

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

01025

Term-End Examination

June, 2018

MED-001 : UNDERSTANDING THE ENVIRONMENT

Time : 2 hours

Maximum Marks : 50

Note : All questions are compulsory.

1. Answer any *five* of the following : 5×2=10

- (a) Why does pressure decrease with increasing altitude in the atmosphere ?
- (b) How are winds formed ? What is their role in the distribution of heat in the atmosphere ?
- (c) What governs the distribution of different biomes on the surface of the Earth ?
- (d) What is the role of organic matter in soil ?
- (e) What do you understand by the term Commensalism ? Explain with an example.
- (f) Explain why ecosystems are not static.

2. Attempt any *two* of the following :

2×5=10

- (a) Describe two main adaptations that enable organisms to cope with the environmental peculiarities of both Lentic and Lotic aquatic habitats.
- (b) Write briefly about El Niño phenomena. How does it affect world wide weather ?
- (c) Draw a well labelled diagram of the sulphur cycle.

3. (a) How does air pollution affect the environment and human health ?

5

(b) "Resource use is influenced by human population". Comment.

5

OR

What is bioaccumulation and how does it differ from biomagnification ? Explain with suitable examples.

5

4. (a) With the help of a diagram describe the structure of a coral reef. Why do we need to preserve coral reefs ?

5

- (b) What are the advantages and drawbacks of a pyramid of numbers ? How can we eliminate these drawbacks ? 5

OR

What do you understand by ecosystem resistance and resilience ? Explain giving examples. 5

5. (a) What is the difference between a community and a population ? What are the main factors that affect population size ? 5

- (b) Describe the factors that limit the growth of trees in the Tundra. How has human activity affected these regions ? 5

OR

What do you understand by the concept of ecological restoration ? How can we check various types of environmental degradation ? 5