

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SECTOR DISASTER
MANAGEMENT EXAMINATION – FEBRUARY 2018

Date : 26th February 2018

Time: 1.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

STRUCTURED ESSAY QUESTION PAPER (SEQ)

Answer all questions.

Each question to be answered in a separate book.

1.

1.1. Define ‘Public Health Chemical Incident’. (10 marks)

1.2.1. List five (05) sources of chemical disasters. (10 marks)

1.2.2. Mention the main vulnerable group in each of the above sources.
(10 marks)

1.3. Describe the essential steps of the pre-hospital response to a chemical disaster. (40 marks)

1.4. Describe briefly the initial steps of management of a patient with chemical burns. (30 marks)

2. A village was almost totally lost in a landslide following heavy rains. There were conflicting estimates of damage and lives lost.

2.1. List the sources of population and housing data available to determine the pre-disaster situation. (10 marks)

2.2. Describe how you would organise a rapid assessment to assess the damage. (30 marks)

2.3. Discuss the principles of handling the media in this situation. (30 marks)

2.4. Based on the principles of media handling, list the important points you would tell the general public regarding the damage and the lives lost. (30 marks)

3. With globalisation, emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases can potentially lead to pandemics.
- 3.1. List five (05) disease epidemics and/ or pandemics reported in the recent past. (20 marks)
- 3.2. What is the set of regulations that guide a country to prepare to face such situations? (10 marks)
- 3.3. Refugee camps are opened up in various parts of Sri Lanka and in other countries due to migration of refugees.
- 3.3.1. List four (04) countries from which Sri Lanka is getting refugees currently. (10 marks)
- 3.3.2. List five (05) possible infections that can be introduced to Sri Lanka by these refugees. (20 marks)
- 3.3.3. Describe briefly how common diseases lead to outbreaks in refugee camps. (40 marks)
4. You have been appointed as the Medical Officer in charge of health services at a camp for internally displaced persons. Due to the prevailing situation, they are expected to remain in the camp for at least one year before resettlement.
- 4.1.
- 4.1.1. List four (04) groups most vulnerable to malnutrition in the camp. (10 marks)
- 4.1.2. Explain briefly the reasons for the vulnerability of each group mentioned above. (30 marks)
- 4.2. Describe the steps that can be taken to prevent nutritional problems of the people in the camp. (40 marks)
- 4.3. List eight (08) organisations that are involved in addressing nutritional aspects in disasters. (20 marks)

5. A large number of people are coming to the hospital to look for their loved ones whom they are unable to locate after a disaster. You are the disaster management focal point in the hospital.

5.1. List five (05) emotions and behaviours they are likely to display.
(10 marks)

5.2. List five (05) steps you would undertake to reduce their stress levels.
(20 marks)

5.3. A crowd of family and friends are demanding to see the bodies in the morgue. Describe briefly the steps you would take in this situation.
(40 marks)

5.4. The body of a 40 year old father of four children was never found.
List five (05) possible long-term psychosocial consequences.
(30 marks)