

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

SELECTION EXAMINATION FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN
HEALTH SECTOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT – DECEMBER 2018

Date :- 5th December 2018

Time :- 1.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

STRUCTURED ESSAY QUESTION PAPER

Answer **all five (05)** questions.

Answer each question in a separate book.

1. Recent outbreak of acute severe gastroenteritis was reported in Puttalam district following drought which led to a few deaths among children and adults.
 - 1.1. List three (03) possible causes for fatality. (15 marks)
 - 1.2. Discuss the factors that could have contributed to this outbreak. (30 marks)
 - 1.3. As the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) of the area,
 - 1.3.1. briefly describe the steps you would follow in investigating the outbreak. (35 marks)
 - 1.3.2. list three (03) key messages you would give to following categories of health staff to control this epidemic and to prevent deaths.
 - (a) Public Health Midwife (10 marks)
 - (b) Infection control nursing officer (10 marks)
2. There is a building construction site 500 m from your hospital. You have been informed on a Sunday at 10.00 a.m. that the building has collapsed when workers were at work.
 - 2.1. List five (05) types of injuries you could encounter. (15 marks)
 - 2.2. The Emergency Response Team in the hospital was called to transport the injured. As the leader of the Emergency Response Team, how would you prepare the injured for transport? (45 marks)
 - 2.3. Briefly describe measures you would recommend at the construction site to control crowds. (25 marks)
 - 2.4. Describe how you would handle the media as the Team leader. (15 marks)

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3. Mass gatherings of people are a common occurrence even in peace times of a country. Mass casualty events following such gatherings have been reported from various parts of the world from time to time.
 - 3.1. List five (05) specific situations where excessive number of persons gathering in a single location with high risk of ending up in a mass casualty event. (20 marks)
 - 3.2. Briefly describe the possible factors that increase the risk of a mass casualty event in such gatherings. (40 marks)
 - 3.3. Discuss the measures that could be taken to prevent the occurrence of mass casualty events. (40 marks)

4. It is 8.00 a.m. on a Monday morning. Heavy rains in Ratnapura district have caused floods cutting off the access routes to the Provincial General Hospital (PGH), Ratnapura. A sudden landslide in hospital premises has resulted in partial collapse of the Accident and Emergency building which houses emergency admissions and short stay section, operating theatre, Intensive Care Unit with 6 beds, orthopaedic and oncology wards with about 100 in-patients.
 - 4.1. List five (05) organisations which could be employed in the rescue mission of the above disaster situation. (15 marks)
 - 4.2. List four (04) other hazards that could worsen the situation. (10 marks)
 - 4.3. Describe the course of action you would take in the above situation as the Director PGH, Ratnapura. (45 marks)
 - 4.4. List ten (10) suggestions to avoid such in-hospital disaster/ minimise damage during such disasters. (30 marks)

5. Write short notes on the following:
 - 5.1. Climate change (25 marks)
 - 5.2. Psychological support in emergencies (25 marks)
 - 5.3. Sexual and reproductive health in emergencies (25 marks)
 - 5.4. Disaster management cycle (25 marks)