

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

Term-End Examination

December, 2017

01071

MED-001 : UNDERSTANDING THE ENVIRONMENT

Time : 2 hours

Maximum Marks : 50

Note : Attempt any five questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Answer any *five* of the following : *5×2=10*
- (a) Explain why ozone acts as a shield in the stratosphere while it is harmful in the troposphere.
 - (b) Why are grasslands important for us ?
 - (c) Mention the causes of temporary and permanent hardness of water.
 - (d) List four most important characteristics of all living organisms.
 - (e) What are the ecological roles of micro-organisms and rodents in soil ?
 - (f) Explain how life survives below a layer of ice in water-bodies.

2. Define a Biome. Give an example of a biome that has the greatest biomass per unit area. Discuss with suitable examples, the specializations developed by various organisms for survival in the tropical rain forests. 1+1+8=10

OR

Differentiate between any *four* of the following : $4 \times 2 \frac{1}{2} = 10$

- (a) Edge and Ecotone
 - (b) Weather and Climate
 - (c) Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)
 - (d) Renewable and Non-renewable Resources
 - (e) Scramble Competition and Contest Competition
3. (a) What do you understand by Land Degradation ? Give the major causes of degradation of land of the world. 2+3=5
- (b) Give a concise account of efforts being made in our country to prevent global environmental pollution. 5

OR

Discuss the various adaptations of aquatic organic organisms inhabiting the ocean. 10

4. (a) Explain and draw the pyramid of energy. Do you think it is always upright ? If your answer is 'yes', explain and if 'no', give reasons. 2+2+1=5
- (b) What are the common sources of noise pollution ? Describe its effects on human health. 5
5. (a) Explain the concept of conservation. Discuss the different ways of conserving water. 5
- (b) How effective would the 3 Rs approach — 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' be in the management of solid waste ? Give your arguments. 5
6. Write short notes on any *two* of the following : $2 \times 5 = 10$
- (a) Mangroves Forest
 - (b) Biomagnification
 - (c) Acid Rain
 - (d) Parasitism
 - (e) Hazards of Biomedical Waste
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