**

Term-End Examination

December, 2012

**MED-001 : UNDERSTANDING THE
ENVIRONMENT**

Time : 2 hours

Maximum Marks : 50

Note : All questions are compulsory.

1. Answer *any five* of the following : 2x5=10
- (a) What is the importance of soil porosity ?
 - (b) What is soil organic matter ? Explain its importance.
 - (c) List any four primary pollutants emitted directly into the air.
 - (d) List any 4 forms of energy.
 - (e) How do aerosols affect cloud formation and precipitation ?
 - (f) What are the four major factors that influence change in population density ?

2. Attempt any *two* of the following : 2x5=10

- (a) Briefly explain the different water quality parameters.
- (b) What are tides ? How are they formed ?
- (c) What is global warming ? Describe its cause and effects.

3. Attempt any *two* of the following : 1+2+2

- (a) What is parasitism ? List the different types of parasites. Explain the differences between them.
- (b) What is a biome ? List two characteristic types of plants (based on growth form) found in the following biomes : 1+4
 - (i) tropical rain forest
 - (ii) savannas
 - (iii) warm deserts
 - (iv) tundras
- (c) What are the three main types of coral reefs ? Where are they found ? Briefly explain their structure. 5

4. Attempt *any two* of the following :
- (a) What do you understand by the terms 'bioaccumulation' and 'biomagnification' ?
With the help of suitable example, explain how these processes can become problematic ? **2+3**
 - (b) Distinguish between resilience and resistance of an ecosystem. Why are ecosystems like tropical rainforests among the most resistant systems ? **2+3**
 - (c) Distinguish between geochemical and biogeochemical cycles giving suitable examples. **5**
5. Attempt *any two* of the following :
- (a) What are the harmful effects of deforestation ? **5**
 - (b) List the major steps in cycling of nitrogen in an ecosystem. **5**
 - (c) How do various activities in an urban industrialised society affect the environment at local, regional and global levels ? **5**
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