

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

SELECTION EXAMINATION FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN
HEALTH SECTOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT
DECEMBER 2012

Date : 6th December 2012

Time : 1.00p.m.– 4.00p.m.

STRUCTURED ESSAY QUESTION PAPER

Answer all five (05) questions.

Answer each question in a separate book.

1. A cyclone has hit the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. Extensive damage has occurred in the area.

As a medical officer attached to a base hospital in the Western Province, you have been instructed to arrange a team consisting of 10 health workers, lead by you, to go to that area to assist the officer in charge of the Divisional Hospital of the affected area. You have been instructed to provide support for at least one week.

- 1.1. Enumerate the health problems that you may encounter following this incident. (40 marks)
- 1.2.. List the categories of health workers that you would include in the team. (30 marks)
- 1.3. What categories of supplies would you like to carry ? (30 marks)
2. Available data indicates that disasters, both natural and man-made are increasingly reported from many parts of the world resulting in loss of life and damage to property.
- 2.1. List the possible reasons for such increase of disasters. (40 marks)
- 2.2. Outline five problems you would anticipate following mass displacement of persons due to disasters. (60 marks)

3. You are the Medical Officer (MO) on duty at 10.00 a.m. on a Monday at a small divisional hospital 5 km away from Mahiyangana. You receive a call from the local police station informing you that an earthslip had occurred in a village 2 km from your hospital. The village school with nearly 150 students is affected by the earth slip. You are 12 km away from Badulla General Hospital and you have one ambulance, 4 nurses and another MO for help.

Outline what action you would take within the next 5 hours. (100 marks)

4. As a medical officer in charge of a divisional hospital, you receive a message from a bystander that casualties of a train-bus collision which happened 3 km away from the hospital are being brought to your hospital.

4.1. List the important information you need to know about the incident for immediate response. (50 marks)

4.2. List the resources you need to manage this situation in your hospital. (50 marks)

5. There is a sudden outbreak of itching and an urticarial rash among school children in your province. You are a medical officer in the close-by hospital.

5.1. What are the clinical features of an “allergic reaction”? (25 marks)

5.2. What are the possible causes of such an allergic reaction? (25 marks)

5.3. How would you handle such a disaster occurring in amass scale as the medical officer in-charge of the Out Patient Department (OPD)? (50 marks)

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

SELECTION EXAMINATION FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN
HEALTH SECTOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT
DECEMBER 2013

Date : 6th December 2013

Time : 1.00p.m.– 4.00p.m.

STRUCTURED ESSAY QUESTION PAPER

Answer all five (05) questions.

Answer each question in a separate book.

1. You are driving towards Kurunegala when, close to the Yangalmodara level crossing, you encounter a traffic pile-up resulting from an accident. A large passenger transport bus has collided with an oncoming train. You park your vehicle and run towards the accident.
 - 1.1. Describe five (05) ways in which you can help in this situation. (40 marks)
 - 1.2. The nearest hospital is a Divisional Hospital, which is just 5 km away, with a staff of only 2 Medical Officers (MO) and 10 nurses. The police contact a MO at this unit.
What help would you request from the MO ? (20 marks)
 - 1.3. The police manage to contact the Director of the Kurunegala Teaching Hospital, which is around 25 km away.
How would you describe the situation to the Director ? (40 marks)
2. You receive a call at 10.00 a.m. about a blast in a chemical factory in your MOH area. The residents are complaining of breathing difficulties.
 - 2.1 State five (05) steps you would take immediately as the Medical Officer of Health of the area. (30 marks)
 - 2.2 List the agencies which you need to contact to address the issues following this incident. (30 marks)
 - 2.3. What information will you include in your report to the Ministry of Health ? (40 marks)

3. Your province has been selected to host an International Congress in 2014. The director of your hospital which is the closest Provincial Hospital to the venue of the event wants you to detail a plan in the event of an unexpected disaster.
- 3.1. List the key issues that may arise following such a disaster. (40 marks)
- 3.2. List the activities that need to be followed immediately. (30 marks)
- 3.3. What are the resources that you should have at your disposal in the event of such a disaster ? (30 marks)
4. List the failures reported in the press during the management of large scale disasters worldwide in the recent past. Base your answer taking into account, the floods that occurred in the Philippines, bush fires in Australia and tornados in USA. (100 marks)
5. Incidents of drowning are reported to be increasing in Sri Lanka.
- 5.1. List the possible causes of such an increase. (20 marks)
- 5.2. List the measures that could be taken to reduce the number of such incidents. (40 marks)
- 5.3. In the event of your being there at the scene, describe briefly the first aid measures you would take prior to dispatching the victim to hospital. (40 marks)