

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

**Term-End Examination**

**December, 2011**

**MED-001 : UNDERSTANDING THE  
ENVIRONMENT**

*Time : 2 hours*

*Maximum Marks : 50*

*Note : All questions are compulsory.*

1. Answer *any five* of the following : **5x2=10**
- (a) Mention the important zones of an idealized river system.
  - (b) How do human activities disrupt the main events of the hydrological cycle ?
  - (c) In which respect was the primitive atmosphere different from the present atmosphere ?
  - (d) Comment on coral reef erosion caused by various organisms.
  - (e) Differentiate between biological and industrial fixation of nitrogen.
  - (f) List the characters that are common to all living organisms.
  - (g) How did early and advanced hunter gatherer societies affect the environment ?

2. Answer *any two* of the following :
- (a) Discuss physical properties of soil. 5
- (b) Distinguish between photosynthesis and chemosynthesis.  $2\frac{1}{2}+2\frac{1}{2}=5$
- (c) How are ozone levels in the atmosphere monitored ? Describe how ozone is formed in the Troposphere and the stratosphere.  $1+2+2=5$
3. (a) Discuss the effects of various activities in an urban industrialized society on environment. 5
- (b) With the help of suitable example explain ecosystem self regulation for an aquatic ecosystem. 5

**OR**

- Explain the flow of energy in ecosystems. Support your answer with suitable illustration. 5
4. (a) How do species interactions shape a community ? Explain briefly giving appropriate examples. 5
- (b) What is common between noise and radiation pollutions ? Why is rise in these pollutions in recent years linked with the changing life style patterns ? 5

5. Give a detailed account of tropical rain forests. 10  
What are the impacts of human activities on these forests ?

**OR**

What are ecological pyramids ? Discuss different 10  
ways of depicting the trophic levels of an  
ecosystem. Point out the merits and demerits of  
each type of pyramid.

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